



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 30 issue 4

WINTER
2020-2021

Brushstrokes

2020 NATIONAL EXHIBITION PRESENTS OUTSTANDING WORKS

The advent of COVID19 meant the OPA National Exhibition was different in 2020 from past years. Gone was the well-attended opening reception for artists and collectors. The much anticipated awards ceremony was viewed virtually rather than in person. However, the caliber of the paintings and diversity of styles and subject matter were of the same high quality as in the past. Juror of Awards Rose Frantzen announced her award presentations with insights into her decisions and spent time



The Gold Medal in the Associate & Signature Division was awarded to Bryce C. Liston OPA for *Farewell Jupiter*

explaining what drew her to specific paintings.

The following is a list of the award winners.

ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Bryce C. Liston OPA for *Farewell Jupiter* - funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Diane N. Eugster for *On the Road* - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal: David R. Dibble OPA for *We Make Do* - funded by *Art of the West Magazine*



Jeffrey Watts OPAM won the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for *Salt Lamps and Sage*

CONTENTS

29th National Exhibition	1
Natl. Juror's Statement	7
Meet the Natl. Winners	8 & 9
Notes From Your Board	10
Wet Paint Competition	11 & 12
Wet Paint Juror's Statement	13
Meet the Wet Paint Winners	14 & 15
Painting Our Future	22
Dates to Remember	23



Joni Jurek's painting *Bouquet* was awarded the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists



Anna with Dishes by Mary Sauer won both the Best Associate Award of Excellence and the Members' Choice Associate Member Award of Excellence



The Bronze Medal in the Associate & Signature Division went to David R. Dibble OPA for *We Make Do*



Pavel Sokov was awarded the Outstanding Composition and Technique Award of Excellence for *Sadhu at the Manikarnika Burning Ghat in Varanasi*

Best Associate Honorable Mention: Randy Saffle for *Because You're Mine* - funded by Blue Ridge Oil Colors

Most Original Award of Excellence: Bryan Cohen for *American Window* - funded by Bright Light Fine Art

Most Original Honorable Mention: Terry L. Reimer for *Written in the Wind* - funded by Savoir-Faire

Outstanding Composition and Technique Award of Excellence: Pavel Sokov for *Sadhu at the Manikarnika Burning Ghat in Varanasi* - funded by *Plein Air* Magazine

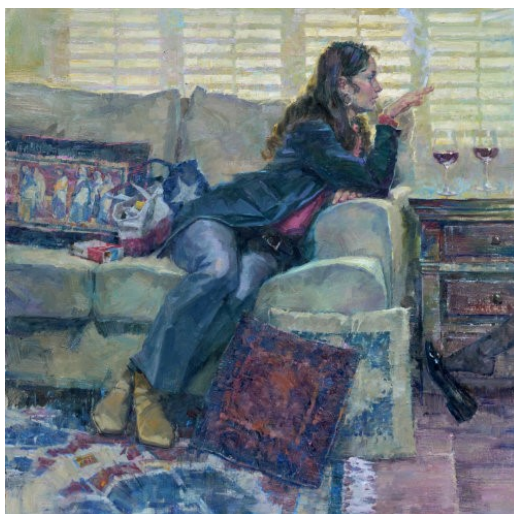
Outstanding Composition and Technique Honorable Mention: Hongnian Zhang for *Tango in the Woods* - funded by SourceTek and MasterPak

Presidents' Award of Excellence: Karen A. Budan OPA for *Playing with Black and White* - funded by past presidents Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

Art Renewal Center Realism Award of Excellence: Joseph Daily for *Self Portrait, Preparing for Worship* - funded by Art Renewal Center



The Shirl Smith Founders' Award for Master Signature Members was given to Huihan Liu OPAM for *Evening Light on the Houseboat*



The Silver Medal in the Master Signature Division was awarded to John Michael Carter OPAM for *Conversation*



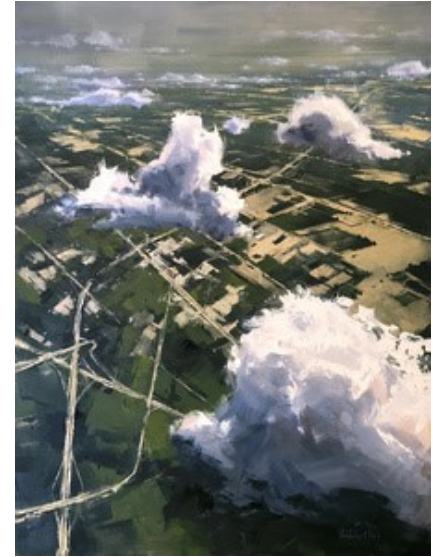
Late Night Dim Sum, painted by Jennifer A. McChristian OPA, won the Best Signature Award of Excellence



Playing with Black and White, painted by Karen A. Budan OPA, won the Presidents' Award of Excellence



Daniel E. Greene OPAM received the Realism Award of Excellence and the Members' Choice Honorable Mention Award in the Master Signature Division for *Percy - 68th Street*



The Alden Bryan Memorial Landscape Painting Award of Excellence was awarded to Kim Vanderhoek for *They Made Maps of the Sky*

National Exhibition con't.

Realism Honorable Mention:
Eric Fei Guan for *Teenage Girl* - funded by Gamblin Artist Colors and Friends of OPA

Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence: **Thomas J. Kitts** for *Cypress Point in Point Lobos* - funded by Friends of Ted Goerschner OPAM

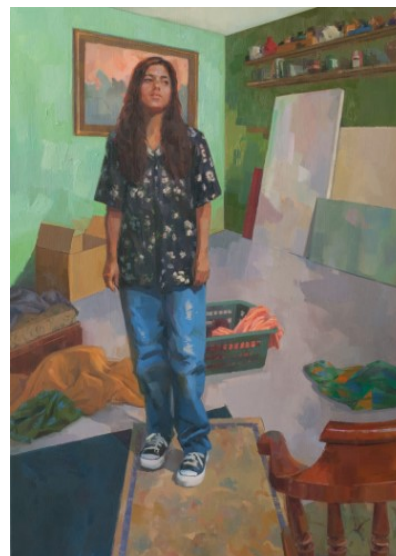
Impressionist Honorable Mention:
Barbara Schilling for *Hour of Gold* - funded by JFM Enterprises



The Bronze Medal in the Master Signature division was awarded to Jeff Legg OPAM for *Transitory Repose*

Animal Award of Excellence:
Diane Frossard OPA for *Spring Pasture* - funded by Maimero Puro and Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors

Animal Honorable Mention: **Bill Farnsworth OPA** for *Oasis* - funded by Savoir-Faire



Youth, painted by Louis Escobedo OPAM, won the Most Original Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division

John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence:
Timothy Rees for *Madonna* - funded by RayMar Art

Figurative Honorable Mention:
Linda H. Dunbar for *Mr. Ricco Wright* - funded by MasterPak and Liliedahl Video Productions

Alden Bryan Memorial Landscape Award of Excellence: **Kim Vanderhoek** for *They Made Maps of the Sky* - funded by Alden and Mary Bryan Arts Fund and the Vermont Community Foundation



Nikolo Balkanski OPAM won the Donors' Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division for *Sozopol Fishing Boats*



Spring Pasture, painted by
Diane Frossard OPA,
won the Animal Award of Excellence

National Exhibition con't.

