



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Ben M. Young July 2020 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Paint small. It helps you to focus on what is important in the scene and not get bogged down on superfluous details.

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

Cad Yellow Light, Cad Orange, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue, and Pthalo Green. This is the palette I currently am using and it works very well and is small, so that makes it easy for plein air painting.

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

I do both, but I find that I get more of the essence or feeling of a place, when I paint on location.

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

It happened when I had just started teaching plein air. A man who was passing by asked if I was the teacher, I of course said yes. He did not believe me for some reason and started shouting expletives at me and invading my personal space. You can meet some oddballs out there, so be prepared.

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

Jeff Watts and all of the other instructors at Watts Atelier. It's a great environment and I would not be where I am without them.

For plein air painting in particular, Calvin Liang is one of the artists that has influenced me the most.

My favorite artist at the moment would be Joaquin Sorolla.

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

Drawing is the key to good painting, so don't neglect it. Be patient with your self, it takes a long time to get good, so try to enjoy the process.