



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 26 issue 4

WINTER
2016-2017

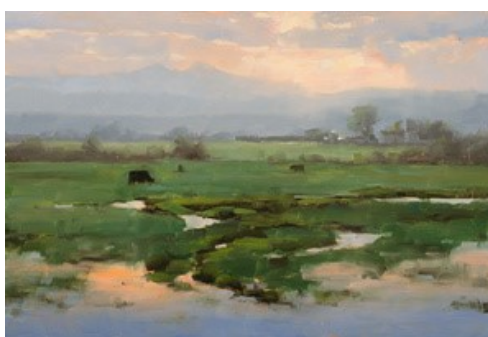
Brushstrokes

SALON SHOW GALLERY CAPTIVATES ALL WHO ATTEND

Picturesque, charming and inviting are only three of the many adjectives that could be used to describe OPA's 2016 Salon Show, held at Castle Gallery Fine Art in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Though the weather was, at times, anything but inviting, the warmth of the gallery and its employees made for a very enjoyable time. Built as a wedding present in the early 1900's the castle has been used for a few different venues but now is a restored residence and art gallery open throughout for the viewing of art-work.

Activities began on Wednesday, September 28 with plein air painting throughout Fort Wayne and some artists traveled to nearby Grabill, Indiana to view and paint this Amish community. Plein air painting continued through Thursday with many artists entering their work in the separate plein air competition, juried by C.W. Mundy OPAM. At the completion of the plein air painting many artists and friends gathered at Henry's Restaurant in Fort Wayne, to discuss their day of painting and to relax.

Originally, Kirk Larsen OPA was to give a painting demonstration outside Henry's Restaurant after dinner. Due to rainy conditions this event had to be amended. Not



Dave Santillanes OPA won the Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division for "Abundance of Spring"

to be daunted by the weather, Kirk set up shop in the carriage house of Castle Gallery Fine Art, opened the carriage doors to the adjoining street and presented an informative and insightful demo showing how he paints an alley scene at night.

Friday morning began with a painting demonstration in the carriage house

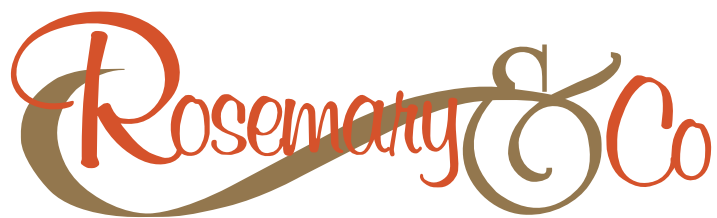
by the Juror of Awards, Carolyn Lewis OPA. Carolyn described her technique of painting a rural landscape, from a photo she had previously taken.

Following a lunch break Charles Shephard III, the President & CEO and Chief Curator of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art gave a talk on the changing art world where money took precedence over talent. After the introduction of the GI Bill some art schools lowered their requirements and accepted students just to bring in money. These students graduated without solid art skills and were then, at times, hired by the institutions that taught them. The cycle continued and fewer and fewer skilled artists were available to teach upcoming artists. To stay in business, galleries marketed works of the new artists. Thus not all artists were held to the standards of prior times.

Friday evening was spectacular as artists, collectors and guests were welcomed to the gallery for the opening reception and awards ceremony. Attendees were met at the front door by resident greeter "Ringo" (the gallery owners' col-lie) and perused the exhibition to the melodic tones of the grand piano. The food and beverage was as awesome as the presentation of the artwork. Juror of Awards