Landscape Honorable Mention:
Dave A. Santillanes OPA for *Winter Creek* - funded Michael Harding Handmade Oil Colours

Portraiture Award of Excellence:
Casey Childs for *Portrait of John Giarrizzo* - funded by Cheap Joe's Art Stuff and Savoir-Faire

Portraiture Honorable Mention:
Tony T. Luo for *Butter Milk Tea* - funded by Rosemary & Co. Artist Brushes and Ampersand Art Supply

Seascape Award of Excellence:
Marc Anderson for *Lady in Waiting* - funded by Blick Art Materials & Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colours



The Seascape Award of Excellence
was given to Marc Anderson
for *Lady in Waiting*



Christopher Zhang OPAM's *Summer Job* won the Impressionist Award of Excellence and the Member's Choice Award in the Master Signature Division

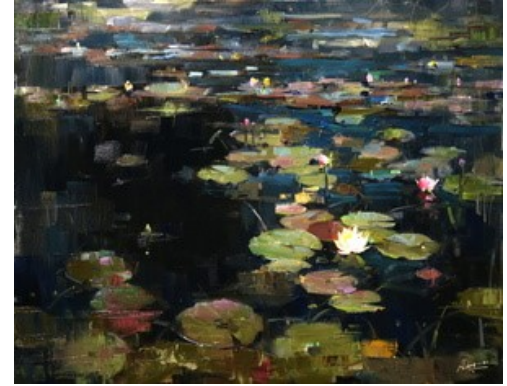
Seascape Honorable Mention:
Poppy J. Balsar for *Dawn Over the Wharf* - funded by Blick Art Materials

Still Life Award of Excellence:
Elizabeth Robbins OPA for *Sunflower Sonata* - funded by Savoir-Faire and Blick Art Materials

Still Life Honorable Mention:
John C. Moffitt for *Colt Special* - funded by AirFloat Systems and Maimeri Puro



On the Road by Diane N. Eugster was
awarded the Silver Medal in the
Associate & Signature Division



The Neil Patterson OPAM Award of
Excellence was given to Qiang Huang
OPA for *Symphonic Water Lilies*

Neil Patterson OPAM Award of Excellence: **Qiang Huang OPA for *Symphonic Water Lilies*** - funded by Past President Neil Patterson OPAM

Members' Choice Signature Member Award of Excellence:
Derek W. Penix OPA for *Sanibel Seagulls* - funded by Artwork Archive

Members' Choice Signature Honorable Mention: **Dave A. Santillanes OPA for *Winter Creek*** - funded by Royal Talens

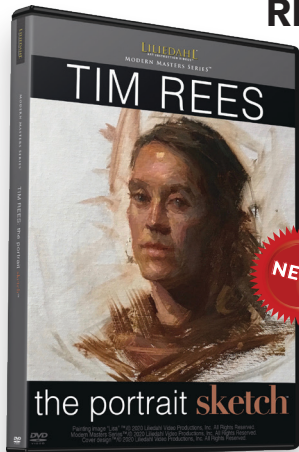
****SPECIAL RECOGNITION****
The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists:
Joni Jurek for *Bouquet* - funded by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation



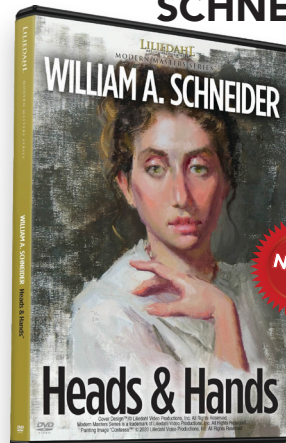
Madonna, painted by Timothy Rees,
won the John August Dietrich Memorial
Figurative Award of Excellence

FRESH IDEAS ON PAINTING

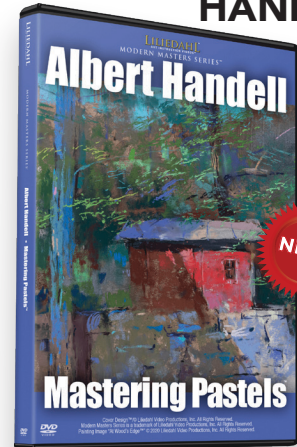
Tim
REES



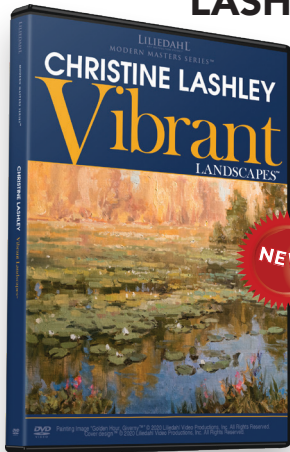
William A.
SCHNEIDER



Albert
HANDELL



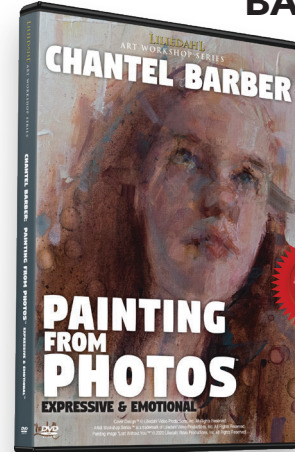
Christine
LASHLEY



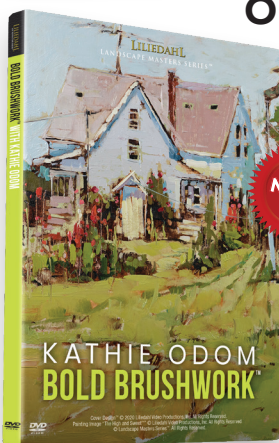
Cheri
CHRISTENSEN



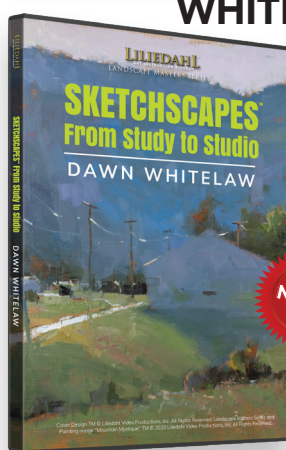
Chantel
BARBER



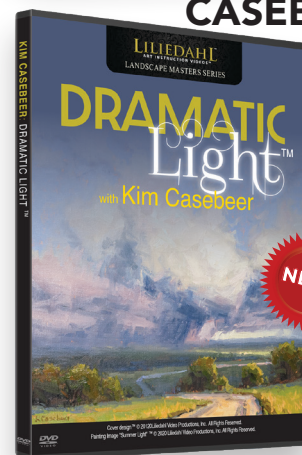
Kathie
ODOM



Dawn
WHITELAW



Kim
CASEBEER



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Elizabeth Robbins OPA won the Still Life Award of Excellence for *Sunflower Sonata*



Portrait of John Giarizzo, painted by Casey Childs, won the Portraiture Award of Excellence



The Members' Choice Signature Member Award of Excellence was awarded to Derek W. Penix OPA for *Sanibel Seagulls*

National Exhibition con't.

