

BrushStrokes

Volume 19, Issue 1

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2009



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

A Not-For-Profit Corporation

Established in 1991

OPA PRESENTS ANOTHER OUSTANDING EASTERN REGIONAL SHOW

OPA was pleased to hold its 2008 Eastern Regional Exhibition at Richland Fine Art October 17 – November 15, 2008. Much is written about Nashville, Tennessee, and with good reason. This southern city has a lot to boast about – legendary for its music, unbelievable southern food, and a thriving center of cultural activity. It's no wonder that this mid-size city is on the map as one of the best places to live.

Beautiful and well appointed, Richland Gallery was well suited to host this premier art event. The gallery's rich and varied wall colorings, coupled with the lighting created a warm and elegant feel to the gallery. Each individual painting was placed on the wall best suited for its coloring – the overall affect was striking.

This year's Juror of Awards was Master Signature member David Hettinger. Tennessee native Charles Cox, was incredulous as he made his way forward to accept congratulations for his well deserved Best of Show win for his painting, "Richland Creek Idyll."



Best of Show winner "Richland Creek Idyll"
painted by Charles T. Cox

After Friday evening's awards presentation, artists were invited to attend a dinner at Macke's Restaurant just a few doors down from Richland Gallery. The food was outstanding and everyone had a wonderful time meeting other artists from across the Eastern Region.

On Saturday, artists were asked to join in on a paint out at the historic Belle Meade Plantation, considered to be "the Queen of Tennessee Plantations." Exemplifying the grandeur of the South's Greek Revival ante-bellem architecture, Belle Meade offered artists a variety of subject matter to paint including an 1853 mansion, 1790 log cabin, 1890 carriage house and stables, along with winding streams, and bridges. Artists took a short break and met for lunch at the plantation's restaurant. A good time was had by all.

Special thanks to Richland Gallery owner Clay Whitelaw and Director Anne Laine Goad who did a magnificent job from start to finish. Clay's talented wife, artist Dawn E. Whitelaw takes credit for organizing Saturday's paint out. The gallery also had a familiar face helping – Tammy Teefi Conti from Brazier Fine Art came all the way from Richmond, Virginia to lend a hand. Thanks so much, we appreciate all of your efforts!

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Eastern Regional con't.

The 2008 Eastern Regional Winners are:

Best of Show- Charles T. Cox for "Richland Creek Idyll" - \$4000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Best Master Signature Member- Zhiwei Tu OPAM for "Veteran" - \$3,500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Best Signature Member- William A. Schneider OPA for "Vermilion Reverie" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Best Associate Member- Wanda Choate for "Magdelen" - \$1,000 funded by OPA



William A. Schneider OPA won the Award of Excellence — Best Signature Member Award for his painting "Vermilion Reverie" funded by OPA

Barnsite Art Gallery and The Kewaunee Academy of Fine Art Award of Excellence — Terry T. Norris for "Camellia in Ball Jar" - Solid Oak Pastel/Oil Easel

Award of Excellence - Glenn F. Harrington for "Argilite" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Carol Lee Thompson for "Lusheng Player" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Frank A. Emrick for "Reincarnation" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence - Jeffrey D. Hargreaves for "Homage" - \$500 funded by OPA.



"Magdelen" painted by Wanda Choate won The Award of Excellence - Best Associate Member funded by OPA



"Homage" painted by Jeffrey D. Hargreaves won an Award Of Excellence funded by OPA



The Barnsite Art Gallery and The Kewaunee Academy of Fine Art Award of Excellence was given to Terry T. Norris for "Camellia in Ball Jar"



JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT

BY David Hettinger OPAM

Being the Juror Of Awards was a pleasure. I cannot think of a better way to spend a day than looking at great art, and this year's Eastern Regional Show was filled with great art. Before getting down to the business of selecting those paintings for awards, I took in the show for two hours as just another art lover. Richland Gallery did a wonderful job of hanging the artwork, each painting was displayed perfectly for viewing, making my job so much easier. I thank Richland Gallery for that.

Selecting the award winners was a bit difficult with all of the fine work in this year's exhibition. Design was upper most in my mind when I began the process of judging each work of art. I took into consideration color harmony, use of medium, composition, drawing and use of light. Subject

matter and style did not play in the process for selection of awards. Subjects affect viewers differently, and it is the same for jurors of awards. Looking at the show simply as a viewer for two hours frees me of the desire to bestow an award on a painting for it's subject matter alone.

