



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Brandon Gonzales April 2021 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Start painting on a small scale and paint as much as you can.

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

Transparent Oxide Red

Ultramarine Blue Deep

Cadmium Yellow

Alizarin Crimson or Cadmium Red

Titanium White

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

I find it so fulfilling to get out in nature and paint from life. There is such an immediacy painting en plein air. I love immersing myself in the moment and reacting to what is around me. That is where inspiration happens. In my work, I try to capture the challenge of not only painting the scene and all that I am experiencing but do so within a limited amount of time.

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

It was early on when I first started plein air painting. I was heading to Utah for the holidays and was super excited to paint snow. I was really zealous and asked a friend and mentor if he would like to go plein air painting. He agreed and had a wonderful place for us to go. I showed up at the said location early in the morning and it was a whopping -3 degrees outside. Needless to say, we both were committed at this point. There was no turning back. Not only did the hairs on my neck raise up and froze from the chill but my titanium white became sticky and hard. I learned so much from that experience and had a decent painting from it.

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

Richard Schmid and John Singer Sargent. I always come back to their work, but there are numerous contemporary plein air artists that I call friends that have helped and influenced me.

If you could not be an Artist, assuming there are no limits or barriers to achieving your alternative “dream job”, what other profession would you have chosen?

It's difficult for me to imagine a career outside of art because it has been such a huge part of me for as long as I can remember. If I had to choose another career path, I think I would be a linguist. I learned Spanish and I find languages and how they are structured fascinating.

Can you share something with us that most people probably don't know about you?

I am a father of 7 kids, 4 girls and 3 boys. My youngest are twin boys.

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

Learn to fail fast. That is the quickest way for grow.