Members' Choice Associate Member Award of Excellence: Mary Sauer for *Anna with Dishes* - funded by Bright Light Fine Art and Friends of OPA

Members' Choice Associate Honorable Tony T. Luo for *Butter Milk Tea* - funded by Gamblin Artist Colors and Friends of OPA

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal - Master Signature Division: Jeffrey Watts OPAM for *Salt Lamps and Sage* - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

Silver Medal - Master Signature Division: John Michael Carter OPAM for *Conversation* - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division: Jeff Legg OPAM for *Transitory Repose* - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Most Original Award of Excellence: Louis Escobedo OPAM for *Youth* - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur*

Donors Award of Excellence: Nikolo Balkanski OPAM for *Sozopol Fishing Boats* - funded by Savoir Faire and Friends of OPA

Realism Award of Excellence: Daniel E. Greene OPAM for *Percy - 68th Street* - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Oil Colours

Impressionist Award of Excellence: Christopher Zhang OPAM for *Summer Job* - funded by Bella Muse Productions and Blick Art Materials

Shirl Smithson Founders' Award for Master Signature Members: Huihan Liu OPAM for *Evening Light on the Houseboat* - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family

Members' Choice Award for Master Signature Members: Christopher Zhang OPAM for *Summer Job* - funded by FASO

Awarded Posthumously — Members' Choice Honorable Mention Award for Master Signature Members: Daniel E. Greene OPAM for *Percy - 68th Street* - funded by Revelite Fine Art Lighting



The Most Original Award of Excellence was given to Bryan Cohen for *American Window*

NATIONAL EXHIBITION JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT ROSE FRANTZEN

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for including me in the 29th Annual National Juried Exhibition. I truly enjoyed working with all of you and having a chance to see what traditional oil painters from all over the country are creating.

Perhaps it is proper to start with the idea of what constitutes tradition in oil painting. As a jurist, I am less apt to think that this means subject matter and more likely means qualities inherent to oil painting. This, in a technical sense, especially for me, means paint quality, how the paint is applied, utilizing oil paints capacity to be both thick and thin, handled by scumbling, glazing, bravura, muted and/or saturated, layered, in washes, with precise, and loose edges. Oil paint is magical in its depth and breadth of utility. Mastering this medium takes time, and I think, as we look closely, we can all agree that there are qualities that we can “just see” in works that represent understanding of how to use oil paint.

It is with this understanding that I move to the trickier part of jurying a show. This would be what I feel is the more subjective part. Subjectivity is our natural intellectual state, and we all must concede that any competition with a human jurist will reflect that jurist's taste and possibly, in my case, ambitions for oil painting in this 21st century America. I don't know if those of you reading these words were able to hear my remarks about the paintings during the Zoom convention... if not, a brief synopsis: I applauded and rewarded invention in subject matter, attempts at narrative, shifts in perspective, exquisite execution, interpretation of subject, design, attempts at a complete thought, and finally undeniable beauty, as in the case of the winner's painting. I chose to honor Bryce Liston OPA and all award winners and finalists with my most sincere attention and appreciation and love for the gift of expressing ourselves in oil paint.

With Gratitude,
Rose Frantzen



Thomas J. Kitts won the Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence for *Cypress Point in Point Lobos*



Self Portrait, Preparing for Worship, painted by Joseph Daily, was awarded the Art Renewal Center Realism Award of Excellence

DON'T MISS OUT

To ensure that you will be listed as a current OPA member in the 2021 national catalog, dues payments must be received no later than January 31, 2021.



MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER JEFFREY WATTS OPAM

Jeffrey R. Watts is a southern California native. Growing up in rural San Diego county with an artist father, Watts demonstrated an early aptitude for the visual arts. But it was competitive sports that held his interest as a teenager. After an injury cut short his budding career in professional cycling, Jeff turned his focus back to art, enrolling at the California Art Institute in Calabasas. Watts was soon asked to teach at the institute and began to work

as an illustrator in the movie industry. However, Jeff's goal to become an easel painter would draw him back to San Diego where he started a small life drawing and painting studio known as Watts Atelier of the Arts. Jeff's aesthetic sensibilities have long drawn him to the figurative art of nineteenth century Europe and Russia. His Atelier allows him to work regularly from the live model, grounding his work in traditional principles. Recently, Jeff's work has been compared to that of Nicolai Fechin, an influence he is quick to acknowledge. "I never tire of looking at the work of Nicolai Fechin" Watts says, "his work is the perfect combination of control and chaos." In 2008 The Taos Art Museum and Fechin House honored Watts with a Solo Exhibition in the original Taos home and studio of Fechin.

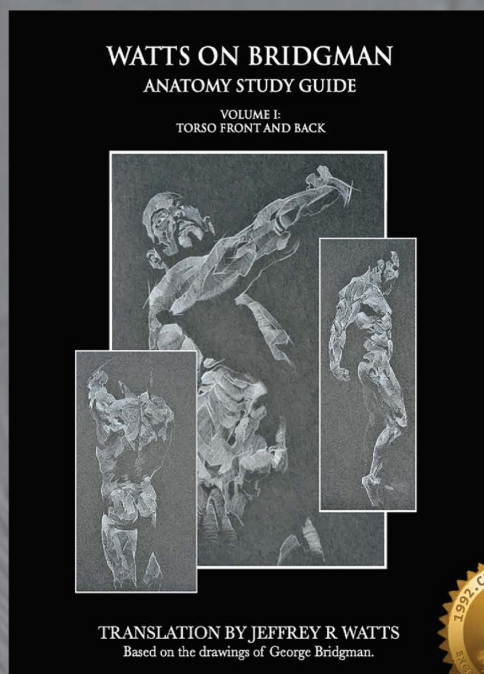
Jeff's oil paintings have won numerous awards including First Place Portrait category and Second Place Landscape category from the *Artist's Magazine*, two consecutive Second Place Awards at the Salon International Exhibition, an Honor Award and an Award of Exceptional Merit from the Portrait Society of America, 3 Awards of Excellence from Oil Painters of America and 3 Top 100 Awards from Arts for the Parks among others. Watts is a regular participant in the prestigious Prix de West Invitational held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Watts's work has been featured in numerous magazines. He is a Master Signature member of Oil Painters of America, a Signature Member of both the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association and the California Art Club, and holds membership in the Portrait Society of America.



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MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER BRYCE C. LISTON OPA

Born in 1965 in a small town in Utah, Bryce believes his first desire to be an artist was formed at a very young age when he would go out with his mother while she painted the Utah landscape. Later in school, drawing was a comfort zone for Liston. "It was a subject that excited me- I always had energy and interest for it." It was here that Liston found his love of the human form. "I don't quite know why I was drawn to the human form; I suspect the seed was planted while studying the art of the great American Illustrators like N.C. Wyeth and Howard Pyle."



It was then that he knew it was the human form that he wanted to portray in his art. He attended the University of Utah for a short time but dropped out before finishing his degree. "I wanted to learn about the craft of art. I wanted to learn to actually *produce* art, not just discuss it." With limited resources Bryce found himself working in the studio and foundry of master sculptor, Edward J. Fraughton. The time Liston spent with Fraughton provided him with a knowledge of anatomy that few painters possess and that understanding brings depth and life to the figures he paints. "In Ed's studio I learned a lot about art. It's funny, I learned about painting from a sculptor- I don't think that's something that happens everyday."

Bryce's education has been self-directed and continues to be that way. Not having a formal art education can be a long and hard way to go about it but it does have its advantages. It allows you to find your own voice rather than emulating that of your teachers, a principle lesson that Liston imparts to all of his students. "Take in all the information that is presented to you, then afterwards disassemble it and make it fit into your personal vision and style."

Bryce's work is shown in galleries around the country and he participates in many national and international exhibitions each year. Bryce's artwork has won numerous prestigious awards, and his art has been published in many magazines as well as on book covers. He currently resides in Holladay, Utah with his wife and three daughters. "I can't even imagine myself not painting or sculpting. My mother was a very talented artist and I can already see some of the same abilities emerging in my young daughters."