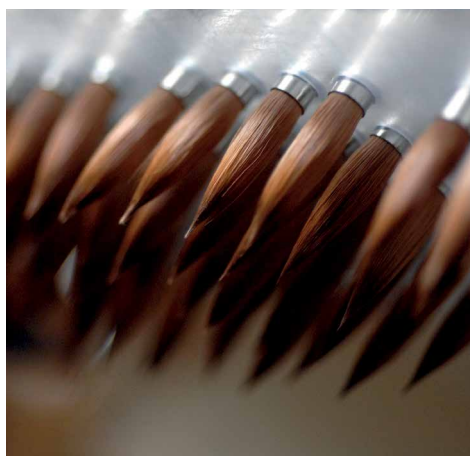
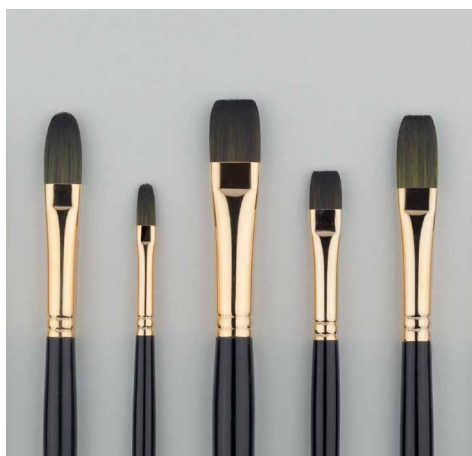
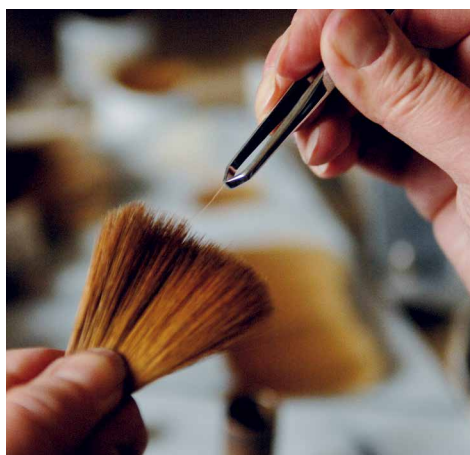
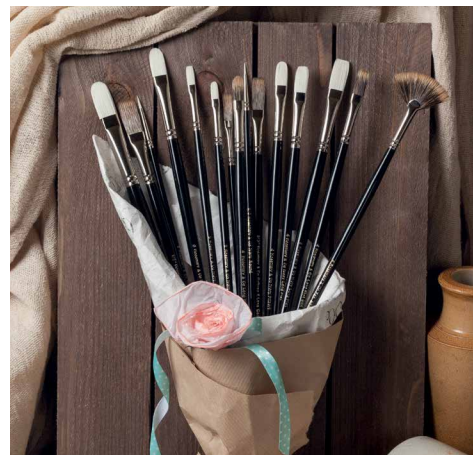
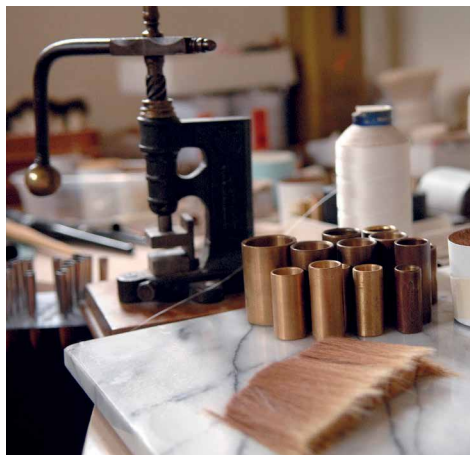
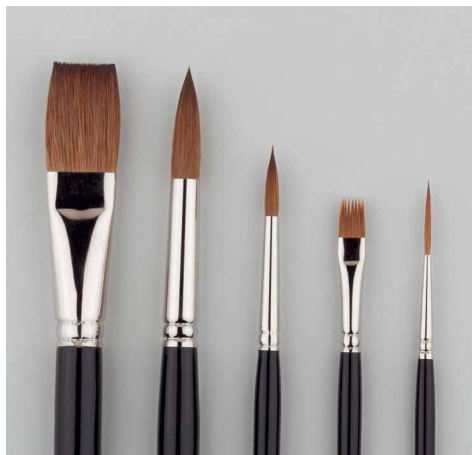
CONTENTS

Salon Show	1
Juror of Awards Statement	5
Salon Show Winners	5&6
Plein Air Juror of Awards Statement ..	8
Notes From Your Board	9
Painting Our Future	11
Online Showcase	12
Dates to Remember	15



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Salon Show con't.

Carolyn Lewis OPA chose Signature member Dave Santillanes' pastoral painting "Abundance of Spring" as the Gold Medal winner in the Associate and Signature Division, with Master Signature member James Crandall winning the Gold Medal in the Master Signature division for "Ceramics Shop".

On Saturday morning C.W. Mundy OPAM demonstrated his artistic talent by showing and explaining how he creates a masterpiece, while interspersing his instructional comments with bits of humor. After a lunch break Mundy announced his award choices for the plein air competition, with first place going to Kirk Larsen OPA for "Mood of Wonder". OPA President John Michael Carter OPAM completed the afternoon with a portrait demonstration, showing how he captures the true character of his model through expressive brushstrokes. Those participating in the plein air event on Wednesday and Thursday were offered the opportunity to sell their work at a wet paint sale held on Saturday in the carriage house.

Congratulations to the following exhibition winners:



"Luna" by H. Momo Zhou won an Award of Excellence



An Award of Excellence was won by J. Ken Spencer OPA for "Prague"



Charles G. Kapsner received the Silver Medal for "Escorts to Eternity"

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: James Crandall OPAM for "Ceramics Shop" - \$1,500 funded by OPA

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Calvin Liang OPAM for "Newport Sailboats" - \$500 funded by OPA

Sherrie McGraw OPAM for "Peonies and the Cinderella Teapot" - brush bouquet from Rosemary & Co. and \$150 funded by OPA - valued at \$225

ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Dave Santillanes OPA for "Abundance of Spring" - \$2,500 funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Charles G. Kapsner for "Escorts to Eternity" - featured in Artist Focus section of *American Art Collector Magazine* - valued at \$3,400

