



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Q&As with Vladislav Yeliseyev November 2020 Artist Member of the Month

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

The advice is simple and twofold. First, is to overcome your mental challenge and not be afraid to be there in the open. Facing numerous challenges such as onlookers, weather discomfort and problems to focus on specific subject matter can stop even the bravest from going plein air.

Second is make a small sketch beforehand to concentrate on composition and tonal values to make painting process easier. It is easy to get tired out there and painters tend to ruin their paintings slipping into copying mode.

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

Why five? I need only three: red, yellow and blue. But seriously, maybe yellow ochre, alizarin, cobalt blue, van dyck brown and indigo.

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

It's all about dynamic range of light. In the open DRL is a thousand times larger. That is highly benefiting for color mixing. I noticed it's easier to see and mix my colors correctly outside under natural light than in the studio. Even the best monitor in the world has no chance standing against the natural lit scape.

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

Have not had one. But funny things do happen sometimes. Once I was painting and somebody pointed to my car right behind me. There was a raccoon in it having lunch with my snacks. Sometimes I don't close the doors.

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

When I was a kid that would be Leonardo. I like work of Russian Valentin Serov, J.S. Sargent and Richard Schmid as living artist today.

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

No matter what our history and events will bring upon us, stay concentrated on your art, stay honest before yourself and never cease to improve your skills.