



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 29 issue 1

SPRING
2019

Brushstrokes

2018 EASTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION A DEFINITE SUCCESS

OPA was thrilled to return to the historic city of Annapolis, Maryland for its 2018 Eastern Regional Exhibition, held at the beautiful McBride Gallery. A consummate professional, owner Cynthia McBride has been in the gallery business for almost forty years and has earned a stellar reputation among art collectors and artists alike. The gallery was established in 1980 near Annapolis' historic City Dock and in 1990 the gallery moved to its current location, a Georgian styled home and one of the oldest buildings on upper Main Street.



The Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Xiao S. Jiang OPAM for "Early Autumn"

OPA festivities began on Friday morning, October 26, with a welcome reception at the gallery. Afterwards, attendees set out to paint the city, followed by an informal critique session

led by Master Signature artist John Michael Carter. Attendees found the critique session to be very helpful and everyone was pleased to walk away with some sage advice from one of OPA's most highly respected Masters.

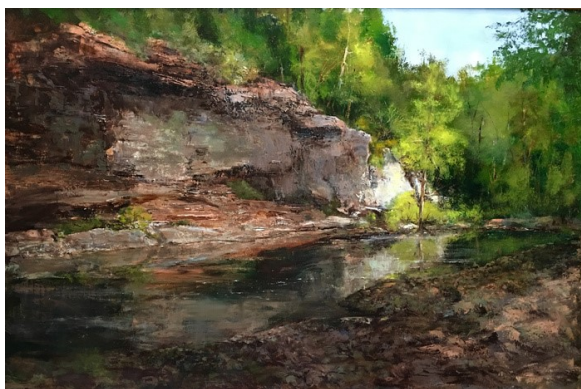
Another highlight of the weekend was a floral painting demonstration by Juror of Awards Kathy Anderson, one of our newest Master Signature members. Attendees were in for a real treat as Kathy painted a gorgeous arrangement of flowers, talked about her method of painting and answered several pertinent questions from the audience.

The long weekend also offered several social events for attendees including lunch at McGarvey's Saloon – a local favorite, and dinner at the trendy Blackwell Hitch Restaurant. A walking tour of Annapolis was also available for the more adventurous.

The opening reception, on Sunday afternoon, capped off a terrific weekend. It was a lovely opening welcome with a good mix of artists and collectors alike. Juror of Awards Kathy Anderson OPAM presented awards in two categories beginning with the Master

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Judy Maurer won the Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division for "Welch Bluff"

Eastern Show con't.

Signature Division, followed by the Associate & Signature Division. Congratulations goes to Xiao S. Jiang OPAM for taking home the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for his painting "Early Autumn", and to Judy Maurer for winning the Gold Medal in the Associate & Signature Division for her painting "Welch Bluff". A complete list of winners can be found below.

Thanks to everyone at McBride Gallery for a terrific weekend and for your gracious hospitality. We hope to be back again soon!

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Xiao S. Jiang OPAM for "Early Autumn" - \$3,500 funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Craig Tennant OPAM for "Hidden Treasures" - \$500 funded by OPA

Bronze Medal: Jan Peng Wang OPAM for "Festival" - merchandise certificate funded by Savoir-Faire valued at \$500



The Bronze Medal in the Associate and Signature Division went to John V. Whytock for "Calm Morning in Chioggia"

Master Signature Award of Excellence: Robert Johnson OPAM for "Acadia (Maine) Afternoon" - merchandise certificate valued at \$150 funded by Jack Richeson & Company

Master Signature Award of Excellence: Howard Friedland OPAM for "Tender Loving Care" - merchandise certificate valued at \$125 funded by Jack Richeson & Company

ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Judy Maurer for "Welch Bluff" - \$4,000 funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Patricia M. Rice for "Blue River Dream" - featured in Artist Focus section of *American Art Collector Magazine* - valued at \$3,400

Bronze Medal: John V. Whytock for "Calm Morning in Chioggia" - full page advertisement funded by *Southwest Art Magazine* valued at \$3,380

Realism Award of Excellence: Hans P. Guerin OPA for "The Blues" - half page advertisement funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine* valued at \$2,150



Patricia M. Rice won the Silver Medal in the Associate and Signature Division for "Blue River Dream"

Impressionist Award of Excellence: Anne Blair Brown OPA for "Perched" - Artwork Archive Lifetime Master Account + \$750 funded by OPA

Animal Award of Excellence: Ann Goble for "Company of Three" - merchandise certificate funded by Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours valued at \$500

Figurative Award of Excellence: Lon Brauer for "Farrier" - merchandise certificate funded by Blue Ridge Oil Colors valued at \$500

Landscape Award of Excellence: Ann Larsen OPA for "Long Gone" - merchandise certificate funded by Maimeri Puro Oils valued at \$500

Portraiture Award of Excellence: Kathie Wheeler OPA for "Pretty in Pink" - merchandise certificate funded by Savoir-Faire valued at \$500

Seascape Award of Excellence: Kathleen B. Hudson for "I When My Son Beheld the Sea" - \$500 funded by OPA