Bronze Medal: Sarah Kidner OPA for "Les Deux Garçons Study" - full page advertisement funded by *Southwest Art Magazine* - valued at \$3,380

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Dan Bulleit for "Are We There Yet" - half page advertisement funded by *Plein Air Magazine* - valued at \$2,150

Louis Escobedo OPA for "12th Street" - quarter page advertisement funded by *Plein Air Magazine* - valued at \$1,200

H. Momo Zhou for "Luna" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

William L. Rogers for "Earle's Tractors" - \$500 funded by OPA

J. Ken Spencer OPA for "Prague" - \$500 merchandise certificate from Artisan-Santa Fe

Flora Pinkham for "The Kitchen Window" - \$275 merchandise certificate from Cheap Joe's Art Stuff

Cynthia Feustel for "Silence" - \$250 funded by OPA

Tom L. Nachreiner OPA for "Snow and Red Roof" - Williamsburg Oil Painting Set funded by Golden Artist Colors - valued at \$232

Salon Show con't.

Shelby L. Keefe for "Yellow Fellow" - Gold Primo Partner Listing with Art Cantina and Schmincke Mussini Fine Artists' Oil Color Set - valued at \$226

Kathleen Coy for "Valkyrie" - Gold Primo Partner Listing with Art Cantina and Schmincke Mussini Fine Artists' Oil Color Set - valued at \$226

Jeremy E. Manyik for "Acacia"
- \$100 funded by OPA

Thomas W. Sadler II for "Eastpoint Fleet" - \$100 funded by OPA

Betty N. Smith OPA for "Daisy Shimmer" - \$100 funded by OPA



An Award of Excellence was given to Louis Escobedo OPA for "12th Street"



Sarah Kidner OPA won the Bronze Medal for "Les Deux Garçons Study"



An Award of Excellence went to Flora Pinkham for "The Kitchen Window"



"Are We There Yet" by Dan Bulleit won an Award of Excellence



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George Gallo - Philip's Mill Creek in Winter

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JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT CAROLYN LEWIS OPA

I was very honored to be given the opportunity to be the Juror of Awards for the 2016 Oil Painters of America Salon Exhibition of Traditional Oils held at the beautiful Castle Gallery Fine Art in Fort Wayne, IN.

Thank you to OPA and all those involved for their hard work in selecting and organizing this prestigious exhibition, especially Kathryn Beligratis and her staff and to John Michael Carter OPAM for all their help making everything run smoothly. And also, I would like to thank the Castle Gallery for their hospitality and the exceptional attention given to every detail.

With about 300 paintings from accomplished and experienced artists, showing a wide range of diversity of styles, I spent many hours deliberating just how to give so few awards to so many deserving artists. I know you hear this all the time but it's true. Believe me, it was very tough! But I thoroughly enjoyed studying each piece carefully. I looked for the work that had the usual, strong design, composition, good values, color harmony, and good technical execution. But to that, I also looked for the emotional content and the passion the artist conveyed. I wanted to feel the experience the artist had while creating it. Did the artist have a clear sense of what he/she was trying to communicate to the viewer? Also, important to me, was the artist showing his/her confidence in applying every stroke? So many paintings had all the above and trying to narrow the list for awards was heart breaking for me.

A big congratulations to all the artists, for without your creativity, putting your heart and soul into your work, this exceptional exhibit wouldn't happen. Thank you OPA for striving to represent our paintings in the best way possible for all to enjoy.

I know I did!



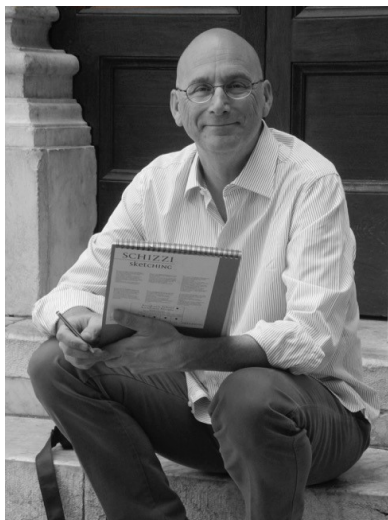
MEET THE SALON SHOW ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER DAVE SANTILLANES OPA



A native of Colorado, Dave Santillanes OPA grew up at the base of the Rocky Mountains. Early family trips into the mountains fostered a deep love and appreciation for the wilderness and probably influenced his later preference for outdoor work, such as wildland fire-fighting, trail building and working on a ski mountain. After graduating from Colorado State University with a BFA in graphic design, Dave found work as a Digital Imaging Technician and also began to focus his artistic energy on oil painting. These early explorations into oil painting quickly merged with his love of the outdoors and, naturally, oil paint and a field easel became part of his outdoor gear. His explorations into painting and the wilderness continue.