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GOES OUT TO OUR 2020 NATIONAL EXHIBITION DONORS AND SPONSORS

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Ampersand Art Supply
Artwork Archive
Art of the West Magazine
Art Renewal Center
Bella Muse Productions
Betty Schmidt
Blick Art Materials
Blue Ridge Oil Colors
Bright Light Fine Art
Cheap Joe's Art Stuff
Dixon Ticonderoga

Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine
Fine Art Studio On-Line (FASO)
Fredericksburg Artists' School
Friends of OPA
Friends of Ted Goerschner OPAM
Gamblin Artists Colors
Jack Richeson & Co.
JFM Enterprises
Liliedahl Video Productions
MasterPak
Michael Harding Artist Oil Colours
Neil Patterson OPAM

Plein Air Magazine
RayMar Art
Revelite Fine Art Lighting
Rosemary & Co. Artists' Brushes
Royal Talens
Savoir-Faire
Shirl Smithson Family
SourceTek
Southwest Art Magazine
Vermont Community Foundation
Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors
Zhiwei Tu OPAM



INTRODUCING THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN ARTISTS WINNER JONI JUREK

Joni utilizes oil painting to freeze a moment in time and invite the viewer to stop, breathe and allow her artwork to evoke a nostalgic memory and emotion. The subtle colors and intricate compositions in our natural landscape are her muse. She finds the spirit of her subject by working directly from life. With countless hours of practice and training, Joni's work has evolved into a distinctive appearance often exuding a feeling of serenity.

Her paintings have been exhibited in prestigious shows and galleries across the country, and many of her artworks reside in private collections. She is a member of Oil Painters of America, American Impressionist Society and Outdoor Painters of Minnesota.

Artist's Statement: Every place and every moment hold its own story. Painting from life allows me to capture the unique spirit of a subject, inviting the viewer to pause and realize the widespread natural beauty among us from vast vista scenes to the delicate fleeting life of a flower. Living in the beautiful St. Croix River Valley, along the border of Minnesota and Wisconsin, also provides endless opportunities for me to study the beauty of nature in all four seasons.

Though my art education is largely self-directed, early on I attended the Fine Arts program at University of Wisconsin. Eventually, I found my voice through many years of practice and in classes and workshops taught by some of the nation's top representational artists. I am forever grateful for their shared expertise, encouragement and generosity, and instilling in me the precious value of working from life. Thank you for joining me in my painting journey!

Thank you to OPA and The Richard H. Drieaus Foundation for this most prestigious honor.

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three new names have been added to the OPA Board of Directors. We welcome the following to our Board: Victoria Castillo OPA, Michelle Usibelli OPA and Jill DeTemple.

Victoria is a figurative painter who studied painting at Washington & Lee University, the University of Maryland as well as at the Studio Escalier in France. She has received numerous awards in national exhibitions and been highlighted in magazines such as *Southwest Art*, *Art of the West*, *American Art Collector* and *International Artist*.

Jill graduating from Vanderbilt University with a degree in Economics, and began her career as a CPA. She has since built brands at DDB Chicago advertising agency and has established a real estate investment company while being a passionate art collector.

Michelle earned her degree in Architecture from the University of Washington with a strong background in the Russian Impressionists. Her work has appeared in both group and solo gallery exhibitions and she has won innumerable awards in regional, national and international juried exhibitions and Museum Auctions.

OPA is excited to introduce its Virtual Museum Road Trip program. Some of the country's most outstanding museums will participate. The first tour was held Friday, January 8. Entitled "A Big Man, a Bierstadt, and a Beauty Parlor; Treasures from the Birmingham Museum of Art" was hosted by Dr. Graham C. Boettcher. Upcoming tours include the: Norman Rockwell Museum (Jan. 22), Fort Wayne Art Museum

(Feb. 5), and Butler Institute of American Art (March 5).

In an effort to introduce representational art to students and young people, OPA is hosting our First Annual Student Art Competition. This competition is open to high school and collegiate level students (age 14 through 22) who live in the US, Canada or Mexico. There is no entry fee for this competition and entries are being accepted January 15 through February 15. The top five award winners will be invited to exhibit their paintings in conjunction with the 2021 National Exhibition being held at the Escondido Center for the Arts in Escondido, CA from April 9 through May 16. For more information, visit the OPA website: <https://blog.oilpaintersofamerica.com/student-art-competition>

OPA INTRODUCED ITS FIRST VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION & CONVENTION IN 2020

OPA introduced its first International Wet Paint Competition & Convention in September and received rave reviews from the participants. Not being able to hold our annual Wet Paint Event at the National Convention warranted some concerted thinking on the part of OPA Executive Director Kathryn Beligratis and OPA Board members. The subsequent Virtual Wet Paint Competition was such a success that it will now be held annually.

OPA members, as well as non-members, were invited to participate in two days of plein air and studio painting and then submit their efforts into competition if they so desired. Awards were given in three categories: plein air for OPA members, studio for OPA members and open division for non-OPA members and international participants, with monetary and merchandise awards equaling about \$20,000.

Those wishing to view participants painting during these 2 days were able to do so via Zoom. Artists freely offered advice and insights as they painted and it was definitely a

learning experience. A few of the suggestions: member Carol Arnold explained that using a mirror to look at your painting and your model at the same time is a great way to see if any error in your painting might exist. Vicki Norman talked about how to keep paints from going dull and Poppi Balser lives by the creed that "the more you paint, the more it comes". Thank you to the many artists who checked in while painting and shared their experiences.

Approximately 200 paintings were entered in the Wet Paint Competition, juried by John Pototschnik OPA with his announcement of the awards during the Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Thursday evening, September 10th. Award winners were:

First Place - Studio Division: MaryBeth Karaus OPA for *Roses are Pink* - funded by Southwest Art Magazine and OPA

Second Place - Studio Division: Suzie Baker OPA for *That's the One* - funded by Western Art Collector Magazine and OPA

Third Place - Studio Division: Jeremy Goodding OPA for *Diamond Echo* - funded by Bright Light Fine Art, New Wave Art Products and OPA

First Place - Plein Air Division: Stephanie Amato for *Windswept Morning* - funded by Southwest Art Magazine and OPA

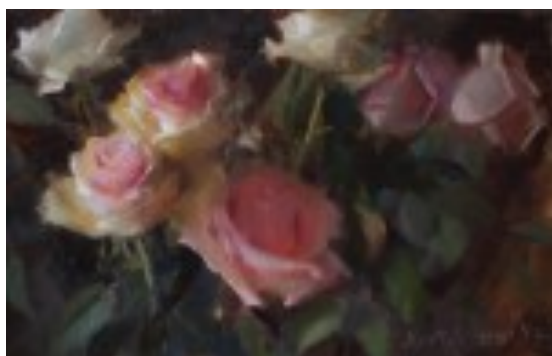
Second Place - Plein Air Division: Leonard J. Mizerek for *Breaking Light Over Boothbay Harbor* - funded by Western Art Collector Magazine and OPA

Third Place - Plein Air Division: Elizabeth Pollie OPA for *They Call Her Mackinaw* - funded by Plein Air Magazine and OPA

First Place - Open Division: Haidee-Jo Summers for *The Crab Hut, Wells-next-the-Sea* - funded by International Artist Magazine and OPA

Second Place - Open Division: Vicki Norman for *Let There Be Light!* - funded by Savoir-Faire and OPA

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS



MaryBeth Karaus OPA won First Place in the Studio Division for *Roses are Pink*



First place in the Plein Air Division was given to Stephanie Amato for *Windswept Morning*



The Crab Hut, Wells-next-the-Sea, painted by Haidee-Jo Summers, of the United Kingdom, received First Place in the Open Division



Suzie Baker OPA won
Second Place in the Studio Division
with *That's the One*

Int'l Wet Paint con't.

