



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Anthony Salvo, August 2021 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Learn to draw – bad drawing, bad painting. Learn to simplify shapes, and pick a focal point in your concept. Edges and brushwork are very important.

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

Cadmium Red, Ultramarine Blue, Cadmium Yellow, White, Alizarin Crimson.

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

Painting “en plein air” is invigorating. Making quick decisions in a small amount of time helps you stay loose and impressionistic. Capturing that moment in time with light and shadow is the key ingredient to my painting process. Love studio painting as well.

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

Painting in a desert wash in Palm Springs during a sudden earthquake.

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

Ken Auster, Greg LaRock, Jeff Horn, Jacobus Bass and Ken Backhaus. Taking workshops from these instructors helped me be the artist I am today. I stopped after 5 workshops when I first started – it got a little confusing at first, because they all have a different approach to plein air painting. I took 1 or 2 things I learned from each of them and applied them to my style of painting. I was on my way to finding my own voice as a painter.

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

I was a Graphic Designer and owned my own Graphic Design/Advertising Firm for 25 years, which I loved. But painting became my passion. Fantasy dream job. Rock Star if I could only sing.

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

I have only been painting for 12 years. It is my therapy as well as my passion.

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

Yes, my advice is to keep painting. I have had some really bad paintings that shouldn't be seen.

You must push yourself to keep going when you feel like giving up. When you get to that point where sometimes the painting kind of paints itself, and turns out amazing – it is all worth it. I am always willing to learn and push myself to a higher level.