A self taught artist, Dave points to his first plein air painting excursions as the true beginning of his development as a painter - where direct observation allowed for a more precise rendering of color, light and atmosphere. And although studying the physical aspects of nature is important, it isn't the only reason Dave paints outdoors. He says, "the sensory experience of *being* there is equally important. There's no better way to *really* get to know a place than to sit for a couple of hours and contemplate it while painting. This intense observation brings a spiritual intimacy with the scene that can't be achieved in mere passing and allows me to 'speak' with complete sincerity in each painting."

Dave's passion for painting has led to a number of recent awards including the Landscape Award of Excellence at the 25th National Oil Painters of America National in 2016 and First Place in the Landscape Category at the 12th annual ARC Salon. His plein air work has also gained him notoriety, winning numerous awards at plein air events across the county and both *Plein Air Magazine* and *Southwest Art Magazine* have run features on his work.



MEET THE SALON SHOW MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER JAMES CRANDALL OPAM

After a long career as a concept illustrator in the advertising and motion-picture industry, James Crandall has shifted his focus to traditional easel painting. He finds subject matter in everyday life, and is always looking for an intriguing play of light, or the unstaged gestures of people at work and at play. He has worked these concepts into his ongoing series of paintings depicting life in his maternal grandfather's hometown of Lucca in northern Tuscany, which he regularly visits. Recent work also includes scenes from the rural backroads of California's Gold Country, where he and his wife Nancy make their home.

James is also an Artist Member of the California Art Club, and a member of the American Impressionist Society.



James Crandall OPAM won the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for "Ceramics Shop"



Calvin Liang OPAM won an Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division for "Newport Sailboats"



An Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division was given to Sherrie McGraw OPAM for "Peonies and the Cinderella Teapot"



"Earle's Tractors" won William L. Rogers an Award of Excellence



Cynthia Feustal won an Award of Excellence for "Silence"



An Award of Excellence was given to Tom L. Nachreiner OPA for "Snow and Red Roof"

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"Yellow Fever" by Shelby L. Keefe
won an Award of Excellence



An Award of Excellence was given to
Kathleen Coy for "Valkyrie"



Jeremy E. Manyik won an Award
of Excellence for "Acacia"



Thomas W. Sadler II won an Award of
Excellence for "Eastpoint Fleet"



"Daisy Shimmer" by Betty N. Smith OPA won
an Award of Excellence



PLEIN AIR JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT C.W. MUNDY OPAM

The singular most exciting thing for me as a judge for this particular OPA Salon Plein Air event was the variety of stylistic approaches. Every artist had a different look, which proves the point of the importance of "having you own unique voice"!

The plein air experience really evokes individual personalities, just by being in an outdoor environment. So many variables come into play in the completion of a work. The three top prizes prove my point!

Congratulations to all the participants and the winners!!!

SALON SHOW PLEIN AIR AWARDS

First Place: Kirk Larsen for "Mood of Wonder" - quarter page advertisement funded by *Plein Air Magazine* - valued at \$2,000

Second Place: Jon Detweiler for "Oak Tree with Orange Weeds" - \$300 funded by OPA

Third Place: Lee Radtke for "Fort Wayne Bus Terminal" - \$250 funded by OPA

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Bruce Bingham for "Powers Hamburgers" - Gold Primo Partner Listing with Art Cantina and Schmincke Mussini Fine Artists' Oil Color Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$225

Gwen Gutwein for "Garage Chores" - Gold Primo Partner Listing with Art Cantina and Schmincke Mussini Fine Artists' Oil Color Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$225

Beverly Bruntz for "Misty Morning" - Jack Richeson & Co. Plein Air Paint Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$150

Martha Sando for "Tea House Frollinger" - Jack Richeson & Co. Plein Air Paint Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$150

Kathie Wheeler OPA for "September Sky" - Jack Richeson & Co. Plein Air Paint Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$150

Pam Newell for "Farm at Grabill" - Jack Richeson & Co. Plein Air Paint Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$150

Rick Wilson for "Break in the Clouds" - Jack Richeson & Co. Plein Air Paint Set + \$50 funded by OPA - valued at \$150



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NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the names of the most recent members to attain Master Signature status: Daud Akhriev, Nikolo Balkanski, Robert Johnson and Jan Peng Wang. These artists have displayed exceptional talent and are welcomed to this most prestigious group of OPA members.

SIGNATURE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations and welcome to the following members who have recently been elevated to the status of Signature Member: Cliff Barnes, Linda Besse, Don Biehn, Stephanie Birdsell, Tanya Bone, Daniel Cassity, Hui Lai Chong, Katie Dobson Cundiff, Annie Dover, Aimee Erickson, Sheri Farabaugh, Charles Iarrobino, Kirk Larsen, Karla Mann, Patrick Meehan, Lei Q. Min, Gini Morelock Bosco, Mary Qian, Ming Qin, Chris Saper, Patrick Saunders, Dan Schultz, Naomi Shachar and Michael Van Zeyl.

REVISED SIGNATURE STATUS REQUIREMENTS

The application requirements for Signature status have been revised effective 2017. There will now be two options available to OPA members wishing to be considered for Signature status.