Thinking as a juror, I began looking at each painting, looking for good design and composition narrowing the number of those I thought should get an award down till I had just one. That one received the top award. Then back tracking I gave out awards as I went, until I ran out of awards.

At the opening reception I met some wonderful artists, exchanged ideas, learned new things and just plain had a great time. OPA members are warm, generous people — of course they're artists.

David P. Hettinger OPAM



Zhiwei Tu OPAM won the Award of Excellence — Best Master Signature Member for his painting "Veteran" funded by OPA



Frank A. Emrick's painting "Reincarnation" won an Award of Excellence funded by OPA



"Lusheng Player" painted by Carol Lee Thompson won an Award of Excellence funded by OPA

MEET THE ARTIST

Charles Thomas Cox

Charles Thomas Cox developed a passionate interest in art while in high school in Chattanooga, Tennessee. During this time he was very active in the school's art club and won a number of local and regional art awards.

Determining on a career in art, he pursued his education at David Lipscomb, Ringling School of Art, Watkins Institute, and U. T. Nashville Extension, acquiring a B. A. in art from Lipscomb. He taught painting at Lipscomb and had among his students, Dawn Whitelaw, a well known painter and portraitist. Also during this time he had two one man shows at the Parthenon in Nashville, Tennessee, which received high praise from local critic, Clara Hieronymous, and was well-received by the public.

Cox then embarked on a long career as an illustrator, working for ad agencies and publishing houses in



Nashville, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and New York, and winning awards given by judges such as Bernie Fuchs and Bob Peak. Illustrations he did during these years are in the permanent collection of the Baptist Board.

Ten years ago Cox retired from illustrating in order to paint full time, and has since sold virtually everything he has painted.

Although he has not emphasized entering contests he has won a First in Oil and a Best of Show at

the Central South Show, and a first in Oil at the Tennessee Art League, along with awards at the Motorola Regional and Tennessee State Fair.

He counts among colleagues and friends acclaimed portraitist and painter Michael Shane Neal, and New York illustrator and painter Neal McPheeters.

His favorite artists are John Singer Sargent, Velasquez, Degas, and Corot, among others, and his painting style is painterly-realistic, with an emphasis on accurate drawing and tones, entertaining brushwork, good surface quality, enjoyable details, careful choice of subject, and rich color.

With his wife, Joyce, he travels each year in Europe, especially in France and Italy, searching for subjects. His paintings have been in collections at Vanderbilt University, David Lipscomb University, Cheekwood, and several banks, as well as in private and corporate collections around the country.



Glenn F. Harrington's painting "Argilite" won an Award of Excellence funded by OPA



Director Anne Laine Goad and Richland Fine Art owner Clay Whitelaw admire Charles Cox's award winning painting

Make Preliminary Drawings The First Step In Your Portrait Process and Get the Painting Right the First Time

By Joyce Pike OPAM

Every portrait painting is the result of a series of steps. Some artists have fewer steps than others, and most artists are eager to grab their paints and dive right into the color process. But those who simply pose their model and start painting are taking a lot of chances, such as improperly placing the model on the canvas or discovering a more interesting pose once you've already begun. After many hours of your hard work and your model's patient posing, you don't want to wipe it all off and start over again.

That's why preliminary drawings are such an effective portrait tool—because they help solve problems before they happen. Drawings let you map out your subject and get acquainted with all the hidden things you'll need to know about him or her. Take bone structure, for instance—every skull is similar, but there are always subtle variations that can make a big difference in the portrait. You must be as aware of the unseen side of your subject as you are of the visible side. If you're guessing, the viewer will know it.

Use drawings to get to know your subject before you begin the actual portrait. For some artists this may take no more than a few sketches and suggested values.

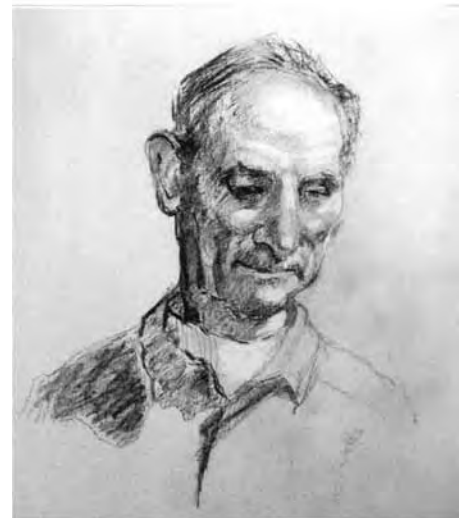
This kind of familiarity also pays off because with a live model, no

matter how good a model he or she is, your subject is frequently changing. There are many muscles in the human head, more than in any other part of the body, and nearly all of them move when the expression changes on the subject's face. If you can learn something about what muscles made the expression you want, then you can compensate for subtle changes (A smile, for instance, consists of much more than just upturned corners of the mouth.)

