



**LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Valerie Collymore
July 2021 Artist Member of the Month**

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

Use whatever simplification processes or tools you have, to render the essential character of the subject, without much detail and with close attention to values. Detail and refinements can be added later.

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

The primaries red, yellow and blue, and white and Phthalocyanine green (to extend the range of green landscape and seascape colors)

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

There is an authenticity in painting that comes from close observation of nature. It is helpful to know what colors are truly in a shadow. The Camera all too often interprets dark shadow as a “black hole”; painting outdoors or at least observing the outdoors on a regular basis, gives us the visual “real deal”, and we can use this knowledge in our paintings.

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

As a safety-conscious former emergency room physician, I haven't put myself in an extreme painting situation! I can only vicariously live through the “close calls” of my colleagues!

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

Monet, Cezanne, Van Gogh and Renoir.
I am obsessed with these four and have spent the last decade studying their work, techniques and lives.