



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Mary Garrish September 2018 Artist Member of the Month

What is your #1 tip or advice for the beginning plein air painter?

Paint, Paint, Paint! Find a group of plein air painters, find workshops and find a mentor to critique your work.

If you could only have 5 colors on your palette, what would they be?

Cadmium Lemon, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red Light, Ultramarine and Transparent Red Oxide.

Why do you choose to paint in the wild plein air rather than in the controlled environment of the studio?

I do both, but plein air is where I get my ideas. I paint experiences. You don't get much inspiration in the studio. "Climb the mountain and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The wind will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like Autumn leaves." - John Muir. That is why we paint in the wilderness.

What was your most hair-raising extreme plein air painting experience?

In British Columbia, I was painting near a lake on a well used bike trail. I was concentrating on my painting and looked up to find a grizzly staring at me perhaps 30 feet away. I froze. He started to back off, so I did the same. As I backed off, he came up and sniffed at my backpack. Thank goodness there was no food, and off he ran.

Living or not, which artist(s) has had the most impact on your artistic journey?

I have studied with many fabulous artists, too numerous to count. I've learned from them all. If you go to a workshop and you come home with one thing that you TRULY know and understand, that was monumental.

Any closing comments or advice you'd like to share?

Paint, Paint, Paint!