Option 1: Automatic Signature Status

Within an eight year period a member must have exhibited in either 1) four national OPA shows; OR 2) three national OPA shows and three regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) **If these requirements are met Signature Member status will be conferred with no further evaluation.** However, **qualified members must still submit an application between June 1 and October 15, for approval at the December board meeting.**

Option 2: Committee Review

Over an indefinite period of time members must have exhibited in 1) three national OPA shows OR 2) two national OPA shows and three OPA regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) Members who have met these requirements are qualified to submit for Signature status between June 1 and October 15, for consideration at the December board meeting.

SHIRL SMITHSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The following members have been selected to receive the Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship for 2017: Tina Garrett, Chantal Julien, Kirk

Larsen OPA and Rhia Krishnan (student). These \$500 scholarships may be used to attend an OPA approved workshop or class in representational oil painting.

WINDOW CLINGS

If you have renewed your membership for 2017 then you have already received your new OPA window cling with your membership card. If you haven't renewed your membership, you have something to look forward to. This very striking window sticker was designed by our own Master Signature member William T. Chambers. Thanks go to Bill for all his hard work on this attractive way to promote OPA.



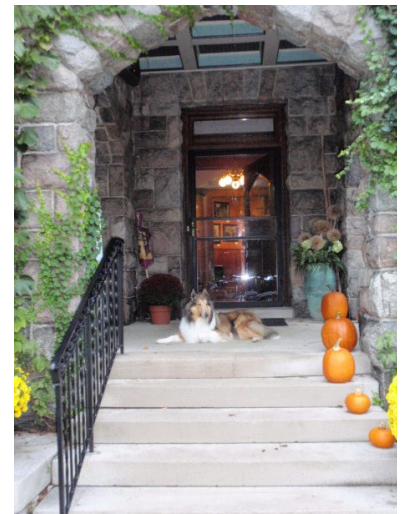
A good time was had by all while dining at Henry's Restaurant on Thursday evening



Romanesque columns and stained glass windows were just part of the inviting decor of Castle Gallery Fine Art



Plein air painters take a brief break to pose for photos



Ringo, the official greeter at Castle Gallery of Fine Art

MEET OUR NEWEST MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Daud Akhriev OPAM

Daud Akhriev was born in the former Soviet Union, where he received a fourteen-year classical academic training in fine art. After graduating with his master's degree from the Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, he moved to the USA in 1991 with American artist Melissa Hefferlin. Based in Chattanooga, Akhriev has exhibited and taught throughout the USA and Europe for 25 years. He has enjoyed working with Oil Painters of America, Miller Gallery, Greenhouse Gallery, Chris Beetles Gallery and Beverly McNeil Gallery. While oil is his primary medium, he also exhibits pastels, water media and bronzes. His public installations include Baylor School, Erlanger Hospital, and the Four Seasons at Market Street in Chattanooga. Now Akhriev divides his time between Chattanooga and southern Spain.

Nikolo Balkanski OPAM

Balkanski began painting at a very early age and graduated from the Medium Special Arts School in Sofia, Bulgaria when he was 18. At 21 he held his first solo exhibition, featuring portraits of some of the country's leading actors, poets and politicians which garnered a lot of attention for the artist. After moving to Finland, he studied at the University of Helsinki. In 1981 Nikolo's por-

traits of a variety of Finnish figures were exhibited in a show entitled "Finland in Portraits". The show celebrated 1300 years of Bulgarian statehood. In 1983 his portraits were exhibited again at the October Gallery in the United Kingdom. This London exhibition became the subject of a BBC documentary. In 1984 and again in 1985 Nikolo was invited to Colorado to paint and to exhibit his work, but returned to his home in Finland. After his relocation to Evergreen, CO, in 1986 he began devoting more time to painting the western US landscape, although he continues to paint portraits, still lifes and figurative works to this day. One sees that he is schooled in the techniques of the old masters and possesses the exceptional talent to employ their methods in creating thoroughly modern paintings.

Robert Johnson OPAM

Robert Johnson was born in Hopewell, VA, into a family that included a mother who loved to paint and an older brother who devoted his life to art. His older brother, Ben, became a worldwide respected art conservator and connoisseur as well as an accomplished painter. Robert remembers watching his brother for hours which influenced him greatly. After graduating from Duke Law School he moved to Europe where he spent two years viewing and appreciating the best art in Europe and at the same time drawing and painting on his own. Upon returning to the U.S.

he began his serious studies at The Art Student's League of New York painting with David Leffel OPAM, drawing with Robert Beverly Hale and Michael Burban, and learning sculpture with Barney Hodes. He later had the privilege of studying in the studio of Hungarian-American master Lajos Markos. Robert followed the advice of his brother to "learn to draw and compare your work only to that of the masters". He feels that "Drawing is the foundation of all we are trying to accomplish as artists. When our drawing skills improve, the quality of our paintings mysteriously takes jumps forward".

