



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 21 issue 3

FALL
2011

Brushstrokes

EASTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

OPA hit a home run with this year's Eastern Regional Exhibition held at the Addison Art Gallery, located right in the heart of Cape Cod in historic Orleans, Massachusetts. Housed in a beautiful and quaint old red house, the gallery's charming appeal draws visitors from around the world to its doors. Once inside, the exciting and resplendent artwork beckons collectors to walk slowly through its warm and cozy interior to take in each and every painting along the way.

It is no surprise then, that the Eastern Regional Exhibition was such a huge success. Owner and marketing maven, Helen Addison, was determined to make this regional show one of OPA's best exhibitions ever. Going over and above, Ms. Addison offered to create an email announcement for each artist. In turn, artists would send the announcement out to their own email list. This generated a lot of "buzz" during the weeks before the opening reception and resulted in a significant number of sales.

OPA was equally delighted to have OPA Signature member



"Pigtails" painted by Jeff Morrow won the gold medal in the Associate and Signature Division

Wanda Choate on hand as this year's Juror of Awards. Her artwork is breathtaking, and a reflection of the sheer passion she has for her craft. One can't help but be mesmerized by her work. On Saturday morning, Ms. Choate went into uncharted territory by giving her very first painting demonstration. With a room full of artists' eager to learn her secrets to success, she did not disappoint.

At the opening reception, Ms. Choate OPA announced the Eastern Regional Award winners, giving thoughtful remarks on the merits of each award winning painting. The Associate/Signature Gold Medal Winner was Jeff Morrow for his painting "Pigtails." Nancy S. Crookston OPAM took home the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for her painting "Rose Water."

Below is a complete list of this year's Eastern Regional Award Winners:

Gold Medal: Jeff Morrow for "Pigtails" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

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Eastern Regional show con't.

Silver Medal: Mary Qian for "White II" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

Bronze Medal: Lori Beringer for "Upheld" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: Ken J. Cadwallader OPA for "Ponder" - award valued at \$3,100 funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Award of Excellence: Linda Walker for "Brahma Mamma" - \$500 funded by OPA



Nancy S. Crookston OPAM won the Gold Medal for the Master Signature division for "Rose Water"

Award of Excellence: Bill Farnsworth for "Wind Picking Up" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: Robert A. Johnson OPA for "Peonies" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: Nancy Howe OPA for "Tender the Flame" - \$500 funded by OPA

Gold Medal – Master Signature Division: Nancy S. Crookston OPAM for "Rose Water" - \$3,500 funded by OPA.



"Upheld" painted by Lori Beringer won the Bronze Medal



Mary Qian's painting "White II" won the Silver Medal



Ken J. Cadwallader OPA won an Award of Excellence for his painting "Ponder"



An Award of Excellence was won by Linda Walker for her painting "Brahma Mamma"

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT

By WANDA CHOATE OPA



This has been one of the greatest joys and honors of my life. First, I'd like to thank past President Betty Schmidt for her dreams and goals, laying aside so much of her personal goals and desires as a painter to nurture and promote, what is today, this most excellent of all organizations for painters to climb, achieve and grow.

I can't begin to imagine all the journeys, the solitary struggles and joys to bring these great paintings under one roof. All the dreams, the hopes, the incredibly magical instants we each strive to capture on a flat board, a stretched piece of cloth. We each choose our own subject. We choose value, color and shapes but of all the choices we make, to never quit; no turning back.

I remember the first article in *Southwest Art Magazine* showcasing Oil Painters of America. How much awe and reverence I had for them. I could not imagine the joy I would have of being with or becoming one of them. Thank you, Neil Patterson OPAM. Thank you, Kathryn Beligratis. Thank you, Ken Cadwallader OPA. Thank you, Addison Art Gallery.



"Wind Picking Up" painted by Bill Farnsworth
won an Award of Excellence



Robert A. Johnson OPA won an Award of
Excellence for "Peonies"

CRITIQUES AVAILABLE

If you haven't taken advantage of the OPA critique service made available through the donation of the services of our Signature and Master Signature members please consider doing so. We have received many positive comments concerning this program available to both members and non-members.

To have your work critiqued, mail OPA 2 identical discs containing 3-10 images of your most current work, a brief one-page bio and a \$25 check payable to OPA. The service is available to non-OPA members at a cost of \$50. One disc is sent to a Signature or Master Signature member for review and the other will be kept on file. The volunteer critiquer will review your work and provide you with constructive criticism and feedback. Please allow four to six weeks to receive a response.



**MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE
GOLD MEDAL WINNER
JEFF MORROW**

Jeff Morrow has been influenced by some of the great nineteenth century artists, and the best of today's masters. Primarily focusing on portraiture, sporting art and urban scenes, Morrow gained an aesthetic education through his 28-year career as a commercial photographer and video producer. He describes his style as painterly realism. Though rooted in the classic tradition, his style is contemporary in spirit.

The goal of a portrait commission is to create a good likeness and a painting that is pleasing on its own merit. However, Morrow believes that a successful portrait painting is one that captures a bit of the subject's character...the essence of the person. He strives to create a painting that will stand the test of time and be treasured by future generations.

The goal of Morrow's landscapes and sporting art is not only to create a beautiful painting with a strong composition, but to convey a sense of the moment that he is capturing.

Jeff Morrow resides in the Cincinnati area and is a member of The Portrait Society of America, Oil Painters of America, The American Academy of Equine Art and a Signature Member of The Cincinnati Art Club. He is represented by the Eisele Gallery of Fine Art in Cincinnati, Ohio and the Brandt - Roberts Gallery in Columbus Ohio.



"Tender the Flame" by Nancy Howe OPA
won an Award of Excellence



The opening reception was well attended on September 17

WORKSHOP LISTINGS

You may not be aware that as a member of OPA you have a valuable resource available for advertising your upcoming workshop. If you would like to publicize your workshop, demonstration or class on the OPA website you may do so by going to: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com. Look for the Workshops area under the Resource tab. The cost is only \$25 for a six month listing. Even if you aren't hosting a workshop, check this area to find what presentations are being offered by fellow OPA members.

MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER NANCY SEAMONS CROOKSTON OPAM

Master Signature member Nancy Seamons Crookston's paintings are often described as peaceful and calming. The California based painter is attracted to the human figure in moments of stillness and reflection. Nancy loves to capture glimpses of tenderness between mother and child and the innocence of children engaged in quiet play. She has long been drawn to the Old World feel of the European countryside. To suggest this quality of a simpler time, Crookston sometimes dresses models-often her own daughters and grandchildren-in the colorful scarves and long dresses of country peasants. On other occasions, wonderful painting ideas present themselves to her, like the time her young granddaughter came into the artist's room, sat on the bed and started reading a book. Now living in California she is excited to paint the beautiful and interesting people she sees every day. Citing the teachings of Russian master Sergei Bongart as an important influence, Nancy Crookston OPAM has earned numerous awards, including Best of Show at the 2000 National Oil Painters of America Show and exhibitions in Japan and the United States. She has judged many oil painting, water color and plein air shows. In 2010 she judged the National Oil Painters of America Show in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Juror of Awards Wanda Choate OPA
presented an informative demo



Artists shared an evening at the Chatham Wayside Inn



Gallery owner Helen Addison welcomes
guests to the opening reception



Wanda Choate's husband, Bill, shares
a moment with OPA sponsors
Arthur and Dorothy Mellin



Dear Dabby,
How can I let go of a painting I've worked on for way too long? Help!

Signed,
Still Trying to Fix It!

Dear Still Trying,
Some canvases do present a problem -- It can take some serious counseling to figure out what to do about them. Experience shows it can be especially hard to let go of

something with which you have fallen in love... *Sigh*... Ah, but sometimes the love is just not returned. Even after pleading and threatening to walk away, it becomes more difficult to let go after one gets to the co-dependent stage in the creative process. Everyone involved gets hurt... your time, your money, your paints, and your brushes.

There needs to be a 12-step program for artists to disentangle themselves from the bad canvas, the bad canvas that is making their life miserable. After all, who wants to enable the big bad canvas, right? Eventually you realize that no matter how you color it, stretch the matter, or draw the line, you have a problem and need to admit the obvious: "I am the artist of a bad canvas." (Cue squeaky violin music.)

After you see the light, you can begin to establish a healthy relationship with such a canvas. Many are known to draw a line in the paint, or scrape down to the bottom of the matter so as to reshape the direction of the work.

When all else fails, you may send the recalcitrant canvas to the dreaded corner or closet. **Time out!** can work wonders. Have patience. Face time after a proper season can yield miracles.

