



## LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

**LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Mary Aslin  
March 2020 Artist Member of the Month**

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

Practice setting up your easel and accessing your materials BEFORE going out into the field.

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

For oil: Lemon Yellow, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue, Black, White

For watercolor: New Gamboge, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue, Sap Green, Indigo

For pastel: Hard to have just 5 colors...a critical mass of at least 10 would be important...a warm and a cool of each of the primaries, one hard black and one ultra-soft white

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

Plein air painting, and what it yields in terms of a multi sensory experience, puts one firmly, humbly, in a position to learn what nature and light are teaching.

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

I haven't had one of those....yet. But, while scouting out a setting for posing a figure in a nearby park, I turned to leave and there was rattle snake curled up in the path.

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

Painting the figure and still life outside is incredibly exciting, and whether landscape, figure or still life, regardless of the result achieved, plein air painting is ALWAYS worth the effort. Don't expect to get something worth framing....taking color notes and enjoying the experience are enough and will inform future paintings.