Jan Peng Wang OPAM

Jan Peng Wang was born in Guangzhou, China and graduated from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. He studied graphic design at the Tokyo Communication Art College and moved to Canada in 1989. Jan not only specializes in still life and figurative paintings, but also uses oil paint to provide a sculptural element to many of his works. Classical figures are often combined with unexpected elements of daily life. Hauntingly serene images are juxtaposed with impressions resonating with energy. "In this age of multi-trends in art, in this rapidly spinning world, I, the artist, stand firmly on the other side of the classicism mask to create a space that is of my mind."

INSTRUCTIONAL DEMOS BY:



Carolyn Lewis OPA



C. W. Mundy OPAM



Kirk Larsen OPA

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

A note to all members. Please submit information about your accomplishments and awards to OPA so that you may be included in an upcoming *Brushstrokes*. Please send information (but no photos) to: cryan@oilpaintersofamerica.com

Kimberly Beck's painting "Chickadee Two Three" has been selected for the *Birds in Art* tour at the Museum of York County, Rock Hill, SC as well as the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, Rockport Center

for the Arts, Rockport, TX and the Fullerton Arboretum, Fullerton, CA.

Ellen Buselli's painting "Tang Lady" has been selected as a Finalist in the 12th International Art Renewal Center Salon.

David W. Mayer has recently been elected to Full Artist Member status in the California Art Club.

Jamie Lindholm is pleased to announce that her painting "Namaste" was selected as a Portrait Finalist in the Art Renewal Center 12th International Salon. Also "Namaste" will be exhibited at the National Arts

Club in New York City as part of the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club's 120th Annual Open Exhibition.

Marci Oleszkiewicz OPA is pleased to announce the opening of a solo show at Gallery Russia in Scottsdale, AZ from March 16-30.

Jerry Venditti has been selected as one of 84 artists to participate in the Artists For Conservation (the World's Leading Artist Group Supporting The Environment) exhibition now leaving North America for China.

IN MEMORIAM

With deep sympathy to the family and friends, we note the passing of Joan C. Murray, Bozeman, Montana, an OPA member since 2007



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"Big Rock Point" (detail), Jill Stefani Wagner 2014; 12"x14" pastel. From Nov/2016 *PleinAir* cover



PleinAir
MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2016



"Autumn Still Life" by Astle won first place in the Associate Division



"Early Snow" by Nikolo Balkanski OPA won first place in the Signature Division

FALL, 2016 ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNERS

Over 600 paintings were entered in the Fall, 2016 On-Line Showcase, open to both Associate and Signature OPA members. OPA Signature member Anne Blair Brown was the Juror of Awards for this three-times-a-year event, which has continuously been funded by Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. We are ever grateful for their continued support of this competition.

Associate Winners

First Place: Brian Astle for "Autumn Still Life"

Second Place: Deborah Tilby for "Blue Boat Reflected"

Third Place: Susiehyer for "Darkened Rooms Series: Anne's Bedroom"

Signature Winners

First Place: Nikolo Balkanski OPA for "Early Snow"

Second Place: Anna Bain OPA for "A Fleeting Moment"

Third Place: Louis Escobedo OPA for "Woodworks"

Honorable Mentions: Lindsey Bittner Graham for "Steady Pull", Jason Sacran for "Alley Patterns", Mary Pettis for "Cedars in Springtime", Cheryl St. John for "In the Vines", Barbara Schilling for "If a Tree Falls...", Shelby Keefe for "Mercers Looking In", Susan Hotard for "Mother and Child", Marjorie Hicks for "Southern Pride", Frances Pampeyan for "The White Dress" and Kathie Odom for "Aged Goodness".

The Spring, 2017 On-Line Showcase will be open for entries March 1 through May 15. This competition is open to Associate members only and may be entered by visiting the OPA website at: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com

MEET THE ASSOCIATE ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER BRIAN ASTLE

Born in 1988 Brian's interest in art came at an early age. He is very grateful to his parents who were instrumental in promoting his emerging talent. In 2014 Brian received his BFA from Brigham Young University Idaho. He credits the knowledgeable and student oriented faculty of the BYUI art department for giving him "the tools all representational artist must have to open the door to communicating in the visual arts". Brian is currently working on a Masters Degree through the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California.

Brian's career has been a continual learning experience. His growth comes naturally as he seeks for excellence through education and hard work. He is constantly finding new things to appreciate in the masters both of the present and the past. Some of the influences he credits for his inspiration and development are Albin Veselka OPA, Nicolai Fechin, Laura Robb, Richard Schmid, Quang Ho OPAM and Leon Parson.

His work has been featured by the Society of Illustrators, Southwest Art 21 Under 31, and Oil Painters of America among others. He currently resides in Rexburg Idaho with his wife Sam, and son Rockwell.