Take heart, dear! Lovingly show the canvas who applies the paint and then, please, let me know what happened!

Love,
Dabby

© Teresa Cowley

7TH GREAT PAINT OUT YEAR TAKES PLACE



Front row: Candy McKellar, Alison Biddle, Corinne McIntyre, Pamela Giaratana, Jim Taliana, Back Row: Bruce Newman, Ken Carlson



Front Row, L to R: Corinne McIntyre, Helen St. Clair, Carole Palmer, Sarah Greenier, Roberta Goschke, Linda Titus, Midge Coleman, John Seitzer. Back Row, L to R Ken Carlson, Sally Smith, Roger Mililowski. Not in the picture but painting were Bob Grant and Ian Orman

Eight dedicated, stalwart souls met on September 7 for one of the two **Great Maine Paint Outs**. Artists came from as far away as Canada and Massachusetts to share a day that started out overcast and then became drizzly. At about 10 o'clock the heavens opened up and it was decided to postpone the event until the following week. Fortunately, much better weather prevailed for the second segment of the Paint Out. Everyone was in high spirits and spent an enjoyable day of painting. Between the two days, 18 painters participating in the 7th Great Paint Out.

BEWARE INTERNET ART SCAMS

By CHRISTINE SHARP

Christine Sharp is an OPA member and a Peabody Award-winning journalist as well as a former CNN reporter/producer. Her website is www.sharpwork.com and e-mail is christinesharp@mac.com. Copyright 2011 All rights reserved.

False check scams abound

Check fraud was the third most common Internet scam reported in 2006, according to the National Consumer League's (NCL) fraud information center. The average consumer loss reported was \$4,053 dollars. "Fake check scams are a way for con artists to steal money from your bank and leave you holding the bag," says Susan Grant, director of the National Fraud Information Center. "Victims can lose more than money: Their bank accounts can be closed, and some even face charges of check fraud themselves!"

The Internet Crime Center (IC3) was set up by the FBI in the year 2000 specifically to handle Internet crime reports. Already the IC3 has logged more than 1 million consumer complaints, with collective losses over \$640 million. FBI spokesperson Paul Bresson says this isn't a new crime, just a different pool of victims. "Criminals are using the same modus operandi (MO), but now they're targeting artists on the Internet."

Time is on the criminal's side
Unfortunately making it easier for

these scams to succeed, federal law requires banks and credit unions to make the cash for deposited amounts available for withdrawal quickly, usually within five days. It takes time for the bank to go back to the source to secure the actual funds, so weeks or months can pass before the bank can determine if the check is counterfeit. Therefore, even if it appears you have all the money in your checking account, you can still be held responsible if the check turns out to be a fake. And if you wire money back to someone, you may have no way of getting your hard-earned cash back!

Tips for protecting yourself

Here are some tips from the experts about precautions you can take against fake check scams:

- Never accept a check or money order for more than the selling price of the artwork. There is no legitimate reason for anyone to give you an overpayment and then ask you to send cash anywhere in return!
- Be aware that just because your bank accepts the check

and credits your account, it doesn't mean the check is good. It can take a bank weeks or months to chase down the source and discover a check is counterfeit. You are ultimately responsible if you draw funds on a fake check.

- Insist on a cashier's check drawn on a local bank or a bank that has a local branch. Have your bank confirm that the out-of-town cashier's check is good by calling the bank directly.
- Don't operate off the grid. Don't wire money or send checks for overpayment. If you have an account with eBay or PayPal, conduct your business on their official websites, and carefully check their fraud security measures.
- Report any suspicious inquiries or crimes. FBI spokesperson Paul Bresson refers artists to the following websites to report Internet crime:

www.ic3.gov
www.fakecheck.org
www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com/fraud.aspx



The Britt Museum offered a beautiful setting for Alabama Paint Out artists

Twenty-six artists participated in the **Great Alabama Paint Out** held on September 11 at the Burritt Museum in Huntsville, Alabama. The inspiring event opened with the ringing of the church bells at the museum in memory of those who lost their lives in the 2001 tragedy. Artists were treated to southern hospitality when mint tea and scones were served in mid-afternoon under the museum awning. The day started with sunshine with a few raindrops, followed by a beautiful sunset. An art show, "Masterpieces and Merlot", was held at the museum to showcase the paintings the following Friday.

