



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Tom Brown September 2020 Artist Member of the Month

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

Don't compare yourself with others, we are all at different levels. Find a group of painters that paint frequently and get involved.

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

Yellow Ochre, Cobalt Blue, Cad Red, Cobalt Turquoise and Neutral Tint

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

It was once said, Mother Nature is the best teacher. Getting outside helps you hone your skills of observation and it heightens your senses.

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

I've not had one yet. But I did have a very interesting experience while painting beside the Rio Grande River in Big Bend Nat'l Park. I had the opportunity to discuss with a Mexican Nat'l (on the U.S side) the border wall. When we concluded our conversation we shared a drink from my flask and toasted to our common good...then he went back across the river.

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

Andrew Wyeth and Winslow Homer come to mind. Of the living artists, I would say Oregon artist Vinita Pappas has had the most influence and most recently, Daniel Marshall.

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

I would say that when it comes to plein air it's important not to take oneself too seriously. This is a marathon and there is so much to experience and learn. Enjoy the process and the camaraderie and make the most of your time outdoors.