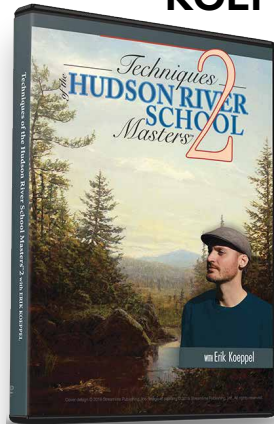


PUBLICIZE YOUR WORKSHOP THROUGH OPA

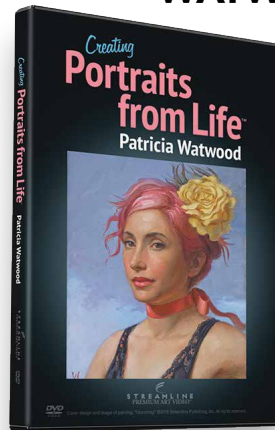
Don't forget that you may advertise your upcoming workshop(s) on the OPA website for the nominal fee of \$25 per listing. With over 3,500 members, what better way is there to publicize your event? To apply, visit the OPA website and scroll down to the "Workshops" listing under the "Education and Events" menu.

DO YOU WANT YOUR PAINTING TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

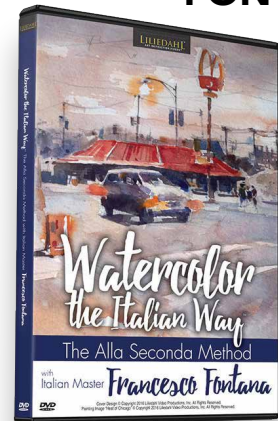
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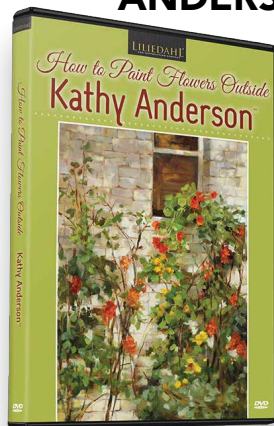
Patricia
WATWOOD



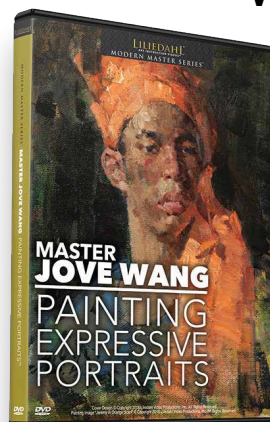
Francesco
FONTANA



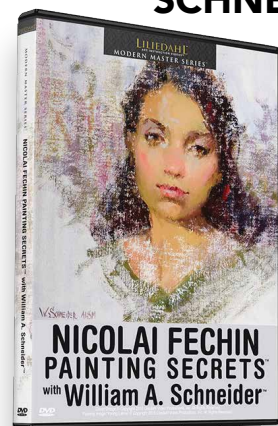
Kathy
ANDERSON



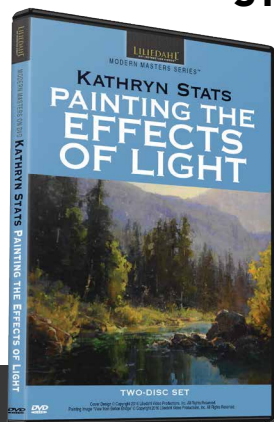
Jove
WANG



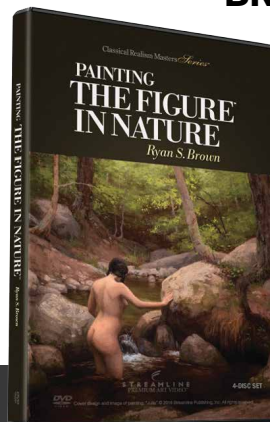
William
SCHNEIDER



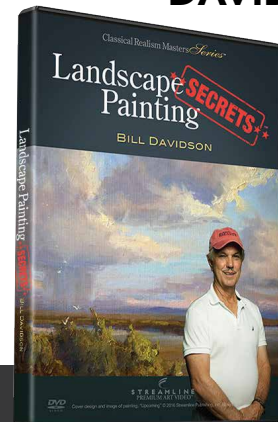
Kathryn
STATS



Ryan S.
BROWN



Bill
DAVIDSON



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MEET THE SIGNATURE ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER NIKOLO BALKANSKI OPA

After the jurying of the fall 2016 Online Showcase was completed the Board of Directors voted on the names of those Signature Members who were to be elevated to Master Signature status. The winner of the Signature Division Online Showcase First Place Award, Nikolo Balkanski, was one of those new Master Signature inductees. To read Balkanski's bio please refer to page 11.

Photo at left is Balkanski with his sometimes painting companions.

TRAVELING AROUND THE UNITED STATES, VISITING PAINT-OUTS THROUGH PHOTOS



Boston, Massachusetts



Chicago, Illinois



Evergreen, Colorado



Las Vegas, Nevada



Juno Beach, Florida



Marceline, Missouri



Key Largo, Florida



San Diego, California



Maribel, Wisconsin



Winsboro, South Carolina

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2017 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

October 15 – Deadline for submission for Signature membership status.