Third Place - Open Division:
Luis Gustavo (Guga) for *Boas Energias (Good Energies)* - funded
by Royal Talens and OPA

Award of Excellence - International Division: **Kathleen Gray Farthing for *Hint of Fall*** - funded
by Rosemary & Co. and OPA

Award of Excellence - International Division: **Karl Terry for *Last of Summer, Rye*** - funded by
Dixon Ticonderoga. and OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Blair Atherholt for *The Turning*
- funded by M. Graham Oil Colors

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Yun Wei for *Silent Night* - funded
by Holbein Vernet and New
Wave Fine Art Products

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Daud Akhriev OPAM for *Walls of San Sebastian, Salamanca*
funded by Dixon Ticonderoga, and
New Wave Fine Art Products

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Mostafa Keyhani OPAM for *St. Catharines, Ontario* - funded by
Michael Harding Handmade Oil
Colours and New Wave Fine Art
Products



Breaking Light over Boothbay Harbor,
by Leonard J. Mizerek, won
Second Place in the Plein Air Division

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Charles Young Walls OPA for *Statuette with Roses* - funded by
ArtFrames and New Weave Fine
Art Products

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Rusty Jones for *Pond Reflections*
- funded by Holbein Artist Oils

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
R. Gregory Summers for *Guard N Gate* - funded by Jack Richeson
& Co., Guerrilla Painter and new
Wave Fine Art Products

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Marc Hanson OPAM for *Up Flow*
- funded by Jack Richeson & Co.
and Guerrilla Painter

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Mary Hoffman for *Kristin in a Yellow T-Shirt* funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Lori Putnam OPA for *Morning Courthouse* funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Johne P. Richardson OPA for *Arrangement in Orange and Green*
funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Kathie Odom OPA for *Mountain Grocery* funded by OPA



Second Place in the Open Division
was awarded to Vicki Norman, of
the United Kingdom,
for *Let There Be Light!*

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Stacy Barter OPA for *In Full Bloom* funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Jing Zhao for *Chapel Creek*
funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Krystal W. Brown for *While You Wait (Mel's Country Café, Spring, TX)* funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Mary Qian OPAM for *Resting* funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Ming Qin OPA for *Life Study*
funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Amanda Lovett OPA for *Under Cover* funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Poppy Balsar for *Vine Ripened*
funded by OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Christine Lashley OPA for *Butler Pond, Silver Light* funded by
OPA

Wet Paint Award of Excellence:
Lyn Boyer OPA for *The Bird Watcher* funded by OPA

**INTERNATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION
JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT
JOHN POTOTSCHNIK OPA**

Asked to judge OPA's First International Wet Paint Competition was an honor and a responsibility I did not take lightly. Sadly, I was not able to view the submitted works directly but only online, due to...well, you know...

The flexibility of the OPA Board in figuring out a way for the competition to go forward was quite remarkable; in fact, for the first time it became international. The challenge was divided into three divisions: Plein Air, Studio, and Open; the Open Category was just that...open to all non-OPA members worldwide. All submitted works were required to be completed directly from life whether in plein air or in the studio.

There were over 200 entries. I reviewed all the images several times, getting to the point of almost having them memorized. Care was taken not to look at names; I did not want to be influenced by a name but only by the quality of the art. Thirty artists were given awards. The top award getters were easy to select. Those works close in quality required extra scrutiny.

My emotional reaction to a piece was the first thing noted. After that, the question was asked, "Why?" That's when judging becomes very difficult. The answers to "why" were found in 1) Clarity of concept, 2) Composition, 3) Drawing, 4) Values, 5) Color, and 6) Technique. I believe all the award winners successfully answered the question. My only regret...not being able to present the awards personally to these fine artists.

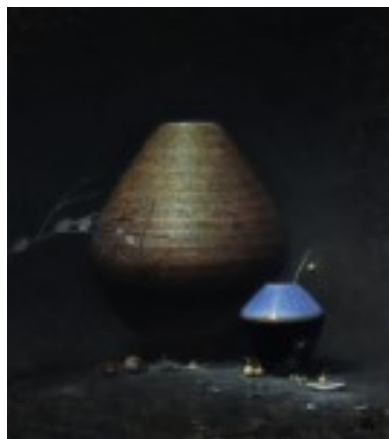


**THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR
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Plein Air Magazine

Rosemary & Co. Artists' Brushes
Royal Talens
Savoir-Faire
Southwest Art Magazine
Western Art Collector Magazine



Jeremy Goodding OPA received
Third Place in the Studio division for
Diamond Echo



Boas Energias (Good Energies), by Luis
Gustavo, of Brazil, won Third Place in
the Open Division



Third Place in the Plein Air Division
was awarded to Elizabeth Pollie OPA
for *They Call Her Mackinaw*



MEET THE PLEIN AIR DIVISION WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION STEPHANIE AMATO

Stephanie was born and raised on Long Island, NY. Choosing computer programming as her first career, her passion for drawing and painting prompted her to pursue an education in Visual Art. She entered the Illustration program at Parson's School of Design, continuing at the Art Students League and the New York Academy. She later moved to New Jersey obtaining a degree as a Graphic Designer and established the graphic design firm SMA Designs.

She has participated in many local and national exhibitions, is a Signature Member of the American Impressionist Society, Signature Member of the Pastel Society of New Jersey and a Resident Member of the Salmagundi Club. Stephanie's work has been featured in *Plein Air Magazine*, *Southwest Art*, *American Artist* and *American Art Collector* magazines. Most recently she was featured on John Pototschnik's weekly blog.

"Working in oils, I paint impressionistic landscapes, floral and figurative compositions. My intention is to produce work which creates energy and movement that will resonate with the viewer."

Stephanie currently resides in Milton, Georgia working both in her studio and outdoors on location. Her work can be seen through many fine galleries along the east coast.

MEET THE STUDIO DIVISION WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION MARYBETH KARAUS OPA

MaryBeth Karaus is a graduate of the DAAP program of the University of Cincinnati, but her artistic training began years before any formal study. Her mother was a passionate artist, and she was raised with an intrinsic appreciation and understanding of art. For the last 25 years she has been a dedicated mom of four while pursuing painting, and in recent years focusing on still-life. Pushing the boundaries of traditional still life, she strives for originality and excellence in composition while still respecting the importance of classical painting.



Karaus first began her career as an artist in watercolors, a form she was drawn to from the teaching of Robert James Foote of the University of Kentucky. As a watercolor artist she was juried into numerous watercolor shows. She also became a Signature member of the Cincinnati Art Club.

After concentrating for some time in the medium of watercolor, she began studying oil painting, beginning with a workshop with respected artist Dan Gerhartz OPAM in 2004. In 2006, she won the Top Award of Excellence from the juried exhibition of the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati. In 2012 she took an intensive study of classical drawing and painting with artist David Mueller OPAM. In the last ten years, her work was accepted into the OPA National Juried Exhibition seven times, and she was awarded status of Signature Member of OPA in 2015. The year 2017 also included the Impressionist Honorable Mention at the National Show. She was very honored to be asked to be a demo artist for the 2017 National Convention.

MaryBeth has consistently been receiving awards at OPA exhibitions and was a Finalist in the Art Renewal Center's International ARC Salon Competitions in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

Karaus is an active member of the Cincinnati Art Club, the second oldest continually operating art club in the country. She has taught several workshops locally. She currently displays her work at Eisele Gallery of Fine Art in Cincinnati, Ohio, Reinert Fine Art in Charleston, South Carolina, and Wally Workman Gallery in Austin, Texas.