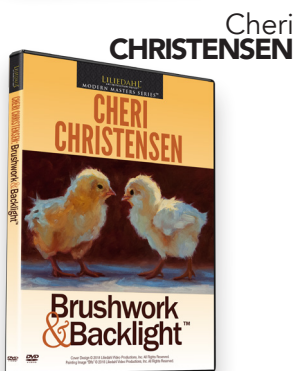
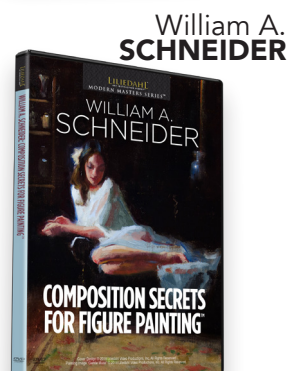
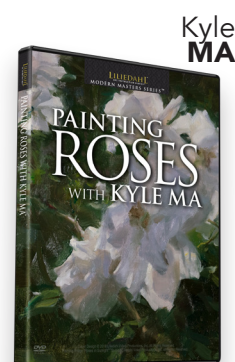
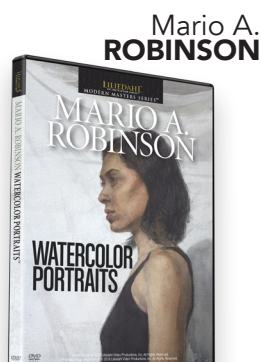
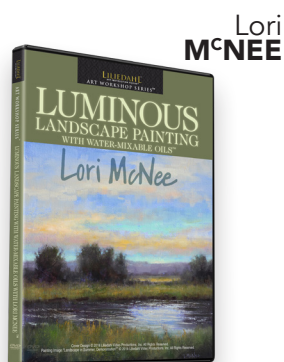
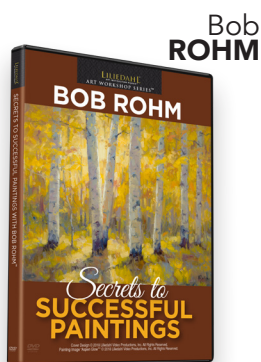
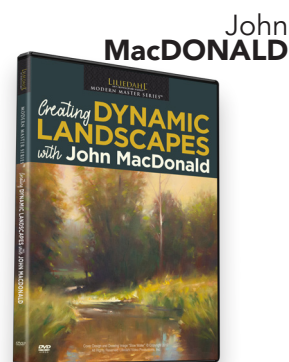
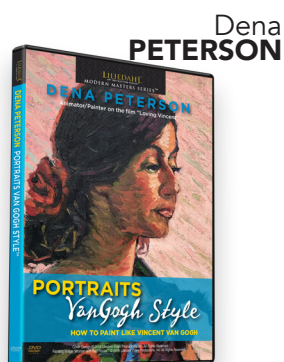
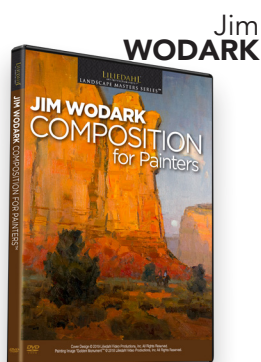


"Tango in Yellow" painted by MaryBeth Karaus OPA won the Still Life Award of Excellence

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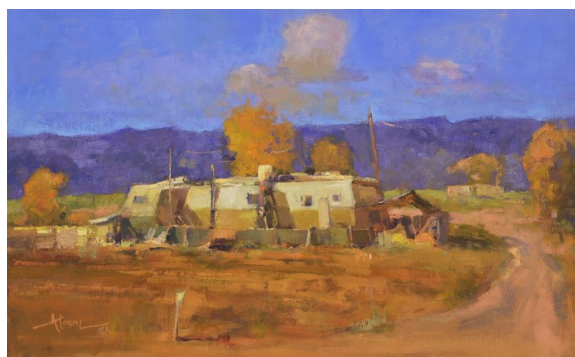


Eastern Show con't.

Still Life Award of Excellence:
MaryBeth Karaus OPA for **"Tango in Yellow"** - \$500 funded by OPA

ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

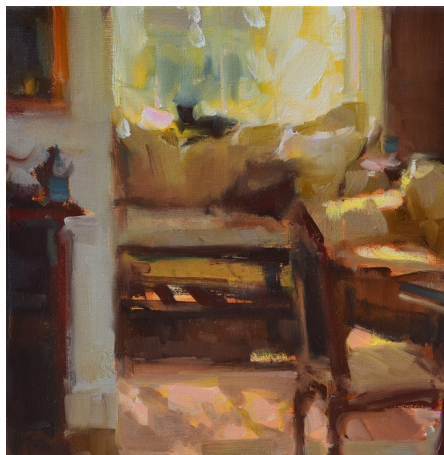
Michael Todd Derr for **"High Noon Pinon"** - merchandise certificate funded by Gamblin Artists Oil Colors valued at \$250



Ann Larsen OPA won the Landscape Award of Excellence for "Long Gone"

Jonathon Stasko for **"Evening Interlude"** - merchandise certificate funded by Liliedahl Video Productions valued at \$250

Steven S. Walker for **"Yellow Spring Creek"** - merchandise certificate funded by Meininger Artist Materials valued at \$250



"Perched" painted by Anne Blair Brown OPA won the Impressionist Award of Excellence

Elise N. Phillips for **"Leave the Light On"** - merchandise certificate funded by Jack Richeson & Company valued at \$150

J.E. Daly for **"The Tinsmith's Reflection"** - merchandise certificate funded by Jack Richeson & Company valued at \$125.



Kathie Wheeler OPA won the Portraiture Award of Excellence for "Pretty in Pink"



"When My Son Beheld the Sea" painted by Kathleen B. Hudson won the Seascape Award of Excellence



Hans P. Guerin OPA won the Realism Award of Excellence for "The Blues"



The Figurative Award of Excellence was given to Lon Brauer for "Farrier"

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT **EASTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION** **KATHY ANDERSON OPAM**

Judging and awarding prizes to artists begins with a concept that seems to be at odds with what creativity is all about. This show was one of the strongest shows I have judged, which made choosing an award for one painting over another a very difficult task.

I was given the honor of being asked to jury the awards, so the results came from what I respond to and my personal reasons for choosing one over another. A great master and dear friend once told me what he looks for in a painting is imagination, feeling and craft, and this resonated with me as pretty good advice. Imagination to me means does the painting handle the subject in a different way, a different viewpoint, something more than copying what is there? Feeling has to be my feeling, and it usually comes from a response to color, and a feeling of a little mystery. Craft of course must be there - design, drawing, composition.

To close, if you didn't get into this, or another show, try and look at your work objectively and see how you honestly hold up against work you admire. Never give up, hopefully we are all still learning, and remember Woody Allen "80% of success is showing up", so keep painting and keep entering!



