

BrushStrokes

Volume 18, Issue 1

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2008



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

A Not-For-Profit Corporation

Established in 1991

EASTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

This year the Eastern Regional Show found its way to the rich and stately seaside town of Naples, Florida. OPA was honored to have The Weatherburn Gallery, one of the finest galleries on the eastern seaboard, play host to this year's exhibition.

The opening reception took place Thanksgiving weekend, which was considered to be an optimal time to attract collectors who come for the holiday. On Saturday evening, the gallery was filled to capacity as artists and collectors listened to this year's Juror of Awards, John Michael Carter OPA announce the award winners. Mr. Carter, a Signature member of OPA, and winner of the 2004 American National Award of Excellence eloquently described how he arrived at selecting the award winning paintings.

The Weatherburn Gallery did an exceptional job of marketing this year's exhibition. The marketing pieces were outstanding, and included a gift box of chocolates that featured a different painting on each wrapper, along with the title and price of the piece on the



Best of Show winner
"A Mother's Kiss"
painted by Dominic A. Avant

reverse side. In addition, Mr. Weatherburn's efforts garnered a 30 minute appearance on a local weekend talk radio show, where he and OPA Program Chair, William

Schneider OPA, talked with the host about the importance of OPA, and the artists who comprise the organization. Many thanks to Roger Weatherburn and Gallery Director, Heather Begley, for all of their hard work.

The Eastern Regional winners are:

Best of Show- Dominic A. Avant for "A Mother's Kiss" - \$3,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Best Master Signature Member- Kevin Macpherson OPAM for "Inspired, Reims Cathedral" - \$2,500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Best Signature Member- Diane Rath OPA for "Peonies on Red" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Best Associate Member- Daud Akhriev for "Evening Reading" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

\$500 Weatherburn Gallery Award of Excellence for Best Landscape Winner: Karl Heerd for "By The Old Stone Wall"

CONTENTS

Eastern Regional Show	1
Juror of Awards Statement	3
Meet the Winner	4
Masterstrokes	5
Notes From Your Board	7
Painting Our Future	8
Dates to Remember.	9

Eastern Regional con't.

\$500 Weatherburn Gallery Award of Excellence for Best Figurative Winner: Bill Farnsworth for "Madeline"

\$500 Weatherburn Gallery Award of Excellence for Best Still Life Winner: Terry T. Norris for "Iron Pot with Onions".



Gallery Director Heather Begley and Owner Roger Weatherburn



Kevin Macpherson OPAM won the Award of Excellence - Best Master Signature Member Award for his painting "Inspired, Reims Cathedral"



"Iron Pot with Onions" by Terry T. Norris won the Weatherburn Gallery Award of Excellence for Best Still Life



"Peonies on Red" won Diane Rath OPA the Award of Excellence — Best Signature Member



"Evening Reading" painted by Daud Akhriev won the Award of Excellence — Best Associate Member

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT By JOHN MICHAEL CARTER OPA



I would like to congratulate all the artists selected to participate in the 2007 Eastern Regional OPA Exhibition at the Weatherburn Gallery in Naples Florida. The overall exhibition was of a high quality and I found numerous entries worthy of merit in all three categories, landscape, figurative and still life. It was a full day's work for me to narrow my selections down to the seven award winners. I gave Best of Show to Dominic Avant for his vibrant and light filled painting "A Mother's Kiss". Kevin Macpherson's plein aire piece "Inspired Reims Cathedral" received the Master Signature Award. This little painting is full of energy and conveys a wonderful sense of the monumental. Best Signature Award went to Diane Rath for her visually dramatic still life "Peonies on Red" and I gave Daud Akhriev the Best Associate Award. His figure study, "Evening Reading", has a strong visual impact and great use of paint textures. The Weatherburn Gallery contributed three awards. I chose Karl Heerd's atmospheric "By the Old Stone Wall" for the Landscape Award, Bill Farnsworth's sensitive portrait "Madeline" received Best Figurative and for the Still Life Award I selected Terry Norris's solidly executed "Iron Pot with Onions".