MEET THE OPEN DIVISION WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION HAIDEE-JO SUMMERS

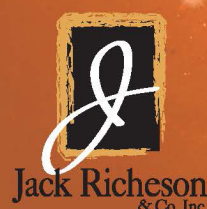
Haidee-Jo is a full-time professional artist known for painting landscapes and seascapes. An elected member of the Royal Institute of Oil painters (ROI) and the Royal Society of Marine Artists (RSMA) her work can be seen each year at the Mall Galleries in London in these prestigious society exhibitions. Haidee-Jo writes regularly for *The Artist* magazine and is proud to be one of their three editorial consultants, alongside Ken Howard RA and David Curtis ROI RSMA. Her first book on oil painting, *Vibrant Oils*, has been reprinted in Spanish, Italian, French and Chinese. She has produced a popular DVD with

APV films and a second will be available soon. Although oils are very much her preferred medium, in the 1990's Haidee-Jo produced a large body of work for the Encyclopaedia of Watercolour Techniques and is an avid sketcher. In recent years she has been invited to judge UK and international plein air events, after winning many prizes for her work which features fresh and vibrant brushwork coupled with keen drawing and observational skills.

Haidee-Jo gained a degree in illustration following an art foundation course and graduated in 1994. She has been exhibiting and teaching ever since, in recent years having cut back on teaching commitments to focus on painting and writing. She believes very much in continuing to grow and develop, all the while striving to express her personal voice in paint and to do so more and more succinctly.

“My work is a celebration of light filled moments revealed in rich and vibrant oil paint using my personal visual language of fresh and direct brush marks. Painting en plein air is central to my practice but I am equally at home working from a model, still life or interior. I find beauty in the ordinary, mundane and intimate rather than the grand vista. Coastal locations, domestic interiors and gardens and allotments provide me with rich and endless subject material. My approach is one of simplicity and economy, striving to make every mark count in my earnest pursuance of capturing the poetry of a fleeting effect of light.”

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DANIEL GREENE OPAM A GREAT LOSS TO THE ART WORLD

Of the many great people who passed during the year of 2020 we make special note of past OPA Master Signature Member Daniel E. Greene. Born in Cincinnati, OH on February 26, 1934 he was world renowned for his oils and pastels and taught over 10,000 students during his lifetime. He was a member of OPA since its inception in 1991 and participated in OPA exhibitions throughout his career, until his passing on April 5, 2020 in North Salem, NY.

Greene was a strong proponent of the Artists' Fellowship, an organization that provides financial assistance to professional visual artists and their families in times of emergency, disability or bereavement. Greene will be sadly missed by family, friends and the art world.



Daniel Greene OPAM in his studio
(Photo credit Susan Farley for the New York Times)

NEWEST MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBERS ARE INTRODUCED

One of the highest honors that Oil Painters of America can bestow on its members is the status of Master Signature artist. We are pleased to introduce the most recent conferees of this most prestigious designation which is in recognition of their exceptional talent and dedication to representational oil painting. Welcome to Johanna Harmon, David Mueller, Mary Qian, Camille Przewodek and Deborah Tilby.

JOHANNA HARMON OPAM



Johanna Harmon was born in 1968 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but spent most of her childhood in Tempe, Arizona. Johanna began designing and recording visual observations at the age of seven, but it wasn't until almost two decades later that she was introduced to the traditional language of art at the Scottsdale Artists' School in Arizona, the Fechin Art Institute in Taos, New Mexico, and the Art Students League of Denver in Colorado. There, she studied painting alongside prominent portrait and figure artists with varied artistic philosophies and approaches such as Carolyn Anderson, John Asaro, Mark Daily, Daniel Gerhartz OPAM, Quang Ho OPAM and C.W. Mundy OPAM. Following her 2013 OPA National Gold Medal award, she expanded her understanding further by studying contemporary realism with Daniel Sprick, and abstract realism with David A. Leffel OPAM and Sherrie McGraw OPAM.

Her work has been presented in numerous solo, group and juried exhibitions including the Portrait Society of America (PSoA), Oil Painters of America (OPA), Art Renewal Center, California Art Club, and Scottsdale Artists' School, where she received numerous prestigious awards.

Her work has been published in *American Art Collector*, *International Artist*, *Fine Art Connoisseur*, *Southwest Art*, *Artbook of the New West*, and *Focus Santa Fe* and is collected internationally.

Harmon was honored to be on the faculty of PSoA's 2019 Art of the Portrait Conference and OPA's 2017 National Convention, Curator and Juror for two North River Arts Society's Focus On Figures exhibitions, and Juror Of Awards for Oil Painters of America's 2015 Western Regional Juried Exhibition.

She has taught workshops at Scottsdale Artists' School in Arizona, North River Arts Society in Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts, The Coppini Academy of Art in San Antonio, Texas, and The Art Student's League of Denver in Colorado. Her emphasis is on the clarification of visual intention, while nurturing the overall painted subject. This pivotal understanding defines her work today. She credits Cecilia Beaux, Nicolai Fechin, John Singer Sargent, Joaquin Sorolla, Abbott Handerson Thayer and Anders Zorn as inspiration.

Johanna now resides in beautiful Colorado, with her husband of 23 years, Steven.

DAVID MUELLER OPAM

In 2016, I was having breakfast before a radiation treatment for cancer. I received an email notification that I had been accepted into my first OPA juried exhibition in about 12 years. Life takes us in different directions at times and I had somehow fallen away from the fold and not submitted my work over that time. But the timing could not have been better for this particular artist at that particular time. I know that it was a tearful moment. The ray of hope that it provided and something to which I could look forward to in an area of so much passion in my life, was so very meaningful to me.



I remember clearly, having travelled to Dallas for that year's National. Among other wonderful experiences from that trip, I recall sitting at a table at a rooftop bar toasting life and the view overlooking downtown with a glass of proscoco. I remember what a great blessing it was yet again, ART..... art community..... and an organization like OPA.

The organization and its wonderful structure of incentivizing artists to produce their best possible works and participate in the community of shared support and knowledge helped provide further goals to me in the gift of my new life after being blessed with the label of "survivor".

Since that time I have been so very fortunate in both my health and my acceptance into these wonderful juried exhibitions and the conferences that allow us to meet others that speak with the same language, support and encourage one another and learn so much along the way. I am honored, blessed and humbled having received this recognition of Master Signature status in Oil Painters of America and I look forward to many more years of being truly inspired and motivated by rubbing elbows with some of the very finest artists living today.

What I have learned over the years and first realized from my father and his art life, is that the greatest gift of being an artist is the people with whom we connect throughout our careers. I have sat with Governors in their homes discussing their portraits, stood in the White House in front of the Official Christmas tree with my art on an ornament on the tree, lived far above my artist's means because of the sharing of so many others who in return only ask me to share beauty with them.

Especially, in this particular time, how much we look forward to attending once again, each others exhibitions and lectures, being a juror or juried or slinging some high chroma hues side by side. Even virtually, my fellow artists are an ever present gift throughout it all.

MARY QIAN OPAM



Mary Qian was born in Shanghai, China where her mother was a physicist and her father was a chemist. However, by the time she was 19 she decided that she did not want to follow in her parents' science-based footsteps but wanted to pursue a career in art. Fortunately, her parents fully supported her desire. Having no classical training in art she knew she would not be able to attend an art college in China so she looked elsewhere for artistic training. Her mother had friends who taught at Brigham Young University in Utah and that is where she applied and was accepted. While studying there she developed her love of western art.