"The Tinsmith's Reflection"
by J.E. Daly
won an Award of Excellence



The Silver Medal in the Master Signature Division
was awarded to Craig Tennant OPAM
for "Hidden Treasures"



"Festival" by Jan Peng Wang
OPAM won the Bronze Medal in
the Master Signature Division



The Animal Award of Excellence was given
to Ann Goble for "Company of Three"



Howard Friedland OPAM won an
Award of Excellence for
"Tender Loving Care"



Robert Johnson OPAM won an Award of
Excellence for "Acadia (Maine) Afternoon"

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Elise N. Phillips won an Award of Excellence for "Leave the Light On"



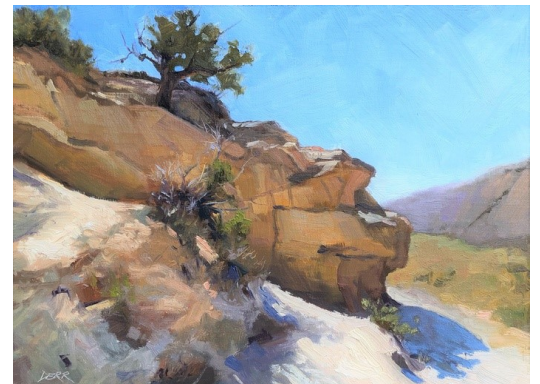
"Yellow Spring Creek" by Steven S. Walker won an Award of Excellence



Jonathan Stasko's "Evening Interlude" won an Award of Excellence



An Award of Excellence was given to Michael Todd Derr for "High Noon Pinon"



**MEET THE EASTERN REGIONAL SHOW
ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION
GOLD MEDAL WINNER JUDY MAURER**

Judy Maurer is one of the many artists who began their creative journey later in life. Although, she excelled in her art classes in school, she elected to pursue a career in technology, with only periodic sojourns into drawing and painting. In the late 90's, she retired from her high stress, corporate job, moved to Northwest Arkansas and began to pursue an interest in pastel with serious passion. After she tried plein air painting in the early 2000's, she combined her love of the outdoors and her growing interest in oils.



Secondary to her love of the landscape, is the challenge of portraiture; drawing and painting the live model. She has participated in dozens of workshops, studied with numerous well known artists over the years and taught drawing and pastel in a local adult education program.

She has been Artist-in-Residence at two national parks; Buffalo National River in Arkansas and Acadia National Park in Maine and is a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America and the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society. Her work is on the cover of *The Best of Art & Artisans*, published by Kennedy Publishing, and a pastel is among the permanent collection of the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph, Missouri.

After spending winters in Gold Canyon, Arizona and painting the desert and summers in the Ozarks for many years, she now lives in Arkansas full time and continues to explore the Ozark Mountains in Missouri and Arkansas seeking to paint scenes that honor the beauty and special qualities of this region.



**MEET THE EASTERN REGIONAL
MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION
GOLD MEDAL WINNER XIAO SONG JIANG OPAM**

Xiao Song Jiang OPAM was born in 1955, in Wuhan, China. In 1978 he studied fine arts at the China Academy of Art, formerly the Zhejiang Art Academy, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1982, then began lecturing on watercolor at the City of Wuhan Construction College. Four years after, Song was selected to further develop his skill at the provincial Hubei Art Academy. During his time there, he amassed years of experience, painting, sketching, and working for a refined grasp of color and technique.

Throughout his early career, Song has received numerous awards as one of the representatives of Chinese paintings, with works displayed at international art exhibitions in the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Turkey, and Singapore. He also had the honor of having four representative works collected and preserved at the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) and three works at the Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum.

In 1988, Song immigrated to Canada and pursued his passion of the vivid scenes of the broad North American landscape. While there, he travelled widely from coast to coast and gained some 20 years of experience forming his unique style of a mixture of brush and knife with attention to the unique natural detail, richer handling of light, shadow and depth in each piece, which has won him numerous awards in North American exhibitions and art festivals. He now lives by the lake in Toronto, Canada with his wife and son.

He is influenced by the beautiful land and friendly people. Through his paintings, he wishes to express his love to the North American landscape and all its people. He has won numerous awards from Oil Painters of America in both National and Regional Exhibitions as well as from other art organizations.

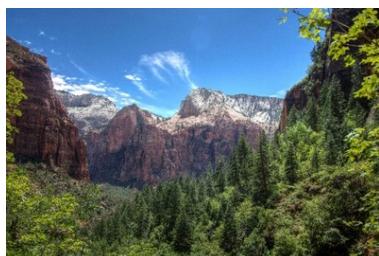


28th National Exhibition & Convention

Wet Paint Competition: May 6 - 8 • Convention Events: May 6 - 10 • Exhibition: May 10 - June 7

Illume Gallery of Fine Art • Saint George, Utah

Monday, May 6



8:00 a.m. - OPA's "Southwest Treasures" Wet Paint Competition Begins!

OPA's "Southwest Treasures" Wet Paint Competition begins bright and early Monday morning! Registered attendees* will vie for approximately \$15,000 in awards. A first, second and third place will be given in two categories: studio and plein air, with remaining awards given based on the discretion of the Juror of Awards.

The state of Utah is a plein air painter's playground. Just an hour away from St. George is the majestic Zion National Park, or just 9 miles north of St. George are the beautiful red rocks at Snow Canyon State Park.

***Please Note:** Only attendees who have paid a full convention registration fee are eligible to participate in the wet paint sale & competition. Please see the competition rules for the full details.

Wet Paint Rules can be found at: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/2019wetpaint

Tuesday, May 7

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - OPA's "Southwest Treasures" Wet Paint Sale & Competition

Both plein air and studio artists have the opportunity to paint. OPA will provide models for artists wishing to paint indoors or feel free to bring your own props. Plein air artists – you are free to explore the area!

***Please note:** Admission fees to the parks are the responsibility of the artist.

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Welcome to St. George! Opening Reception Hosted by Southwest Art Magazine

Help us get this year's conference off to a great start by joining us at OPA's Welcome Reception sponsored by *Southwest Art Magazine*. Come for a drink and some scrumptious appetizers.

