



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Ned Mueller February 2019 Signature Member of the Month

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

Just get out there and paint. Take some workshops from some good Plein Air Instructors...try and master the basic principles...find out what it takes to make a real good plein air painting. We all do clunkers...try and learn what you can from each painting...it takes a long time to really get good at it...ten or twenty years for most of us...wash dishes, work as a laborer, deckhand, etc....be patient, believe in yourself, we are all different...try and find your own voice...your concepts...don't take yourself too seriously...try and enjoy the whole process more!

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

White, yellow, red, blue and black.

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

I love the outdoors...I was raised in Bozeman, Montana, just north of Yellowstone Park...surrounded my mountains, streams, lakes, ranches and all of that! I deliberately choose to live in beautiful places and I love the freshness and spontaneity that the experience can force upon ones work! One learns about light and color and how we react to it all. Plein Air helps my studio work and my studio work helps my Plein Air work.

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

While painting in Glacier National Park my painting buddy and I had an encounter with a Grizzly bear...long story...very scary, funny in a way and very memorable! All turned out well as we both lived for another day!

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

Have always been inspired by Joaquin Sorolla, John Singer Sargent, Nicolai Fechin, Arckipov, John Carlson and a lot of my contemporaries...too many to name!

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

I have been very fortunate to be able to make a living by first being an Illustrator for about 25 years and a "Fine Artist" for the last 30 years. I was lucky enough to go to one of the best Art Schools in the country...the Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles...I learned to draw pretty well...I love to draw and that skill, that I still work on with everything else, has enabled me to do a lot of different subjects and in different mediums. Better drawing means better judgment and one does not have to draw figures well, unless of course you want to do great figure work...drawing anything will sharpen your judgment. I have always been a curious person, love to travel to exotic cultures and have adventures with Artist friends. Health issues have marginalized a lot of that the last few years...but creating my Art keeps my mind off of all of that and so am very grateful and blessed with that. Thanks for reading this far, much appreciated!

All my best,

Ned Mueller