Effective 2017 a second option has become available to members wishing to apply for Signature status.

Option A. has been added as a new alternative and option B. remains as it has been in the past.

A. Within an eight year period a member must have exhibited in either 1) four national OPA shows; OR 2) three national OPA shows and three regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) If these requirements are met Signature Member status will be conferred with no further evaluation. However, qualified members must still submit an application between June 1 and October 15, for approval at the December board meeting.

or

B. Over an indefinite period of time members must have exhibited in 1) three national OPA shows OR 2) two national OPA shows and three OPA regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) Members who have met these requirements are qualified to submit for Signature status between June 1 and October 15, for consideration at the December board meeting. This option has been retained from the prior

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2016 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Twenty-sixth Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention - Eisele Gallery of Fine Art in Cincinnati, Ohio

Convention: May 10 - May 14, Exhibition: May 12 - June 10

Juror of Awards: William Whitaker OPAM - Canvas size not to exceed 1,200 square inches

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2017 Western Regional - Saint George, Utah

November 8 - December 9, 2017

Canvas size not to exceed 1,200 square inches

2017 Eastern Regional - to be announced

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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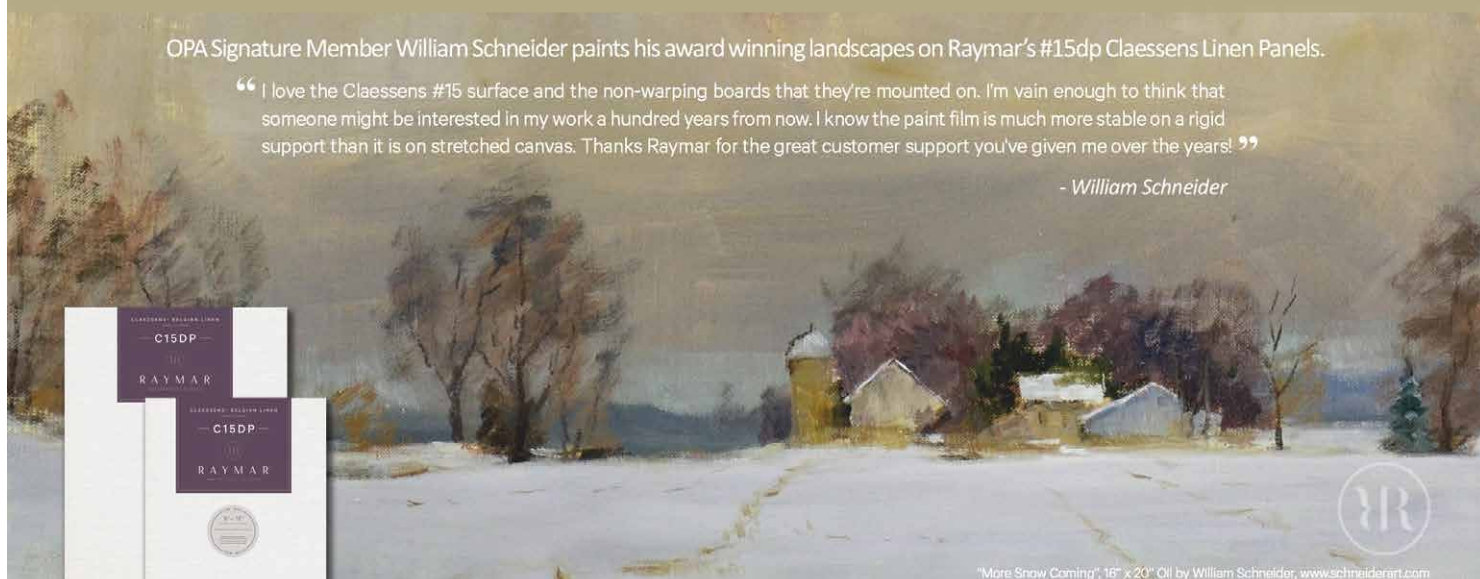
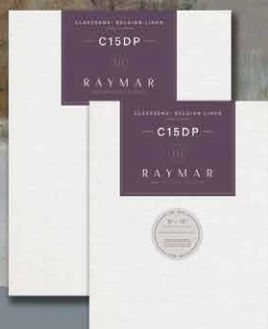
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OPA Signature Member William Schneider paints his award winning landscapes on Raymar's #15dp Claessens Linen Panels.

“ I love the Claessens #15 surface and the non-warping boards that they're mounted on. I'm vain enough to think that someone might be interested in my work a hundred years from now. I know the paint film is much more stable on a rigid support than it is on stretched canvas. Thanks Raymar for the great customer support you've given me over the years! ”

- William Schneider



"More Snow Coming", 16" x 20" Oil by William Schneider, www.schneiderart.com

raymarart.com

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