



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Lisa Skelly September 2021 Artist Member of the Month

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

I would study with a Plein Air Artist whose work you love!

My first Plein Air workshop was with Ken Auster and I was horrible, but I enjoyed every moment and was hooked on Painting en Plein Air from the very first brush stroke.

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

Well that is a tough question for a Pastelist, I need LOTS of pastels. But if I had to limit my choices, I would have a variety of blues (all the ocean colors) and neutrals and then I would forever have to be painting the ocean and water. Darn ;)

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

If you've painted Plein Air this seems obvious and if you haven't, then I encourage you to try painting out on location. You can't help but feel all of your senses engaged and heightened! It's magical and so worth it to get real information and capture the effect of light dancing on your subject.

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

I was painting in San Diego with 600+ Plein Air Artists at the Plein Air Convention. We were painting along the ocean with beautiful cliffs and rock formations. It was a perfect day, blue skies and big dramatic surf with crashing waves and splashes. I was in heaven. I was going to paint my favorite subject, dramatic crashing waves. I found a beautiful spot right near some really well known and big name artists like John Burton and David Dibble. Kathleen Hudson was also setting up nearby on a path leading down to where I decided to set up.

I found this awesome rock to sit on and got out all of my pastels and put my painting in my lap on a towel and got started planning my composition. I could not stop smiling. I was energized and inspired! I could feel the spray and hear the waves swooshing and surging back and forth against the jagged coastline. After only a short time, I could hear the surf making thunderous echoes against the rocks nearby and then a hard thump and a huge WOOSH!!! I closed my eyes and rolled up into a ball while protecting my painting and pastels. A wall of water came crashing down on me. I was SOAKED! I did save my painting and pastels from the water but my painting was all over the front of my shirt. I was not deterred what so ever. I sat there and continued to paint and by the way, still smiling. I wondered how I could be so close to other artists and I was the only one that got hit by this wave, hmmm... Then another thump and woosh! Soaked again. I saved my painting and pastels for a second time. Ok, now it was time to move to a dryer location. Still none of the other artists around me had gotten wet? When I looked back at where I had been sitting, if I had been more observant, I would have seen a puddle right where I had planted myself. It was one of the only spots that had quite a bit of

water on it. I found another great spot where I could fully take advantage of the views and actually painted my favorite piece from that trip and by the way still smiling the whole time. This day was one of my favorite memories painting on location, it was truly magical and a little hair raising (and quite refreshing:).

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

Debra Huse, Ken Auster, Camille Przewodek, Monet and the Impressionists, Sergeant, Edgar Payne, Karl Dempwolf, Kim Lordier and actually all of the Artists that I get to represent at the Huse Skelly Gallery :) I'm truly inspired by so many artists and their journeys and unique stories and authentic vision.

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

Well first of all Thank You LPAPA for featuring me as your Artist of the Month. And to you, the reader for taking time to read this and let me share a little glimpse into my story and what inspires me as an artist.

I encourage you to share your unique story, to paint from real life and if you're on Balboa Island please come into the gallery and introduce yourself. We love meeting fellow artists and connecting with you! XO