I would like to give my thanks to Kathryn Beligratis and Bill Schneider OPA for their assistance and to Roger Weatherburn for his hard work in hanging this handsome show for OPA.

Sincerely,

John Michael Carter OPA



Karl Heerd's painting "By the Old Stone Wall" won the Weatherburn Gallery Award of Excellence for Best Landscape



Bill Farnsworth's painting "Madeline" won the Weatherburn Gallery Award of Excellence for Best Figurative



CRITIQUE SERVICE

Members and non-members of OPA are invited to submit copies of their work for critiquing by Signature and Master Signature members who will provide constructive analysis and feedback. To take part in this service please mail two identical disks containing three to ten paintings of current work with a one page bio. The fee for OPA members is \$25.00 and non-members is \$50.00. Send your material and check to: Oil Painters of America., P. O. Box 2488, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488.

MEET THE WINNER

Dominic Avant

Dominic Avant was drawing as early as he can remember. At the age of twelve he attended an arts enrichment program for gifted children at the Rhode Island School of Design and it was through this experience that he was exposed to the museum's collection of paintings and he knew painting was in his veins. He recalls being captivated and astonished by the works and would try his best to replicate these images with pastels and charcoal. As a youngster he was already winning awards at local fairs and 4H clubs.

After graduating from high school he went on to achieve a scholarship at the school that introduced him to the fine art world (Rhode Island School of Design). He graduated in 1991 with a BFA and was on a mis-

sion to become an illustrator. Unfortunately that dream would not come to be and he struggled with all kinds of odds and ends jobs just to stay afloat. In 1995 Dominic was recruited by Disney's Feature Animation and he gives this opportunity credit for jump starting his career as a painter. While being placed in this artist community, he was introduced to Plein Air painting and took advantage of the figure drawing classes that were offered.

In 2004 the Disney Florida studio closed. Although he lost great financial stability he left the studio feeling that he had gone through a metamorphosis, from someone who was just trying to find himself as an artist to a person glowing with ambition, aspiration and confidence to express himself in the art world.

Dominic's subject matter varies and



he is intrigued with the play of light on his subjects, striving to achieve a rhythmic flow of light and color with strong emotional content. Ultimately, he strives to elicit the same emotions in the viewer that compels him to paint the subject.

He presently resides in Bradenton, Florida with his wife and two sons and teaches concept art at the Ringling College of Art and Design. He is represented by M Gallery of Fine Art in Sarasota, Florida.

WILLIAM T. CHAMBERS SELECTED AS MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBER



Congratulations to William T. Chambers OPAM who was recently awarded the status of Master Signature Member.

Born and raised in the Midwest, Chambers graduated from the

American Academy of Art and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Northeastern Illinois University. He was a successful illustrator prior to entering the world of portraiture painting.

Chambers works are featured in both public and private collections throughout the United States. His clients include former Illinois Governors James R. Thompson and Jim Edgar, former Northwestern University Presidents Robert Strotz and Arnold Weber, former director of the Washington Opera Martin Feinstein and former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird. He was also the Grand Prize Winner of the International Portrait Competition by the Portrait Society of America in 1999.

SIGNATURE MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

After careful review and consideration Signature Member Status has been conferred on the following artists:

Warren Chang OPA, Monterey, California,

D. Edward Kucera OPA, Highlands Ranch, Colorado,

Ruo Li OPA, Arcadia, California, and

Scott Tallman Powers OPA, Chicago, IL

Congratulations to these artists who have consistently demonstrated a high level of expertise.



Capturing the Essence of Flowers

by Kurt Anderson OPA

When I paint flowers I want to capture as realistically as possible the beauty that I see. I want the light to shimmer, the colors to glow, the leaves and petals to rustle with movement.

Although my paintings are highly realistic, I never look directly at what I'm painting. Instead, I observe from the corner of my eye and try to paint the essence of what I'm seeing, painting only so much detail as is necessary to capture that essence. This concept is, of course, at the center of the naturalist/impressionist tradition in painting. But it has been my life's study, and it is the challenge that excites me every time I take up a brush.