Wednesday, May 8

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Southwest Art Magazine's Pampered Paint Out

southwest art This event is all about you, the artist! Enjoy a continental breakfast, followed by a delicious lunch and great music, compliments of our good friends at *Southwest Art Magazine*. A little tired from standing all morning? Sign-up on-site for a 10-minute massage with a massage therapist – it might be just what you need! OPA will provide models and props. Framed paintings must be turned in at Red Cliff Gallery 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 9

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Registration & Exhibits Open

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Painting Demonstration with Juror of Awards Kenn Erroll Backhaus OPAM

Kenn Backhaus is a Master Signature artist in both the Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society. He is a member and past President of the Plein Air Painters of America, the oldest and most prestigious plein air organization in the country. He has also achieved Signature Member status, the highest level, in the California Art Club, one of the oldest and most active art organizations in the country. His paintings have won numerous awards, including Best in Show, Collector's Choice, Master's Award of Excellence and Artists' Choice Awards. His work has been included in several museum shows.



1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Painting Demonstrations

Lyn Boyer's two great passions in life are carrying on the great traditions of representational oil painting and passing that torch to her students. She is an award-winning plein air and studio oil painter with works that hang in private collections across the United States.

Michael Malm is well versed in a variety of painting styles, from still life's to landscapes, but he is perhaps best known for his impressionistic paintings of figures. The surrounding rural communities and settings provide backdrops for his figural paintings and inspiration for his landscapes.

Stephanie Birdsall OPA loves to paint from life. She is enchanted by the way light falls on her subject and travels through it. Her goal is to share the softness and mystery that it brings to her paintings.

Ron Rencher is a native of Utah and is currently a resident of Canyon Lake, TX by way of Taos, NM. He earned a B.A. degree in Fine Art at Southern Utah University. His post collegiate art education included classes with Ned Jacob, Mark Daily, Dan Gerhartz OPAM, Lowell Ellsworth Smith, and Milford Zornes. His artistic mentors include, Len Chmiel, Dan Pinkham, Walt Gonske, and the late Jim Jones. He has won numerous awards and has been featured in several books and magazines.



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Illume Gallery of Fine Art • Saint George, Utah

Doug Fryer was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was raised in Illinois and California. In 1988 he received his BFA in Illustration from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. He later returned to BYU for further study toward an MFA in Painting and Drawing, receiving his degree in 1995. Fryer has taught fine art and illustration at several universities and art schools, including Brigham Young University; the University of Hartford, New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology, and Snow College in Ephraim, Utah.

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - "The Relationships Between Collector, Gallery and Artist"

This session will bring together top artists and art executives to exchange ideas and share their opinions on how to build a successful business relationship between the artist, gallery, and collector. Moderator and owner of Illume Gallery of Fine Art, Jane Bell Meyer, will delve into why it is important for artists to have a knowledge of their collectors, how a gallery may best serve collectors, and why it is of value to have an open dialogue between all 3 parties with the goal of achieving an exceptional, long-term working relationship.

7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - American Art Collector Magazine's Celebratory Party

After an exciting week of painting, demos and other activities it is time to unwind. As always, *American Art Collector Magazine* has stepped up to sponsor what has become one of the most highly anticipated events of the week. Dinner, sodas and coffee provided.



Friday, May 10

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Registration & Exhibits Open

Attendees can pick up their registration packets and visit the exhibitors located right next door in the Arrowhead Gallery.

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Painting Demonstration with Lori Putnam OPA

Prior to becoming a full-time, fine artist, Putnam owned a successful graphic design business for 13 years. In 2008 and 2009, she and her husband Mark sold their home and belongings and traveled to the Italian countryside. The sole purpose was personal study and artistic experimentation. The concentrated work accomplished during that 7-month period culminated in an impressive breakthrough. While she considers herself primarily self-taught, the advice and support of Scott Christensen, Quang Ho OPAM, and Dawn Whitelaw have been key to the artist's development and success. Lori has exhibited with many respected organizations. Currently, Putnam also serves on the Board for Art Ambassador for a Colorful World, founded by Kevin Macpherson OPAM, whose belief it is that art has the power to change the world.



11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Studio Safety 101: Luncheon Presentation with Joe Gyurcsak OPA, AIS, ISAP, Resident Artists Brand Manager of Blick/Utrecht Artists Materials

BLICK art materials Artists are very familiar with paints and mediums, but many are not so familiar with personal, studio and environmental safety. OPA Signature artist Joe Gyurcsak will provide a comprehensive look into the labeling, usage and disposal of fine art materials. In this 1-hour presentation, artists will be educated on all the elements of exposure and best protection as a daily practice. As an added feature, artists will learn about the invention of Utrecht Cadmium-Free Artists Colors and why it is creating a major shift in the artist's market place! A brief Q&A period will conclude this session as artists enjoy this fantastic luncheon!

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Painting Demonstration with Gary Ernest Smith

Gary Ernest Smith broke on to the national art scene in 1983 with paintings and sculptures that deal with his rural roots, the subject matter being both historic and contemporary. He has had more than forty one-man and group shows in galleries and museums in the US and throughout the world. His paintings have been displayed in such museums as the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, Eiteljorg Museum of American Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, Denver Museum of Art, Denver, Colorado, Phoenix Museum of Art, Phoenix, Arizona to name a few. Gary has been featured in numerous publications such as *Southwest Art*, *Art of the West*, *Western Art Collector*, *Western Art and Architecture*. A book on his life and work was published in the late 90's titled "Holding Ground: The Art of Gary Ernest Smith" by Donald Hagerty.

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - OPA's 28th Annual National Exhibition Opening Reception

Join us for a special evening as we celebrate the opening of OPA's 28th Annual National Exhibition held at Illume Gallery of Fine Art and its 2 sister galleries: Authentique and Mission Galleries.

8:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Oil Painters of America's Awards & Recognition Ceremony

OPA's Awards Ceremony celebrates the highest achievement and excellence in representational oil painting. Join us as we honor this year's National award winners and Wet Paint competition winners. Presentations will also be made to recognize artists who achieved the Signature and Master Signature designation in 2018.

9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Visit the Wet Paint Competition Paintings!

After the awards ceremony, drop by the Red Cliff Gallery to take in the paintings from this year's "Southwest Treasures" Wet Paint Competition. Coffee, soda and dessert will be served. Please note: The gallery will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday as well.



28th National Exhibition & Convention

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Illume Gallery of Fine Art • Saint George, Utah

Saturday, May 11

8:00 a.m. to Noon – Registration & Exhibits Open

Last call to buy art supplies from your favorite vendors! Don't miss out. Exhibitor Raffle Basket winner will be chosen at 12:45 p.m. after the final demonstration of the day.

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - OPA's Annual Business Meeting

Find out what's new in the organization and what the future holds as OPA's Board of Directors discusses the state of the organization. This is the time to ask questions and voice your opinions.

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Painting Exhibitor Demos

Back by popular demand! Watch some of your favorite artists demonstrate their painting expertise using our exhibitors' products. A great opportunity for you to meet top artists and to see what products they like to use.

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. - Painting Demonstration by David Dibble OPA

Born in 1977, David Dibble OPA was raised on a farm in Davis County, Utah, where he was influenced by the landscape from an early age. He completed a BFA in Illustration from Brigham Young University and began landscape painting in earnest in graduate school at the Academy of Art University. Following the Academy, he and his wife Liz moved to New York, where he worked as a color artist for Blue Sky Studios (20th Century Fox). David and his family now reside in Orem, Utah, where he teaches Illustration at Brigham Young University and paints often in the surrounding mountains and valleys, focusing largely on agricultural themes.

Registration Type	Advanced Through April 29	Onsite May 6 – 11	Total
Full Registration includes wet paint sale & competition, OPA tradeshow, all educational presentations and social events including the Welcome Reception and AAC's Celebration. Party			
<input type="checkbox"/> OPA Member – Full Registration	\$375	\$425	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member* – Full Registration	\$400	\$450	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student – must be a part-time or full-time student under the age of 25 and provide a valid student ID	\$200	\$225	
Daily Registration includes all convention events and social activities on the specified day. **A Full Registration is required in order to participate in the wet paint sale & competition. **			
Daily Registration	Advanced	Onsite	
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day – Thursday, May 9* (Includes AAC Celebration Party)	\$135 member/ \$145 non-member	\$145 member/ \$155 non-member	
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day – Friday, May 10*	\$135 member/ \$145 non-member	\$145 member/ \$155 non-member	
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day – Saturday, May 11*	\$135 member/ \$145 non-member	\$145 member/ \$155 non-member	
Individuals/Spouses not registered to attend the convention may register for the following events			
Ala Carte	Advanced	Onsite	
<input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Art Magazine's Welcome Reception Tuesday, May 7 (Member & Non-Member)	\$35	\$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Art Collector's Closing Party Thursday, May 9 (Member & Non-Member)	\$50	\$75	
		TOTAL DUE:	

To Register go to the OPA website: Education & Events: Exhibitions: 28th National Juried Exhibition: Online Registration



28th National Exhibition & Convention

Wet Paint Competition: May 6 - 8

Convention Events: May 6 - 10

Exhibition: May 10 - June 7

Illume Gallery of Fine Art • Saint George, Utah

COLLECTORS' TRACK "Start with Art"

An educational program designed specifically for the serious art collector and for art lovers interested in learning more about the benefits of collecting fine art

Thursday, May 9

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. "Art Through the Eyes of the Collector" with Tim Newton, Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Salma-gundi Club in New York City - Location: Social Hall, 212 N Main St, St. George, UT

Join Tim Newton as he talks about his love of collecting fine art and shares his wealth of knowledge with you. Tim will discuss how to find your focus, understanding quality, learning from others and how to develop and cultivate your eye for fine art.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. "Artists at The Cutting Edge: The OPA and the Rebirth of Representational Painting" with OPA President Kurt Anderson OPA - Location: Social Hall, 212 N. Main St., St. George, UT

OPA President Kurt Anderson OPA will give an overview of the current scene in representational oil painting, and speak of its significance as the most vital and burgeoning movement in contemporary art. He will show how most of the leading painters today are part of a distinct lineage intent on maintaining and expanding the great traditions in painting. And he will speak to OPA's important role as the leading showcase and advocate for this art.

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - A Panel Discussion on "The Relationships Between Collector, Gallery and Artist" - Location: Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle Street, St. George, UT

This session brings together top artists and art executives to exchange ideas and share opinions on how to build a successful business relationship between the artist, gallery, and collector. Moderator and owner of Illume Gallery of Fine Art, Jane Bell Meyer, will delve into why it is important for artists to have a knowledge of their collectors, how a gallery may best serve its collectors, and why it is of value to have an open dialogue between all 3 parties, with the goal of achieving an exceptional long-term working relationship.

Friday, May 10

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. — "The Spirit of Your Home Is Created with The Art You Love" with Jane Bell Meyer, owner of Illume Gallery of Fine Art, Authentique Gallery and The Mission Gallery - Location: Social Hall, 212 N. Main St, St. George, UT

With over twenty years of interior design experience, Jane Bell Meyer has developed a discriminating eye for fine art. This gives her a unique perspective that allows her to cater to even the most astute clients, as well as those new to collecting. Learn from Jane how to optimize your wall space, hang pieces of different genres together, the benefits of creating a gallery wall, and much more.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. "Art as An Asset: Caring for Your Collection" with Anne Weiler Brown - Location: Social Hall, 212 N Main St, St. George, UT

Join Anne Weiler Brown, former Director, *Fine Art Connoisseur* Magazine, with forty-five years of experience in the business of art. Ms. Brown will discuss everything you need to know to keep your collection in pristine shape. Learn about stewardship, documentation and inventory systems, insurance, climate control, lighting, security, appraisals, lending, packing, restoration and more to owning art.