Mary moved to Chicago in 2002 and worked for a video-gaming company creating games during the workday and visiting Chicago's famous Palette and Chisel on weekends. In 2008 she decided to exit the world of video-game creation and devote her life to being a full-time fine artist. She has since become known for landscapes and still lifes, but is mainly known for her tender and thought provoking portraits. She has been an OPA Gold Medal winner as well as a recipient of the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists.

To quote Mary "I feel my art is like an open diary. It records my life, and the life around me. My paintings are my preferred way to explain myself to the world. They speak of the things I don't know how to put into words. I hope viewers will feel what I felt in the moments of painting. See what inspired me!"



CAMILLE PRZEWODEK OPAM

Camille Przewodek's creativity is centered around her excitement over light —“Light as it falls on the landscape at specific times of day and under specific conditions.” In addition to her training at Wayne State University in Detroit and the Academy of Art College in San Francisco, Camille studied color with impressionist master, Henry Hensche, at the Cape School of Art in Provincetown, MA. “My use of color is inspired by color relationships perceived under many varied light schemes. Light itself becomes the subject matter and carries the painting.”

She has written several articles on capturing the light effects of nature for *American Artist*, *International Artist*, *Southwest Art* and *The Artist's* magazines. Her paintings have appeared on posters, wine labels and in national ad campaigns for clients Alfa Romeo, Loews Hotels, and others. Przewodek has received first place awards at the Napa Valley Museum, the American Impressionist Society's Annual Exhibition, and the Sausalito Art Festival. In 2011, she won Easton Plein Air Competition's Grand Prize. She has been a guest artist with the Plein Air Painters of America and is included in the book, *Enchanted Isle, A History of Plein Air Painting in Santa Catalina Island*. Camille is a Signature Member of the Laguna Plein Air Painters, and the California Art Club; a Master Signature Member of American Women Artists, American Impressionist Society, and now Oil Painters of America.

Przewodek teaches and paints throughout the country, and offers workshops close to home at her studio in Petaluma, as well as weekly online classes. In 2010, she was an invited instructor, lecturer, and panelist on the Hensche-Hawthorne approach to seeing and painting color at *American Artist Magazine's* Weekend with the Masters. Camille is one of a handful of contemporary Hensche students teaching the Cape School approach to capturing light in painting, and has been a regularly featured instructor and on-stage demo artist at PleinAir Magazine's Annual Plein Air Convention.

GREG LaROCK OPA A FRIEND TO MANY



It is with great sorrow that we note the tragic passing of well-known artist Greg LaRock OPA. Greg was well known for his great artistic ability to capture light in his paintings, whether they were of landscapes, seascapes or people. He enjoyed plein air painting and was often seen on the bluffs of Laguna Beach painting yet another ocean scene.

Greg won numerous awards for his artwork and his paintings can be found hanging throughout the world. He will long be remembered for his cheerful smile and willingness to share his knowledge and expertise with other artists. His legacy will live on not only through his artwork but also by the donations he made by being a part of the organ donor program.

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DEBORAH TILBY OPAM

Light and shadow is what initially draws me to a subject; the challenge of capturing the mood, time of day, and season in a representational yet loose way is what keeps me painting. My aim, whether it be in the studio or in the field, is to use colour as I see it, with a particular fondness for neutrals and earth colours, soft violets, rusts, and greens. The way the paint goes on is equally as important as what I mix on the palette; my intention is to indicate and represent, without becoming bogged down in the minutiae.

Weathered boats, rusty mailboxes, old brick and textured stone, crashing waves and trees in every season, all afford me the opportunity to explore my interpretation of textures with both brush and knife work.

Accomplishing what I intend never ceases to be difficult, fascinating, and deeply fulfilling. It keeps me painting almost daily!

Painting began for me with my first watercolour at age eighteen. I love watercolour and it held my interest for many years, before I began working with oils. I am Canadian but for fourteen years, England was home and European street scenes and landscapes were my subject. A move to the west coast of British Columbia turned my attention toward the beaches, boats, waves, and marinas of coastal living. Not entirely committed to trading Europe for Canada, I have travelled between the two, keeping my perspective fresh and allowing my work to straddle both continents. I now stick to oils most of the time, only occasionally reaching for my watercolours. I still love watercolour but am drawn to the flexibility, freedom, and richness that oils offer.

I became a painter by way of being an observer – I have always noticed light and shadow, shapes, texture, composition and colour, and endeavouring to interpret my observations through painting has been a lifelong passion. That people choose my work to hang in witness of their lives is a bonus, both wonderful and humbling.

Tilbey is currently represented by Gallery 8, Salt Spring Island, BC and Peninsula Gallery, Sidney, BC. She has been featured in many magazines, most recently *Fine Art Connoisseur* (Feb 2020) and *Circle Foundation for the Arts* (2020). And she has won many awards through 2020 such as the Alden Bryan Memorial Award, AAPL 92 Grand National (2020), Best in Show, Sedona/Gateway Competition (Sept 2020), Best in Show, Sedona/Gateway Competition (July 2020), Best Landscape, Plein Air Salon (June/July 2020), First place, Impressionist Landscape AmerArt Awards (2020), 2nd-tie, Impressionist Landscape AmerArt Awards (2020) and First Place, FCA 365 Exhibition (2020).



SOUTH CAROLINA PAINT OUT VERY WELL ATTENDED

We are happy to report that artists worked hard to safely paint while socially distancing on Edisto Island, South Carolina in October. The OPA and Edisto Plein Air Paint Out turned out to be a huge success with 26 artists participating. A good time was had by all with a People's Choice Award for everyone's efforts.



Courtney Hunt painting and her finished piece



Todd Baxter studying the tree he paints



JAMES W. BRUCE JR, OPA WELL KNOWN IN BOTH THE ART AND FINANCIAL WORLDS

Sadly, we announce the passing of OPA Board Member James W. Bruce Jr. OPA on December 25, 2020. Jim was a long time member of OPA, serving on the Board of Directors since 2010. He brought with him extensive knowledge in not only the art world but also in the financial world. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He spent most of his life in the banking industry with Liberty National Bank and as Chairman and CEO of American Bank Systems.



Jim's had a beautiful tenor voice that graced his Presbyterian Church's choir. And his devotion to music led him to become the President and Director of Canterbury Voices (established to transform lives and inspire communities through choral music).

His art lessons started in Oklahoma at the age of fourteen and were followed by lessons with famous artist Richard V. Goetz, who influenced him greatly. He also studied with artists such as Scott Christensen, David Leffel OPAM, and Sherrie McGraw OPAM.

He won many awards for his still lifes and landscapes and was a member of New York City's prestigious Salma-gundi Club.

We extend our sympathy to Jim's wife, Betty, sons, James W. Bruce III and John C. Bruce, grandchildren, Ellen, Christopher, Ashley and Hannah as well as other family members and friends for their loss.

MEET OUR RECENTLY RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS ZHIWEI TU OPAM AND KONRAD HACK OPA

Zhiwei Tu OPAM is a well known face at OPA exhibitions and conventions as he has been on the Board of Directors since 2001 and served as President from 2005 - 2007.

Tu was born in Northern Guangdong Province in China and spent his childhood working on his family land and attending the local school. When he was in high school he painted a portrait of Mao Zedong, founding father of the People's Republic of China, that caught the attention of his village officials and helped start his artistic career.