This has a lot to do with my attraction to flowers. Because of the incredible wealth of detail in a floral arrangement I am, in a sense, forced to work broadly and impressionistically. And flowers simply can't be

beat as subject matter since they allow for the richest expression of color and the liveliest use of brushwork.

Achieving vibrant color is one of the most important elements in my work. Color defines reality almost as much as shape. And I love dynamic brushwork—brushwork that allows the viewer to see the process of painting in the finished work itself. That is why direct alla prima painting is an important aspect to my work. Something magical happens with that first touch of paint to the canvas that gets lost if I overwork it or paint over it with another layer.

The challenge of direct painting, ironically, is planning ahead. If I have to change the drawing and composition once I've started, then the spontaneity is destroyed. So I compromise, and instead of painting true alla prima, I like to start with a bistre underpainting.

Bistre is the traditional term for a brown monochromatic wash. In my case I use a brown made from mixing two parts raw umber with one part quinacridone magenta—I like its violet-red tint.

Using this color I paint the entire still life in a single session. Mineral spirits is my medium, so the relative lightness and darkness of the values is determined by how much medium I add to the pigment. This allows me to work out all the composi-

tional and drawing issues and to establish the values.

Once it dries overnight, I begin to work over the top of it with opaque color. Because I am working impasto, I cover only so much of the canvas as I can completely finish in a single session. A still life, like the one shown here, usually takes about three or four sessions to fully cover.

Since the values are already established with the underpainting I have the advantage of being able to paint the dark notes thinly without losing their darkness. I keep my shadows "flat and liquid" so that they recede. I save my thickest paint for my lightest notes and highlights. This makes them catch the light and leap forward.

The underpainting is almost completely covered by the opaque color, giving it all the appearance of alla prima, with the same richness and spontaneity. However, I always leave some of the bistre showing through around the edges. In this way the final painting carries a small testament to the process by which it was created.



2008 NATIONAL EXHIBITION

OPA is excited to return to Dana Gallery in Missoula, Montana for its 17th National Juried Exhibition of Traditional Oils, May 2 – June 14, 2008. As is custom, OPA will host a series of events for artists and collectors beginning with a 3-hour demonstration on Friday morning by this year's Juror of Awards and Master Signature painter, Ramon Kelley. Mr. Kelley is especially known for his sensitive character studies and can be found in many of the country's finest private and public collections including the Seattle Frye Museum and the Santa Fe Museum of Fine Art. In addition to painting, Mr. Kelley is a world class teacher. His work has been featured in 15 art magazines and in two books including his latest: *The 5 Essentials in Every Powerful Painting*.

OPA is also pleased to have Peter Trippi, Editor of Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine, and formerly the Director of the Dahesh Museum of Art in New York City. Mr. Trippi has established himself as one of the most knowledgeable experts on British painter J. W. Waterhouse R. A. His 250 – page biography of the painter has sold more than 38,000 copies.

Friday afternoon, the ever popular art critiques will take place. Plan on bringing recent photos of your work to be critiqued by one of our Signature or Master Signature members.

Join OPA signature member Johnnie Liliedahl, and author of "Photo-Imaging for Painters — An Artist's Guide to Photoshop and Photoshop Elements" as she discusses how to use Photoshop® to present digital images of paintings in the most correct color and value range, how to photograph work without being a professional photographer, and how to manipulate photographic references to be better painting references when you can't work from life. The session will be driven by questions and answers, as well as demonstrations of some of the most common uses a painter has for Photoshop®.

Lastly, the opening reception and announcement of this year's award winners will take place on Friday evening. The opening reception will take place at Dana Gallery from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and the awards presentation will be at the Holiday Inn-Parkside beginning at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Top artists from OPA will be demonstrating their painting expertise and sharing their knowledge from 9:00 to 11:30 at the Dana Gallery on Saturday morning.

