



THE OPA NATIONAL SALON

EXHIBITION OF SMALL PAINTINGS OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday, July 31

NATIONAL SALON OPENING RECEPTION

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Cassens Fine Art, 215 W Main St, Hamilton, MT

Celebrate the opening of the exhibition from 5:00-7:00 pm and join fellow artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts for an evening of recognition and camaraderie. The Awards Presentation will take place at 5:30 pm Mountain Time, honoring the outstanding achievements of this year's exhibitors. Whether you're seeing your work on the gallery walls, cheering on friends and colleagues, or just wanting to connect with the OPA community, this is a wonderful opportunity to be part of an unforgettable evening of art, inspiration, and celebration.

Saturday, August 1

BEHIND THE EASEL

WITH JAMES CRANDALL OPAM

9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Willow + Sage Event Space, 167 South 2nd Street

During his painting demonstration, attendees will have the opportunity to watch James at work as he develops a painting while sharing insights into his creative process. He will discuss the key elements of a successful painting, including composition, values, color harmony, design, and the use of light to create mood and impact. Drawing on decades of experience as both a concept illustrator and fine artist, James will offer practical insights into his approach and answer questions throughout the demonstration, making this an engaging experience for artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts alike.

FROM PALETTE TO PLATE

12:15 to 2:15 PM

Lunch at Grano, 203 W Main Street

Join us for a relaxed lunch at [Grano](#) in downtown Hamilton. Enjoy great conversation and the opportunity to connect with members of the OPA community in a casual setting. Guests will order directly from the menu and will be responsible for their own bill.



AWARDS JUDGE AND DEMONSTRATION ARTIST

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. An ongoing series of paintings depicts life in his maternal grandfather's hometown of Lucca in northern Tuscany, where 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. He is a Master Signature Member of the Oil Painters of America and a Signature Member of the American Impressionist Society.



Outside the Fruit Shop No. 2 by James Crandall OPAM



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Saturday, August 1 continued

BEHIND THE EASEL

WITH JOHN MICHAEL CARTER OPAM

2:30 to 5:00 PM

Willow + Sage Event Space, 167 South 2nd Street

Join John Michael Carter OPAM for an intimate look at the creation of a portrait from a live model. As he works, Michael will discuss the importance of observation, capturing likeness, and building a strong foundation through drawing and value structure. Known for his classically influenced figurative art, portraits, and landscapes, he will share practical insights gained from decades as a painter. Whether you're interested in portraiture, figure painting, or simply enjoy watching a master artist at work, this demonstration offers a unique opportunity to learn from one of OPA's most accomplished painters.

WINE AND WISDOM

5:15 to 6:30 PM

Cassens Fine Art, 215 W Main Street

Enjoy a glass of wine and gain a unique perspective on this year's award-winning paintings with James Crandall OPAM. As the National Salon Awards Judge, James will share the qualities that distinguished the winning works and offer behind-the-scenes insight into the jurying process where you'll come away with a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship, design, and visual impact that make a painting truly outstanding.



Woodland Rapids by John Michael Carter OPAM

REGISTRATION

All Opening Weekend events are complimentary, and we would love for you to join us. If you plan to attend any of the events, please take a moment to complete the registration form by clicking the button below or visiting the National Salon page on our website.

Advance registration helps OPA and Cassens Fine Art plan accordingly and provide the best possible experience for our guests.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For questions, contact Liz at lpusch@oilpaintersofamerica.com

TRAVEL

Missoula Montana Airport (MSO) is the closest commercial airport. It serves all major airlines and is about a one-hour (50 miles) drive to Hamilton, MT.

Transportation from Missoula to Hamilton, MT is available via car rental, private shuttle, or local rideshare. Because public transit is virtually non-existent between the two cities, planning ahead with a booked service or personal vehicle is highly recommended.

Airport Shuttle

Bitterroot Valley Shuttle provides a premier shared ride shuttle service to and from Hamilton and MSO. Reservations must be made more than 48 hours in advance.

Call or text 406-550-0001, or visit bitterrootvalleyshuttles.com

LODGING

Enjoy the convenience of staying in the heart of Hamilton at City Center Motel, a charming 14-room property located on Main Street. Guests are within walking distance of restaurants, shops, and Cassens Fine Art, making it an ideal home base for the weekend's events. Reservations may be made by phone or online.

CITY CENTER MOTEL

415 West Main Street
Hamilton, MT 59802
(406) 543-3193

[RESERVATIONS](#)

Another comfortable lodging option is Bitterroot River Inn, located approximately two miles from downtown Hamilton.

BITTERROOT RIVER INN

139 Bitterroot Plaza Drive
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 375-2525

[RESERVATIONS](#)