



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Linda Mutti February 2021 Artist Member of the Month

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

My #1 tip to the beginner is to have fun and be easy on yourself. It's a journey getting the plein air thing figured out.

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

Cadmium yellow, ultramarine blue, Alizarin crimson, titanium white, veridian

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

I love the out of doors. The added impact of experiencing the scene you are painting is powerful and inspiring. For me, living close to the ocean, I can smell the salty air, feel the breeze and watch as the light drapes over the landscape. It makes the painting more personal for me.

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

I was painting with friends in the high desert and we were told that the hunting season was over. Well, I guess some people did not get that memo. As we were deep into our paintings we began to hear gunshots and saw hunters in the distance, trudging along carrying rifles. My friends and I were not wearing red hats that would have made us visible. Needless to say, we packed up and got out of Dodge!

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

There are so many. I attribute my friend Richard McKinley as having the biggest impact on my journey. Others who were very important include Kim Lordier, Albert Handell, Scott Christensen, Matt Smith and Skip Whitcomb. I study and admire the work of Isaak Levitan and the Early California Impressionists.

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

Enjoy the journey, even with all the ups and downs it is still filled with joy. Challenge yourself to jump out of your comfort zone now and then. Paint what you love, paint for yourself!