On Saturday afternoon, Alyson B. Stanfield, founder of the popular ArtBizCoach.com will be presenting two – two hour sessions: "Get Comfortable Promoting Your Art: Easy Steps that Make a Difference" and "How to use Email, Websites, and Blogs to Amplify Your Online Presence." Drawing from her years of experience as an art museum curator and educator, Ms. Stanfield has created a highly successful business advising artists on a number of ways to promote and build their businesses. She is a regular contributor to *Art Business News* and writes the free, weekly *Art Marketing Action* newsletter. OPA is delighted that she will be a part of this year's program.

Sunday is reserved for artists who want to go outdoors and paint the breathtaking scenery that Montana has to offer. Board Members Scott Tallman Powers OPA and Ken Cadwalader OPA will be spearheading this year's plein air painting activities.

Registration material is available on the OPA website: <http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com>.



Ramon Kelley OPAM



Peter Trippi



Alyson B. Stanfield

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Signature Status Requirement Change

Future applicants for Signature membership will be required to submit 12 digital images and a 2-page biography on a computer disk. This replaces the prior procedure of submittals being made with slides and printed materials.

Redistricting

Membership regions will be revised from three to two: Western and Eastern. This will (1) allow for larger regional shows of up to 150 entries accepted per show, rather than the previous 100 entries, and (2) have more and higher award amounts per show since the same pool of funds will be available but divided between 2 rather than 3 exhibitions.

Master Signature Award

Henceforth a Master Signature member is eligible to win the Master Signature Award only once every three years.

Thank You Hella

Hella Tomczak who has been the OPA webmaster since the position's inception, is retiring. OPA thanks Hella for all of her hard work on our website.

Annual Business Meeting

All members are invited to attend the Annual General Business Meeting of OPA being held on Saturday

morning, from 7:30 a.m. — 8:45 a.m. on May 3, 2008 at the Holiday Inn - Parkside as part of the National Exhibition. Part of this meeting will be the election of Board members. Board members are elected for staggered two-year terms. The following names are being submitted as candidates for election.

Ruth Dyke Challacombe OPA graduated from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago/University of Chicago. She received her M.Ed. from National-Louis University and studied privately with Charles B. Vickery OPA and Li Chang, both artists of international stature. An OPA member since 1992, serving as a Board Member-Director from 1993-present, and as President from August 1999 to June 2002.

William T. Chambers OPAM is a nationally recognized portrait painter, a graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago, and holds a BA from Northeastern Illinois University. His portfolio of portraits includes those of numerous public figures, including former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird. Bill has served as a Board Member-Director since February 2002, and is currently the

President of OPA. He has also served as Chair of the Jurying Selection Committee.

William Schneider OPA studied art at the University of Illinois. However, he began his career in the music business and in the mid 80's became the co-owner of an investment consulting firm. Later, Bill went to the American Academy of Art to study figure drawing and oil painting. In 2001, Bill sold his investment firm to focus on a career in art. Bill is a representational artist who works in oil and pastel. Bill has served as a Board Member-Director since 1993, and currently serves at the Chair of the Program Committee. He served as Treasurer from August 2001 to June 2004.

Konrad Hack OPA received his B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago/University of Chicago and his Masters from Governors State University. He is a founding member of the United States Air Force Artists program. His paintings are on display in the permanent collections of NASA, the Pentagon, 9th Infantry Division Museum-Fort Lewis, WA. and numerous other locations as well as in private collections and corporate headquarters. He was first appointed to the Board in June 2001, and currently serves as OPA's Scholarship Chairman.

CATALOGS AVAILABLE

Additional copies of past OPA catalogs are still available. They may be purchased by sending your request and check to: Oil Painters of America., P. O. Box 2488, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488, or may be ordered on-line.

2007 and 2006	\$21.00 each	\$16.00 each for orders of 3 or more
2002 and 2001	\$20.00 each	\$15.00 each for orders of 3 or more

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Jean Bohlender has a one-woman show presented by the Mimbres Region Arts Council in Silver City, NM through March 21st.

Amery Bohling, was presented the John Young-Hunter Memorial Award in December, 2007. This award is presented for outstanding work in oil painting at the Allied Artists of America Annual Exhibition held at the National Arts Club in N.Y.

