



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Terry Miura June 2020 Artist Member of the Month

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

Practice drawing. Constantly and thoughtfully. Always have a sketchbook with you so that when you have a few minutes, you can draw whatever is in front of you. You can't hide bad drawing with flashy colors or slick rendering.

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

Titanium White / Cadmium Lemon / Cadmium Red Medium / Ultramarine Blue / Transparent Oxide Red

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

I think that there are great many things you can learn by working in the studio, but a deep understanding of natural light's affect on color is not one of them. This is what forced me to go out and learn to paint outside all those years ago, and I'm still learning.

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

I've had my share of encounters with dogs, wasps, bears and rattlers, not to mention weirdos and near-accidents rubber-necking down a winding highway, but I have to say my very first plein air event takes the cake. Not only was it the first time I had to produce something on the spot for the world to see, but I had to show my work alongside really great painters that I had admired for a long time. Talk about intimidating! The fear of humiliation was by far the scariest plein air painting experience for me.

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

Harry Carmean, Richard Bunkall, and Dwight Harmon. They were my teachers at Art Center College of Design and each taught me not only technique, but the notion that art is much, much bigger and deeper than mere technique.

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

I love my job! I feel extremely fortunate to be able to make a living doing what I love to do. And as if that's not profoundly satisfying enough, I've come to really appreciate the people I meet doing this plein air thing. It really is the best *tribe!*