



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Deborah Newman June 2021 Artist Member of the Month

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

When you are first starting out it's a good idea to choose a simple subject of scene. Find a local plein air group to paint with, not only for the great camaraderie, but for safety as well. Don't worry about creating a masterpiece on the spot. Enjoy the outdoors, and the observation of your subject matter. Painting en plein air is a process. So relax, study, and paint, paint, paint.

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

Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Sienna, Ultramarine Blue, Cad yellow pale, White

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

As a painter and outdoor enthusiast, I can't ask for a better combination than to paint and be outdoors. The nuances of the subject matter are much clearer in person than in a photograph, plus, the breeze, scent, and experience is the beauty of painting en plein air.

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

I was painting in the Marin Headlands by myself. By the way, never a good idea. I was set up on a one way road next to some old bunkers at the very top of the hill. About 20 minutes in, I felt really uneasy, but decided to buck up and keep painting. Some cyclists rode by and yelled, "Did you see that???" I turned around and saw a huge Bobcat behind me. The cyclists scared it away and I left.

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

Georgia O'Keefe, Edgar Payne, Sargent, Meredith Brooks Abbott, Kathleen Dunphy, Jennifer McChristen, Scott Christensen, Kevin Macpherson, Randy Sexton, Matt Smith, Kathryn Stats, Peggi Kroll-Roberts. Just to name a few.

Where does your major motivation to get outside and paint come from?

The beauty of the outdoors is what motivates me. I'm from the Bay Area, now living in the desert. It get's hot in the summer, which is motivation to find cooler climates to paint in. I usually end up in Laguna Beach or Marin County.

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

If I could not be an artist, I would love to be an opera singer! Don't worry, I'll keep my day job!