Don Britton has recently been juried into the Paint America mini top 50 touring exhibit. He was also awarded first place for his painting "Merced in Autumn" by Paint America. Additionally, Britton won first place for "Late Afternoon, Quiet Stream" in the Carson Valley Art Association Annual Show.

Ellen Buselli's painting "Classical Light" is featured on the cover of the January 2008 issue of *American Artist* magazine, along with a feature article inside.

Ione Citrin's exhibit "The Ione Citrin Collection of Florals/Landscapes" is running through March 31 at the Gardens of the World Resource Center in Thousand Oaks, CA.

Bonnie Conrad OPA is pleased to announce that she has been invited to "Signature Status" in American Women Artists (AWA).

Ginger Frederick had a painting accepted at the Saitama Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo, Japan. Ginger won a merit award for a painting at the Plymouth Arts Center in Milwaukee, WI. Ginger has also been listed

in the Cambridge Who's Who International Book - Honors edition of 2008.

Joey Frisillo, won the Best of Show award at the "Women Artists of the West" Members Show at the Hilligoss Galleries In Chicago, IL in November 2007 for her painting "Sunlit Peonies".

Michael Gibbons has been received as a member of the National Arts Club in New York City. The "by invitation only" organization was founded in 1898 as a gathering place for artists, patrons and audiences in all forms of the arts by Charles de Kay, literary and art critic for the New York Times.

Michael Chesley Johnson, has published a new book. *Through a Painter's Brush: A Year on Campobello Island* is a collection of landscapes featuring Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Beloved Island" in the Canadian Maritimes and meditations on the process of Painting.

Cheryl Kline recently opened an atelier style art school- The Kline Academy of Fine Art, located in Los Angeles, CA.

Gary Ozias and **John Roush** will display oil and pastel paintings at the Southwind Gallery in Topeka during the month of March.

Rene Porter's recent OPA award was a top story under "Galleries & Artists." in *Fine Art Connoisseur*. They also have it running in the actual Jan/Feb 2008 issue of FAC, in the Off the Walls news section.

Jada Rowland was honored to be included in an article titled, "The Human Touch", along with **Mian Situ**, **Scott Burdick** and other wonderful painters in the December, 2007 *Fine Arts Connoisseur* magazine.

Jo Sherwood received a Certificate of Commendation from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's office in recognition of her endeavors to provide cross-cultural understanding and awareness of the Chinese heritage, history, culture and art through her paintings.

William A. Schneider's OPA painting, "Spring Grandeur" won second place in the Floral division of The Richeson 75: Artist's Choice Competition.

Craig Srebnik won four awards for his figure paintings in national juried exhibitions in 2007, including Best of Show in the Southside Art League (Indianapolis); and had his artwork featured in The Art Guide.

Elizabeth Tolley recently published her book *Oil Painter's Solution Book: Landscapes Over 100 answers to your oil painting questions*. It is a full color reference book for oil painters about painting landscapes.

F. Michael Wood's OPA painting "Trilogy" was an award winner in the second national Raymar Art online competition. Wood also has had three of his entries accepted in the "Salon International" hosted by Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art in San Antonio.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1 – Deadline for submission for Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is having been juried into three OPA National Exhibitions OR two National and three Regional Exhibitions within the last five years..

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2008 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2009 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

National Shows

May 2 – June 15, 2008 Seventeenth Annual National Juried Exhibition at Dana Gallery, Missoula, Montana. Juror of Awards: Ramon Kelley OPAM. Registration material available online at:
<http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com>.

May 1 – May 31, 2009 Eighteenth Annual National Juried Exhibition at Sage Creek Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Regional Shows

September 12 – October 11, 2008 Western Regional Juried Exhibition at Devin Galleries in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Maximum Size Dimensions: 30" x 40". Deadline for off-line entries to be received at OPA is June 3. Deadline for on-line entries is June 17. Artist will be notified when information is available.

2008 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition to be announced shortly. Artists will be notified when information is available.

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