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. "The Art of Collecting Art" with Scott Jones - Location: Social Hall, 212 N Main St, St. George, UT

Scott Jones has always had an affinity for fine art, spending much of his spare time traveling and seeking out the very best artists from across the country. He has been able to merge his business acumen with his passion for fine art. He has been the general manager for Legacy Gallery's three locations as well as being the Associate Publisher of *Fine Art Connoisseur* and *Plein Air* Magazines. Scott will cover why buying original art is important, buying what you love, how a gallery can best assist you, what to look for in a great gallery relationship, and the artist/collector relationship.

4:00 p.m. Collectors Private Preview - Location: Illume Gallery of Fine Art, Authentique Gallery and The Mission Gallery

Be one of the first to preview this year's exhibition, comprised of approximately 250 paintings by top artists across the U.S. and Canada.

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - OPA's 28th Annual National Exhibition Opening Reception - Location: Illume Gallery of Fine Art, Authentique Gallery and The Mission Gallery

Please join us for a very special evening as we celebrate the opening of OPA's 28th Annual National Exhibition held at Illume Gallery of Fine Art and its 2 sister galleries: Authentique and The Mission Galleries.

8:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - OPA's Awards & Recognition Ceremony - Location: Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, UT

Join us as we honor this year's OPA's National award winners and Wet Paint competition winners, as well as recognize artists who have achieved the Signature and Master Signature designation in 2018.

9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Visit the Wet Paint Competition Paintings! - Location: Red Cliff Gallery, 220 N. 200 East, St. George, UT

After the awards ceremony, drop by the Red Cliff Gallery to take in the paintings from this year's "Southwest Treasures" Wet Paint Competition. Coffee, soda and dessert will be served. Please note: The gallery will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday as well.

"START WITH ART" REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTER SOON AS SPACE IS LIMITED - Call Illume Gallery of Fine Art at 801-210-2853 or Jane Bell Meyer at 435-313-5008

The cost is \$100 per person or \$150 per couple. At the conclusion of the presentations each individual or couple will receive a \$500 art check to be used towards any painting valued at \$1,000 or more. The certificate is valid through June 7th.

2019 OPA VIRTUOSOS EXHIBITION AN IMPRESSIVE EVENT

It was a terrific opening weekend for this year's Virtuosos of the OPA Exhibition held at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art in St. Augustine, Florida. Over 130 paintings from our Signature and Master Signature members were beautifully displayed throughout the gallery. The gallery is located right in the heart of St. Augustine's historic downtown which draws visitors from around the world to its doors. Once inside, visitors are enticed by its spacious interior, superb lighting, and most importantly, high quality art work.

With the opening scheduled for March 1, many artists decided to take refuge from the cold weather, coming in from all corners of the U.S. to take part in the opening festivities. Thursday and Friday were devoted to plein air painting and many artists took advantage of the city's recent policy change which now allows artists to paint in the historic district.

The opening reception, on Friday evening, was lively and sales were brisk, with a good number of paintings receiving a red dot by the end of the evening. In addition, attendees were thrilled to meet this year's distinguished Juror of Awards Daniel



"Romance" by John Michael Carter OPAM won First Place in the Master Signature Division

Greene OPAM who said it was difficult to select the award winners from such an accomplished field and wished he had more awards to give.

It was an emotional evening for this year's award winners, who were excited to have received recognition from such a renowned artist. Congratulations to David Mueller OPA for taking home First Place in the Signature Division for his stunning painting, "Black Velvet" and to John Michael Carter OPAM for his gorgeous painting "Romance" in the Master Signature Division.

Having just congratulated his significant other MaryBeth Karaus OPA for winning Third Place in the Signature Division for her painting, "Nature's Blush", David Mueller OPA was caught off guard when his name was announced a few minutes later as the evening's big winner. "I was totally surprised, grateful and humbled to receive this award. And, to receive the First Place in the Signature Division, from none other than Daniel Greene OPAM, made it so very special. I thank him for the recognition and all those that work so hard to make OPA such a vigorous and vital peer group."



First Place in the Signature Division was awarded to David Mueller OPA for "Black Velvet"



Second Place in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Kathy Anderson OPAM for "Daffodils and Quince"



Jeff Legg OPAM won an Award of Excellence for "Catch of the Day"

Virtuosos Show con't.

On Saturday afternoon, artists were in for a very special demonstration by Master Signature artist Daud Akhriev. Born in the former Soviet Union, Daud studied classical painting and drawing for 14 years, graduating with honors from the Repin Institute (Russian Academy of Fine Art), with a Master's Degree in Fine Art. He now lives in Tennessee with his wife, OPA member Melissa Hefferlin, who also attended the prestigious Repin Institute. Daud's demonstration was a large 4' x 5' charcoal drawing depicting a group of fishermen by the sea. Watching him work was one of the highlights of this weekend.

Festivities ended with a chance for all the artists to come together for dinner at the famed Columbia Restaurant in St. Augustine. Great food and great company – it was a wonderful and memorable weekend for all.



"Nature's Blush" by MaryBeth Karaus OPA won Third Place in the Signature Division

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Juror of Awards Daniel Greene OPAM and to the Cutter family and their staff for their hospitality and for a remarkable exhibition.

A complete list of award winners follows.

