



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Larry Cannon, November 2021 Signature Artist Member of the Month

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

Prepare several thumbnail value sketches before starting to draw or paint. You can never recover with technically good paint application if you start with a poor composition and value structure.

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

Aurelion Yellow, Cobalt Blue, Rose Madder Genuine, Raw Sienna and Burnt Sienna.

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

First because of being able to see color and color nuances clearly, but mostly for the immersion in all of Nature's Forces, seen and unseen.

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

Painting adjacent to the train tracks in Crockett, California when an AMTRAK train roared by twenty foot from my easel, which was sucked by the speeding train a couple of hundred feet down the tracks in the engine's passing wake.

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

Percy Gray, William Trost Richards, Winslow Homer, Joseph Zbukvic and David Curtis.

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?

Marine Biologist to enter and explore the beautiful environment from whence we all came.

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

My college fraternity pledge son, whom I mentored in his freshman year, went on to become the famous movie critic, Roger Ebert. And, I spent a year in Saigon during the war, preparing a master plan and implementation program to expand the city by 25% - a plan that is currently being slowly implemented.

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

When out plein air painting, follow your own pace and rhythm. Don't succumb to the pressure of feeling you have to paint as fast as someone else or finish a painting in no more than two hours. Carefully paying attention to colors, shadows and the essence of the subject that drew you to the subject will give you all the information you need to paint at your own pace. And remember, your painting will never match the beauty of the world in front of you. Don't compare your results with that of Nature's God.