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EXHIBITION PREVIEW

North America's Oil Painters Head Southwest

By MATTHIAS ANDERSON



Hundreds of talented artists and enthusiastic collectors are set to gather at Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona, to kick off the 19th annual *National Juried Exhibition* mounted by the nonprofit organization, Oil Painters of America (OPA). Scheduled to open on April 30 and run through May 31, this show features 200 paintings selected from the more than 2,500 submitted by OPA members residing throughout North America.

Dedicated to the promotion of traditional, representational art, OPA will distribute awards totaling more than \$50,000, including a Gold Medal worth \$22,000. This year's Juror of Awards is OPA Master Signature member Nancy S. Crookston (b. 1948), who is based in Oakland and has submitted the work illustrated here. Among the many other Master Signature members expected to exhibit are Kenn Backhaus, Thomas S. Buechner, William T. Chambers, Warren Chang, Dan Gerhartz, Albert Handell, Quang Ho, Ramon Kelley, Steven Lang, David A. Leffel, Ruo Li, Calvin Liang, Joyce Pike, Craig Tennant, Zhiwei Tu, and Jeffrey Watts.

Guided by OPA President Neil Patterson, the exhibition's opening weekend (April 30-May 2) features a calendar crowded with activities above and beyond the award presentation and its afterparty. Lectures and painting demonstrations will be offered by various senior members, including Crookston, Harley Brown, Doug Higgins, and Kurt Anderson, while dealer-author Kristen Thies will discuss her latest book, *Wisdom and the Dreamer: Achieving Fulfillment in the Arts*.

Quite logically, OPA has devised several collaborations for its members with the outstanding Scottsdale Artists' School located nearby. Whether they come for the exhibition's opening weekend or later during its run, visitors will encounter still more fine art in the galleries and museums of Scottsdale and Phoenix. (For details, please see the *Destination Art* section in the November/December 2007 issue of *Fine Art Connoisseur*.) ■

MATTHIAS ANDERSON is a contributing writer to *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

Information: Legacy Gallery, 7178 Main Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, 480.945.1113, legacygallery.com; Oil Painters of America, 815.356.5987, oilpaintersofamerica.com

NANCY S. CROOKSTON (b. 1948)

LIVE EACH SEASON

2009, OIL ON CANVAS, 40 x 30 IN.

\$12,500 AT OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION

