



VIRTUOSOS OF THE OPA

OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday, October 9

VIRTUOSOS OF THE OPA OPENING RECEPTION

6:00 to 8:30 PM

Principle Gallery, 208 King Street, Alexandria, VA

Join us in Alexandria for an evening honoring the artists and exceptional work of the Virtuosos of the OPA. From 6:00–8:30 pm, artists, collectors, and art lovers will gather to enjoy the exhibition, meet fellow members of the OPA community, and celebrate the talent of our artists. At 7:30 pm Eastern, we'll recognize this year's award recipients during the Awards Presentation. Whether you're celebrating your own work, supporting fellow artists, discovering new favorites, or simply enjoying an evening surrounded by art and good company, we hope you'll be there to share in the excitement.



AWARDS JUDGE AND DEMONSTRATION ARTIST

BILL FARNSWORTH OPAM

Bill Farnsworth OPAM is a nationally recognized illustrator and fine artist with more than 40 years of experience. A 1980 graduate of The Ringling School of Art and Design, he enjoyed a successful career as an illustrator before transitioning to fine art. His work reflects his deep appreciation for nature, storytelling, and the beauty of everyday life. He is a Master Signature Member of Oil Painters of America (OPA), the National Oil & Acrylic Painters' Society (NOAPS), and several other prestigious national art organizations. His award-winning paintings have been exhibited in national shows and are held in museums and private collections throughout the United States.

Saturday, October 10

PAINTING WITH PURPOSE WITH BILL FARNSWORTH OPAM

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Principle Gallery, 208 King Street, Alexandria, VA

Join Master Signature Artist Bill Farnsworth OPAM for an inside look at his painting process and the skills he's developed over 40+ years as a professional illustrator and fine artist. Bill will demonstrate how he approaches a painting, sharing insights into composition, design, value, color, and the storytelling elements that bring his subjects to life. Whether you're an artist looking to strengthen your own process or simply curious to see a Master at work, this engaging demonstration offers a unique opportunity to learn from Bill and gain a deeper appreciation for the thought and craftsmanship behind his paintings.

LUNCH AT UNION STREET PUBLIC HOUSE

12:30 to 2:00 PM

Union Street Public House, 203 W Main Street

Join us for lunch at Union Street Public House, a lively Old Town favorite serving American cuisine with a Southern twist. Everyone will order directly from the menu, so you can choose exactly what sounds appetizing. Guests will order directly from the menu and will be responsible for their own bill.



The Flats by Bill Farnsworth OPAM



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Saturday, October 10 continued

PAINTING WITH INTENTION WITH JILL BASHAM OPA

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Principle Gallery, 208 King Street

Join artist Jill Basham OPA for an engaging demonstration and an inside look at her painting technique, from the initial idea through the finished work. As she paints, Jill will share how she responds to her subject, makes decisions about composition, color, value, and design, and allows the painting to evolve throughout the process. She'll offer insights into the choices that shape her work, including when to push a painting further and when to let it speak for itself. This is a wonderful opportunity to watch Jill work firsthand, gain a deeper understanding of her artistic approach, and take away ideas and inspiration to apply to your own painting practice.

WINE AND WISDOM

5:00 to 6:30 PM

Principle Gallery, 215 W Main Street

Enjoy a glass of wine and join Bill Farnsworth OPAM, this year's Awards Judge, for an insider's look at the paintings that captured his attention. Bill will share what caught his eye as he evaluated the work, discussing the artistic choices, craftsmanship, and qualities that set the award-winning paintings apart. You'll gain a fresh perspective on the judging process and a closer look at what makes a painting compelling, memorable, and worthy of recognition.



Over Yonder by Jill Basham OPA

DEMONSTRATION ARTIST JILL BASHAM OPA

Jill Basham OPA is inspired by nature's beauty and atmosphere, drawn to how light, skies, and expansive views capture the feeling of a place. Embracing experimentation, she works with brushes, palette knives, and unexpected tools, allowing each painting to evolve in its own direction. The goal is to create more than a representation of a scene, but to capture its mood, emotion, and story, and invite viewers to not only see the place, but feel it.

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 Virtuosos of the OPA page on our website.

Advance registration helps OPA and Principle Gallery plan accordingly and provide the best possible experience for our guests.

REGISTER HERE

For questions, contact Liz at
lpusch@oilpaintersofamerica.com

TRAVEL

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) is the closest commercial airport, located approximately 4 miles (about a 10-minute drive) from Old Town Alexandria. DCA is served by all major airlines.

Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) is another option and is approximately a 40-minute drive from Old Town Alexandria.

Transportation from either airport to Old Town is available by rental car, private shuttle, public transportation, or rideshare services.

LODGING

For a convenient stay close to Principle Gallery, OPA recommends Hampton Inn & Suites Alexandria Old Town. The hotel offers a complimentary hot breakfast and is only a 10-minute drive.

HAMPTON INN & SUITES ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

5821 Richmond Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22303
(703) 329-1400

RESERVATIONS