



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Joe Anna Arnett 2019 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Practice putting your equipment together many times inside before you head outside. Check if you have everything you need, but eliminate anything you just think you may need. You don't want to start off frustrated...that comes later.

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

Cadmium Yellow Light
Yellow Ochre
Cadmium Red Orange (Blockx)
Ultramarine Blue Deep
Titanium White

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

My work outside is so much more immediate. I love the freshness. The time restraints and the changing environment make me react instinctively, not over-thinking a composition. Sometimes, I'm right, sometimes I'm wrong. But the experience is always beneficial.

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

I've been really lucky. I've seen a few snakes. I've had a horse fall in love with me... or rather my delicious looking hat. There was one aggressive, territorial rooster. A woman who didn't want her farm painted chased me out of a field in France. I never quite understood why, but she was mean and intent. A French friend told what she did was illegal since the French Revolution. Vive La France.

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

Robert Maione, Sargent and Richard Schmidt

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

My first experience painting outside was intended to free my brushwork. I enjoyed it so much that I fell passionately for plein air painting. If you want to have a fresher look, a freer brush, and a more immediate response to your environment, get thyself out in the open air.