



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

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Oil Painters of America is excited to be coming to the Lone Star State for this year's 16th Annual National Juried Exhibition at the elegant Whistle Pik Galleries in Fredericksburg, Texas. The exhibition runs from May 11 – June 9, 2007, with opening weekend festivities to take place May 10 – 13.

The exhibition at Whistle Pik Galleries will showcase many of the finest oil painters who specialize in traditional, representational fine art. The opening weekend is for both the artist and collector, and OPA encourages all art lovers to take the time to visit and take part in this very special weekend.

Festivities get underway with a Welcome Reception Thursday evening at the historic Nimitz Event Center from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. On Friday morning, the day begins with a painting demonstration by this year's Juror of Awards, Quang Ho OPAM. This young Master Signature member has garnered a strong following of artists and collectors alike and is already considered one of the top representational artists in the country today.

Acclaimed as a "20th Century Old Master," David Leffel OPAM has distinguished himself as one of the finest artists in his time. OPA is delighted to have the opportunity to hear him talk "Up Close and Personal" with Art of the West Magazine's co-publisher Thomas F. Tierney about his remarkable art career, Friday afternoon beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Immediately following, members and guests won't want to miss the panel discussion featuring owners and directors from some of the country's top galleries including this year's host: Tim Taylor of Whistle Pik Galleries. Rounding out the panel discussion are: Alison Collins, Gallery Director, Tree's Place Gallery, Orleans, Massachusetts; Suzanne and Jerry Owens, Owners, River Bend Fine Art, Marble Falls, Texas; and Gary and Sandy Sievert, Owners, Sage Creek Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico. These gallery experts will provide important tips and advice for artists and collectors on a number of relevant topics.

Two receptions will be held during the opening weekend. The first will take place on Friday evening, May 11, and is geared towards the artists, their families, and sponsors in attendance. The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Whistle Pik Galleries where artists will have the opportunity to preview the exhibition and will end with the awards reception at the Nimitz Event Center beginning at 8:15 p.m. A reception geared towards collectors will take place on Saturday evening, May 12, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Whistle Pik Galleries, followed by an old fashion Texas barbeque held at the Fredericksburg Inn. The reception and barbeque are open to collectors, artists, and sponsors.

Saturday morning, artists and collectors will have the opportunity to watch as some of OPA's more seasoned artists demonstrate their painting expertise. Already confirmed is Texas's own Bob Rohm OPA, who is widely known for his magnificent southwestern paintings.

Other not to be missed events includes a Saturday afternoon presentation by William E. Bush, owner of Fredericksburg Artists' School and a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Bush will speak to artists on "*The Business Side of Art.*" With over 30 years of experience, Bill brings a wealth of knowledge and practical information to the art community. His presentation will include discussion on various subjects facing the artist today, such as: agent

relationship, gallery representation and other means of selling art, insurance, shipping, tax issues, gallery commissions, advertising, how to price your work, and what you should expect to make.

This year, OPA's internationally recognized Master Signature painters are participating in full force – thirty will be included in this year's exhibition: Peter Adams, Thomas Buechner, Nancy Seamons Crookston, Dan Gerhartz, Ted Goerschner, Albert Handell, David Hettinger, Quang Ho, Huihan Liu, William Scott Jennings, Ramon Kelly, Steve Lang, David Leffel, Jeff Legg, Calvin Liang, Sherrie McGraw, Paul Mullally, C.W. Mundy, Neil Patterson, Joyce Pike, Joan Potter, William Reese, Burt Silverman, Marilyn Simandle, Mian Situ, Craig Tennant, Zhiwei Tu, Jeffrey Watts and William Whitaker.

Two notable artists join the ranks of this select group of Master Signature members: Jeff C. Legg and Jeffrey Watts. Jeff C. Legg's artwork is often described as "masterful, ethereal, and timeless." Focused primarily on still life, Mr. Legg is equally adept and comfortable with figures, portraits, and landscapes, either in the studio or "en plein air." Recently, Watts' work has been compared to that of Nicolai Fechin, an influence he is quick to acknowledge. "I never tire of looking at the work of Nicolai Fechin" Watts says, "It is the perfect combination of control and chaos." Watts aesthetic sensibilities have always been grounded in 19th century European and Russian figurative art.

Total awards are expected to exceed \$45,000, including a \$15,000 American National Award of Excellence.

The public is invited to view these exceptional works of art throughout the exhibition period. Gallery viewing hours during this event will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday. Opening weekend only, Sunday, May 13, the gallery will be open from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

For more information on how to register for these events, please contact OPA at 847-934-1721 or go to www.oilpaintersofamerica.com.

Oil Painters of America's mission is to advance the cause of traditional, representational fine art. Dedicated to preserving and promoting excellence in representational art, OPA's primary focus is to draw attention to the lasting value of fine drawing, color, composition and the appreciation of light.