



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Janine Salzman October 2018 Artist Member of the Month

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

The start of a painting is most important, so look through a small viewfinder to find your composition. Then break down your canvas to 3 to 4 major shapes and values. Then stick to those values!

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

Ultra Marine Blue, Viridian, Yellow light, Cad Red, Alizarin.

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

Choosing to paint outside is akin to camping out in a tent rather than staying in a 5 star hotel! Your experience of the place will be entirely different! A scene may look the same but when you start painting you will find that a Plein air painting is experienced as well as painted. The speed with which you must make decisions bring you back to the most important reasons why you stopped to paint this scene in the first place. Your color choices and relationships that can only be seen through the lens of your eyes are much more sensitive and accurate than a photo or printer can provide.

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

I would say the usual is when an unexpected gust of wind tumbles your whole set up... But worse than that is unconsciously stepping back as you would to evaluate your progress and almost falling backwards into a cactus!

Living or not, which artists have had the most impact on your artistic journey?

There are so many artists I admire and whose work inspire me. For example Nikolai Fechin, Sergei Bongart, Sargent, Zorn and Sorolla to name a few. Living artist Jove Wang, as I have studied with him the longest. But I often refer to my favorite books by Scott Christiansen, CW Mundy, Schmid, and Dan McCaw (his book "A Proven Strategy for Creating Great Art" is outstanding).

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

My advice to artists is to persevere and paint outside en Plein air regularly. It is a learning experience like no other and will help you reach a new level in your painting.