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

First Place: John Michael Carter OPAM for "Romance" - featured in Artist Focus section of *American Art Collector Magazine* - valued at \$3,400

Second Place: Kathy Anderson OPAM for "Daffodils and Quince" - half page advertisement funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine* valued at \$2,150

Fourth Place: Christopher Zhang OPAM for "Chief" - merchandise certificate funded by Savoir-Faire - valued at \$500



Sixth Place was awarded to Patrick Meehan OPA for "My Compliments"

SIGNATURE DIVISION

First Place: David Mueller OPA for "Black Velvet" - full page advertisement in *Southwest Art Magazine* - valued at \$3,380

Second Place: Chris Saper OPA for "Burton Silverman: American Artist" - half page advertisement funded by *Plein Air Magazine* valued at \$2,150

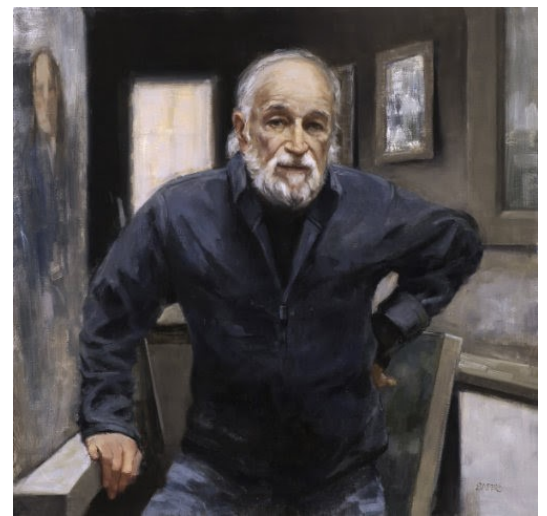
Third Place: MaryBeth Karaus OPA for "Nature's Blush" - \$750 funded by OPA

Fourth Place: Sara Doberstein OPA for "True Blue" - \$500 funded by OPA

Fifth Place: Anna Rose Bain OPA for "Figure in Red" - merchandise certificate funded by Savoir-Faire - valued at \$500

Sixth Place: Patrick Meehan OPA for "My Compliments" - \$400 funded by OPA

Seventh Place: Chuck Larivey OPA for "Evening Treasure" - \$300 funded by OPA



Chris Saper OPA was awarded Second Place in the Signature Division for "Burton Silverman: American Artist"



Fourth Place in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Christopher Zhang OPAM for "Chief"

Virtuosos Show con't.

Eighth Place: Jane Chapin OPA for "Lithesome" - \$250 funded by OPA

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMBINED DIVISIONS

Rui Li OPAM for "Power of Nature" - \$200 funded by OPA

Nancy S. Crookston OPAM for "Mister Gepetto" - \$200 funded by OPA

Huihan Liu OPAM for "Starlit Dance" - \$200 funded by OPA

Lisa Fricker OPA for "Water Pistol Fractal" - \$200 funded by OPA

Sabina Turner OPA for "World Traveler 1" - \$200 funded by OPA

Jeff Legg OPAM for "Catch of the Day" - \$200 funded by OPA

Daud Akhriev OPAM for "His Grandfather's Piano (the Music Room)" - \$200 funded by OPA

Margaret Short OPA for "Harvest Moon Gladiolas" - \$200 funded by OPA

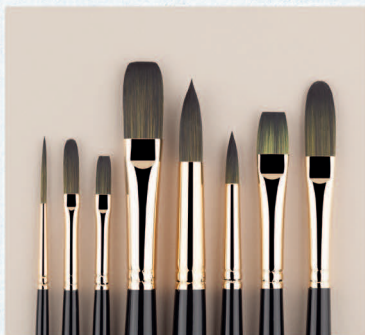
JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT VIRTUOSOS OF THE OPA EXHIBITION DANIEL GREENE OPAM

First, I would like to thank the Board of Directors of Oil Painters of America for bestowing upon me the honor of being the awards juror for the OPA Signature & Masters exhibition, Virtuosos of the OPA.

I was already familiar with many of the works in the exhibit after receiving the informative catalog prior to the exhibition opening. This did not make the final decisions any easier.

I have always loved seeing excellent paintings. And I tried to follow the thought processes that each artist displayed and to identify what the artists were expressing in their work. The current OPA exhibition was a treat to behold and resulted in my finding more award-worthy paintings than there were prizes available. Consequently many award-worthy pictures could not be given proper recognition.

The most significant feature of the exhibit was the high level of skill and the variation of techniques. A great treat to see and evaluate the show!



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MEET THE VIRTUOSOS OF THE OPA EXHIBITION SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER DAVID MUELLER OPA

The title of my, as of yet unwritten, book is “It Chooses You”. It says so much to those who live an art life. I sincerely believe that I am supposed to be doing this. It's my passion, my frustration, my elation and my link to so very many wonderful people that have enriched my life in innumerable ways. I guess its kind of a window to my soul revealing very personal aesthetic preferences.

People often use the phrase, “you have such a gift” or “you are so talented”. Of course I am humbled and nourished by those kind words but those comments only tell part of

what could be the real truth of making serious traditional art. I believe that they refer to only one third of the essential elements of what it takes to endeavor along this crazy path. I'm convinced that it takes some amount of a gift from above and/or genetics. My dad, his brother and my mother all are creative. My mom in the area of crafts, the Mueller brothers were both cartoonists. I cannot do what they did and my father could not render in full color and value the way that I do now. But it's certainly in the genes. I also believe that quality art study and influential instructors and peers need to be an intrinsic part of your path. The last and most important piece by far, I believe, is that you must possess a very high level of sheer will power, patience and perseverance. This is absolutely necessary to weather the swirling thermal winds that sweep an artist along. You are alternately elevated to places of great euphoria and beauty and in a another instant can be brought to very low places of sustained struggle. This applies to the making of a painting and to the making of a career in art.

So caught by the winds, I have arrived at this place. Stops along the way after The American Academy of Art have included graphic design and illustration, a move from Chicago to Cincinnati to work at Gibson Greetings, and a patron of the arts giving me my “big break” in 1991 to begin the path of creating canvases for galleries and private commissions. At each resting spot or turn in direction, I have been blessed, privileged and honored to meet many amazing people, many of whom I call friends to this day. I have rubbed elbows with Governors, Corporate executives, significant art dealers and collectors and even made a trip to The White House to see my art on a Christmas ornament on the official tree. The most significant oasis along the way has turned out to be The Cincinnati Art Club, founded in 1890. Most of my business connections and the majority of my friendships are due to the art community of which I am a part. I have learned much from many there and given back to more than a few by way of teaching what I know.

