



LAGUNA PLEIN AIR PAINTERS ASSOCIATION

LPAPA Plein Talk Interview with Mike Hill, November 2021 Artist Member of the Month

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

Paint, paint, paint! I paint for at least two hours a day...

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

Cobalt blue, Alizarin red, Titanium white, Cadmium yellow, and Viridian

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

I love both, but I'm drawn to plein air because of the limitless possibilities. Plus, I love being outdoors and having people come up to me and chat about their love of art and how that can't even paint stick-figures. I always joke back and say, "I understand, I can't paint stick-figures either!"

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

I was painting in La Jolla with my friend Pat Kelly and others. I was looking down at Pat who was painting along the shoreline when suddenly an errant wave came along and sent her portable easel, paint, and supplies flying all everywhere. We still laugh about that one!!

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

I love to paint people in my scenes, so I am drawn to artists like Sorolla, Sargeant, Zorn, Chase, etc...

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'm lucky on that front. I have a dream job. I have owned a successful business in San Diego for 43 years. It has given me the freedom to paint, hike, and do all the things I love to do.

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

I was born in Montreal. Moved here in 1967. Besides owning my own business, I also have an MBA in business administration...

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

When I think about art, I think about being a small boy and loving to look at the beautiful works of art I came across in museums and books. I would dream about being able to paint like that. I feel extremely fortunate that I'm able to paint with the passion I was given as a young boy at this stage of my life.

My advice: Follow your dreams and paint what you're passionate about!!!