MORE SUCCESSFUL 2011 PAINT OUT MEMORIES



About 75 artists participated in the Arizona Great Paint Out

To quote organizer Sandi Ciaramitaro the **Arizona Great Paint Out** “was a wonderful plein air event, such a relaxing day ... (that) felt very ‘Monet-like’ ”. Approximately 75 participated in the event, with artists coming from as far away as Sedona and Tucson to paint at The Artists’ Studio at the Farm at South Mountain, in Phoenix, Arizona. Even though a free event, there were many gifts and certificates given, supplied by Jack Richeson and Company, Utrecht, and Jerry’s Artarama.



Bonnie Briggs paints a barn and fence row during the Kentucky Paint Out

The **Kentucky Paint Out** took place in October on the Cave Brook Horse Farm in Nicholasville. The group of painters spent much of the day on the farm painting various horse farm scenes and enjoying the beautiful blue sky.



The South Carolina Paint Out was an obvious success, as can be seen by the smiles on everyone’s face



Painters were to be found on every corner in Charleston

The **South Carolina Paint Out**, held in Charleston brought over 35 artists from as far away as Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and New Jersey to paint in the historic downtown area of quaint and romantic Charleston. A reception followed the paint out with many paintings being framed and hung at the Lambert Gray Gallery.



Marty Ferguson, Dennis McKay, David Vollbracht OPA, Lori Fowle and Elizabeth Corbett were inspired to paint fall land-

The weather was crisp and beautiful on October 22 when a small group of painters met at Caroline Norton’s Studio in Medicine Lodge, Kansas. They then travelled to the picturesque Gyp Hills to paint two canvases each for a fulfilling and enjoyable **Kansas Paint Out**.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE

NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Mark Beale won the Red Ribbon Award (2nd place) at the First Federal People's Choice Exhibition in Charleston, SC in October. His painting "Fall Marsh Reflections" competed against 131 entries.

Penny Billings had two paintings selected as finalists by the Art Renewal Center in the International 2010-2011 ARC Salon. Additional paintings by Penny were juried into the 83rd Grand National Exhibition of the American Artists Professional League, the 98th Annual Exhibition of Allied Artists of America, and the 12th Annual National Juried Exhibition of the American Impressionist Society.

Joseph Fama's painting "V-Trees" was selected to be in the 42nd annual Mountain Oyster Club invitation-only exhibition held in Tucson, Arizona in November.

K. Henderson had the pleasure of announcing that the painting "Key to My Heart" received the Best of Trompe L'Oeil award at the international Guild of Realism show.

Timothy Horn OPA was awarded the Artist's Choice Award at the 2011 Napa Valley Art Festival held in Yountville, California for his painting "Girl On The Corner"

Dena Peterson Kirk's painting "Magpie in Snow" was selected for the 2011 Birds in Art Exhibition at the Leigh-Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin. Also, Kirk's work has been chosen to be a part of the traveling exhibit during 2012.

Diane Leonard has been invited to present her Second One-Woman Show in Japan. This major One-

Woman Exhibition will take place at the prestigious Tokyu Department Store in Shibuya, Japan in September, 2012.

William A. Schneider's painting "The Deed is Done" won the *Lester and Virginia Clark Memorial Award* (2nd Place) at the Breckenridge Fine Arts Center 20th Annual National Juried Show. William is a Signature member of OPA.

David Tanner was notified that his oil painting "Siesta" was chosen as a finalist in *The Artist's Magazine* 28th Annual Art Competition in the portrait/figure category and will be included in their December 2011 issue. *The Artist's Magazine* will also be including the painting in their 2012 Fine Art calendar, and given its own month.

IN MEMORIAM

Susan D. Clem of Gahanna, Ohio passed away in November.

Karen Holt OPA of Little Rock, Arkansas passed away in March.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2012 Master Signature membership status.

October 15 – Deadline for submission for 2012 Signature membership status.

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2012 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Twenty First Annual National Juried Exhibition at Evergreen Fine Art Gallery, Evergreen, Colorado
June 22 - July 21, 2012 - Painting Size: 1200 sq. inches - Juror of Awards: Quang Ho OPAM - On-line Submission Deadline: February 24, 2012

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2012 Eastern Regional – Bennington Center for the Arts - Bennington, Vermont
Sept. 29 - Oct. 28, 2012 -On-line submission Deadline: July 6



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Oil painting by Michelle Richeson

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