In that context, a gift from above was bestowed upon me. One of my favorite students, MaryBeth Karaus OPA, has turned out to be my studio mate, my soul mate and the one that I hope to paint along side until I can no longer grip a brush. I think that we are part of the lucky few that get to speak the same professional creative language, feel the same dynamics of effort, emotional investment and rewards in what we do. Then we get to share our personal lives and family as well. We shake our heads often at the blessings that we have been given in this regard and many others.

Only the Meteorologist above knows where the winds will blow me next, but I hope that I have a good shady spot there from which I can splatter a little Raw Siena around to start my next canvas.



Ruo Li OPAM won an Award of Excellence for “Power of Nature”



“World Traveler 1” by Sabina Turner OPA was given an Award of Excellence



**MEET THE VIRTUOSOS OF THE OPA EXHIBITION
MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION
GOLD MEDAL WINNER JOHN MICHAEL CARTER OPAM**

John Michael Carter OPAM was born in Chicago, Illinois. He showed an interest in drawing at an early age and began his studies at 15 with his father E. L. Carter, a commercial artist and illustrator. After graduation from high school he attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago.

In 1970 Carter continued his studies at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. There he studied the major classical schools of drawing and painting with Reynolds Brown, Harry Carmean, and Lorser Feitelson. He received his

B.F.A. in 1972. Carter has had many shows in galleries all over the country. His wide range of subject matter covers landscapes, still life, figurative painting, and portraiture. His portraits include senators, governors, university presidents as well as corporate and civic leaders.

In addition to Carter's love of figurative painting, he enjoys the street scenes and landscapes he discovers in his travels here and abroad.

Mr. Carter has been a frequent guest instructor at art workshops across the country, including the Scottsdale Artist School since 1990, the Dallas Arts League and the Cincinnati Arts Club. His thorough classical training and experience in drawing and painting gives him the technical expertise for superb instruction.

He is a Master Signature member of Oil Painters of America. He currently serves on their Board of Directors and oversees the Show Selection Committee as well as being a past president of the organization.



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"Prairie Sundown" Jim Wodark 2018, oil, 24 x 48 in. July 2018 *PleinAir* cover, Collection The Artist Studio





Fourth Place in the Signature Division was given to Sara Doberstein OPA for "True Blue"



"His Grandfather's Piano (the Music Room)" by Daud Akhriev OPAM won an Award of Excellence



Anna Rose Bain OPA won the Fifth Place Award for "Figure in Red"



"Evening Treasure" by Chuck Larivey OPA won the Seven Place Award



Lisa Fricker OPA won an Award of Excellence for "Water Pistol Fractal"



An Award of Excellence was given to Margret Short OPA for "Harvest Moon Gladiolas"



Huihan Liu OPAM won an Award of Excellence for "Starlit Dance"



Nancy S. Crookston OPAM's "Mister Gepetto" won an Award of Excellence



"Lithesome" by Jane Chapin OPA won the Eighth Place Award

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NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A policy revision has been adopted concerning winners of the National Wet Paint Competition. Previously, winners of both the Plein Air and Indoor Studio competitions were automatically accepted in the following year's national show. In addition, these national entries now may be used toward applying for Signature status. A complete list of the criteria to be met to apply for Signature status may be viewed on

the OPA website under: Member Services, Information/Join/Renew/Rejoin.

OPA would like to bring to your attention the Artists' Fellowship, Inc. This is a charitable organizational whose mission it is to assist professional fine artists and their families in times of need, such as sickness, distress or bereavement. OPA will promote this further in

the future, but wants members to know of this foundation's existence, in case you find yourself in need of assistance. Those seeking more information may visit their site: www.artistsfellowship.org.

OPA is pleased to have so many followers on Facebook and Instagram. Of particular note is that Instagram followers have tripled in the past 18 months.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Todd Carignan had a one man show at the MC Erny Gallery in Wilmington, NC Oct. 28 - Dec 17.

Kathleen Dunphy OPA was a featured artist in the January/February issue of *Art of the West Magazine*.

Paula Holtzclaw OPA was the featured artist in "The Studio" in *Art of the West Magazine*, March/April, 2019.

A number of OPA artists, **Lois Blackburne, Juan Cantavella,**

Edwin "Beau" Crump, Tom LaRock and Debra Riley all from the North Houston, TX area (Conroe) held a very successful mini-show in February.

IN MEMORIAM

With deep sympathy to family and friends, we note the passing of Jill Morrisette, of Lewisville, Texas, in February, 2019, an OPA member since 2007.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September - November - 14th Annual Great Paint Out held throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico

For more information, visit: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com and go to "Paints Outs" under the "Education & Events" menu.

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2019 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

October 15 - Deadline for submission for Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Associate status. Two options are available for application. Visit the OPA website and look under the "Member Services" menu for "Information/Join/Renew/Rejoin" for complete details.

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2019 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Twenty-eighth Annual National Juried Exhibition, Convention & Wet Paint Competition - Illume Gallery of Fine Art in Saint George, Utah

Convention: May 6 - 11, Wet Paint Competition May 6 - 8, Exhibition: May 10 - June 7, 2019

Exhibition Juror of Awards: Kenn Erroll Backhaus OPAM

Wet Paint Competition Juror of Awards: Lori Putnam OPA

Twenty-ninth Annual National Juried Exhibition, Convention & Wet Paint Competition - RS Hanna Gallery in Fredericksburg, Texas

More details to be announced as they become available

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

October 10 - November 11 - Eastern Regional Exhibition - Beverly McNeil Gallery in Birmingham, Alabama

Canvas Size: not to exceed 1,200 square inches,

Entries due: May 20 - August 2

November 1 - 30 - Western Regional Exhibition - Sorrel Sky Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Canvas Size: not to exceed 1,200 square inches

Entries due: June 10 - August 30

ON-LINE SHOWCASES

March 1 - May 15 - open to Associate members only

June 1 - August 15 - open to Associate members only

October 1 - December 15 - open to Associate and Signature members, with separate awards for each division

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