Tu earned a B.A degree from Guangzhou Institute of Fine Arts and earned his MFA in 1981. During this time he taught art at the Teaching College of Shiao Guan and at Guangzhou Institute. After moving to the US Tu entered Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, to study Art and English. He traveled throughout the US at that time and eventually moved to Chicago, to become associated with the Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts.



Tu's artistic abilities are so highly regarded by the government of China that the Zhiwei Tu Art Museum housing his work opened its doors in October 2013 on the banks of the North River of Guangdong. The museum consists of over 400 of his drawings, gouaches and oils as well as an art research center.

Tu is best known for his expressive portraits and historical murals which are in collections throughout the world.

Konrad F. Hack OPA has been a member of OPA since it's inception and joined the Board of Directors in 2002. He served as the Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship Chairperson from 2004 through 2018.

Konrad was born in Chicago, Illinois and received his B.F. A. degree from the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Chicago in 1968. In 1989 he received his M.A. degree with honors from Governors State University, in Illinois. From 1970 to 1973 he was a staff artist for W.G.N. TV in Chicago. And he was on the staff of Robert Morris College for a number of years.

Konrad is best known for his work related to military paintings. He served as a combat artist in Vietnam for the Department of Military History in 1968. He continued his career in military-related art and became a founding member of the Chicago, United States Air Force Art Program in 1978. His works appear in many military museums and in the National Air and Space Museum In Washington D.C.

Konrad was the recipient of the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists at the OPA 2011 National Exhibition.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES NEWEST SIGNATURE MEMBERS TO ITS RANKS

The Board of Directors announces the names of 25 new Signature Members. These artists have worked hard to attain this designation by being accepted into various OPA exhibitions and shown proficiency in their art work. Conferees of Signature status are: Mike Beeman, Richard Boyer, Lon Brauer, Jenny Buckner, Joe Ceballos, Barbara Coleman, Judy Crowe, Nikki Davidson, Julie Davis, Vadin Dolgov, Dennis Farris, Cynthia Feustel, D. McGarren Flack, Randy Gallegos, Eric Fei Guan, Rebecca Leer, James Magner, Pam Newell, Barbara Schilling, Frederick D. Somers, Thalia Stratton, Kyle Stuckey, Robin Williamson, Jing Zhao and Ni Zhu.

IN MEMORIAM

With deep sympathy to family and friends, we note the passing of:

James W. Bruce II OPA, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in December, 2020, a member since 1991

Connie Jones of Longwood, Florida, in June, 2020, a member since 2019

Greg LaRock OPA of Orange, California, in October, 2020, a member since 2007



Nominations are being accepted for OPA's first Have a HeART Humanitarian Award. This award has been established to honor OPA members who have used their artistic talents to enrich the lives of others through hands on charitable or volunteer work. The nomination date has been extended through February 15. For more information visit:

<https://blog.oilpaintersofamerica.com/have-a-heart-humanitarian-award/>

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Stephanie Amato's impressionistic style is called to the attention of readers in the Dec/Jan edition of *Southwest Art* in the "Artists to Watch" section.

Paul Batch OPA was one of the "Three to Watch" gifted artists in the February, 2021 issue of *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

Krystal Brown won Second Place in *Fine Art Connoisseur's* first annual Artist & Selfie Painting Competition.

Dan Bulleit's painting *Blue Angel* won the People's Choice Award in the Brown County Art Gallery annual exhibition as well as the Director's Purchase Award. Bulleit is interviewed in the current *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine about what prompted this compelling painting.

John Buxton was pleased to have won the overall top award in the September PleinAir Salon with *At The Gardens, The Melon Gang*. The piece was also accepted into the NO-APS show.

Warren Chang OPAM was a featured artist in the *American Art Collector* January edition, in their article "Behind the Easel".

Nick Eisele presents his insights into his current style of painting in the "Artist Focus" section of the current *American Art Collector* magazine.

Diane Eugster explained in the "Artists to Watch - Stories for all seasons" article in the November issue of *Southwest Art* magazine what prompted her painting the 2020 Western Gold Medal winner *Season of Hope*. The article describes how Eugster creates a feeling of story telling through her paintings.

Cynthia Feustel's successful career in graphic design was followed by studying the Old Masters, as noted in the article about her artwork in the "Three to Watch" section of the December issue of *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

Paula Holtzclaw OPA is a featured artist in the November, *Southwest Art* magazine with an insightful interview that partially explains what has contributed to her growth as an artist.

Doyle Hostetler is considered one of the "Artists to Watch" in the Dec/Jan issue of *Southwest Art* for his "Fresh take on classic subjects".

Susan N. Jarvis's interest in painting common objects is brought to light in the "Artist Focus" section of the Oct./Nov. *American Art Collector*.

Mostafa Keyhani OPA is featured in the article "With Head & Heart" in the November, *Southwest Art* magazine. The article recounts his beginnings at age 5 or 6 asking his parents for drawing materials through his 2019 trip to San Juan Capistrano and the painting he created while there.

Nancy King Mertz explains how "unsightly elements become intriguing shapes" leading to her interesting and exciting paintings. Read about this in the November, *Southwest Art* magazine article "Life in the City".

Tamara Rymer is said to be one of the "Artists to Watch" in the November edition of *Southwest Art*, calling attention to her impressive style of contemporary realism.

Marsha Hamby Savage was one of the featured artists in the "Artist Focus" section of the January issue of *American Art Collector*.

William Schneider OPAM was a featured artist in the Jan./Feb. *Art of the West* magazine. The article traces his history from starting as an art major at the Univ. of IL through his music and investment careers to his current, and first, love of painting.

Paul Schulenburg's work and style is the subject of the 5-page article "Making the Commonplace Extraordinary" in the current edition of *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

Sherry Blanchard Stuart OPA has a solo exhibition at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona through March 18. It is being held in conjunction with The Center for Humanities in Medicine to promote the artful and compassionate delivery of healthcare.

Kyle Stuckey is a featured artist in the November *Southwest Art* in "Starting Young, Staying Fresh". The article tells how he was not interested in being an artist from an early age, but how his direction turned toward art, leading to a successful painting career.

Bill Suys OPA's painting *Elijah At The Bouguereau Show* was awarded First Place in the Living Artist category (Best Painting of a Living Artist) in *Fine Art Connoisseur's* Artists & Selfies painting competition. Two paintings by Suys were chosen to be among 25 Finalists in the competition; also included was Suys' *Perceptions* which became one of five finalists in the Historic Artists category.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2021 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

September - November - 17th 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.

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 2021 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Thirtieth Annual National Juried Exhibition - California Center for the Arts in Escondido, CA

April 9 - May 16

Juror of Awards: Jeffrey W. Watts OPAM

August 24 – 29 - National Convention & Wet Paint Competition - in Santa Fe, NM

More details to be announced as they become available

Thirty-first Annual National Juried Exhibition - Steamboat Art Museum in Steamboat Springs, CO

June 3 - September 4, 2022

REGIONAL & SALON EXHIBITIONS

June 10 - August 7 - Salon Show - Quinlan Visual Arts Center in Gainesville, GA

Canvas Size: not to exceed 864 square inches

Juror of Awards: Charles Young Walls OPA

More details to be announced as they become available

September 10, 11, 12 - 2nd International Virtual Wet Paint Competition

More details to be announced as they become available

TENTATIVE DATES: September 28 – October 22 - Eastern Regional Exhibition - ArtCenter Manatee in Bradenton, FL

More details to be announced as they become available

TENTATIVE DATES: October 15 - November 27 - Western Regional Exhibition - Mark Arts - Mary R. Koch Arts Center in Wichita, KS

More details to be announced as they become available

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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