Put a little preparation into each portrait you do by starting off with preliminary drawings. You'll soon find that a little investment up front can save you a lot of trouble later on, and it brings an important step closer to making your portraits the best they can be.

I have a good friend, Frank, who has wonderful bone structure. Every bone is right up front where I can see it. I snapped two photos of him, not pretty, smiley photos, but character studies. I wanted to show his bones and wrinkles off to their greatest advantage.

Portrait Pointer: when you can't find a model who is willing to sit for several hours, go for photography. Be ready with your camera when a great face comes your way. Just remember, don't just copy the photo, study the bone structure and value patterns the same as you would when using a live model. Measuring is very necessary. Remember, every skull is different. Don't generalize. Drawing is not only necessary to portraiture but a beautiful and fun form of art.



OPA Gearing Up for 18th National Juried Exhibition

Oil Painters of America is off to a great start this year as we prepare for our 18th Annual Juried Exhibition of Traditional Oils, to be held at Sage Creek Gallery, May 1 – 31, 2009, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As usual, artists are hoping to not only get into the show but win one of several awards being handed out during the opening weekend including this year's top prize, the American National Award of Excellence, valued at \$22,000.

Despite the problems OPA encountered with its on-line jurying system, the number of entries exceeded last year at a whopping twenty four hundred entries.

"This competition brings out the best of the best," said OPA president Neil Patterson, "which makes for an exciting exhibition that is unrivaled in its quality."

A series of educational events are planned that coincide with the opening of the exhibition, May 1 – 3, 2009. OPA boasts an all star line-up of artists, including Master Signature

Members Kevin Macpherson, Albert Handell, Nancy S. Crookston, Joan Potter and Calvin Liang. Joining the line-up is well-known artist website guru Clint Watson from Fine Art Studio On Line, veteran photographer, Thomas Schmidt, and artist and movie producer George Gallo.

Master Signature painter and this year's Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson will start this year's events with a highly anticipated demonstration Friday morning. Mr. Macpherson is one of the country's leading plein air painters and highly respected among collectors and fellow artists alike. Friday afternoon gets underway with the Distinguished Artist Series which features two of the finest women artists of today: Nancy S. Crookston OPAM and Joan Potter OPAM. Allan Duerr, co-publisher of *Art of the West Magazine* will have the distinct pleasure of interviewing these two remarkable women and providing us with a more in-depth look into their ca-

reers and what advice they have for upcoming artists. Later that day, members can view the work of Albert Handell OPAM, one of the country's premier pastel and oil painters, who will conduct a slide presentation of his work. As tradition dictates, Friday night marks the opening of the exhibition at Sage Creek Gallery and culminates with the awards ceremony at Santa Fe's historic La Fonda Hotel.

Saturday's events include a painting demonstration by powerhouse artist Calvin Liang OPAM, who has wowed both artists and collectors with his California seascapes. Later, Clint Watson, founder of Fine Art Studio On-Line will talk about "Art Marketing Conversations." This presentation will touch on all of the latest technology available including Twitter, Facebook, Blogs, websites, email and other innovative tools. Learn which online tools and sites you should be utilizing and where traditional art galleries fit into this mix.



Dick (L) and Norma Bell (R), accompanied by Juror of Awards David Hettinger OPAM, congratulate award winner Terry T. Norris



OPA member Eulejio Ortega painting under the bridge at Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville, Tennessee

18th National con't.

Wrapping up the day's events will be photographer Tom Schmidt who will address "How to Photograph Your Own Artwork." After a highly successful career as a chemist, Mr. Schmidt has turned his lifelong passion for photography into a successful business which specializes in photographing art work for artists.

On Saturday evening OPA members and guests will have the pleasure of meeting artist and movie producer George Gallo who will talk about his latest film, "Local Color," followed by a sneak preview of the yet to be released movie. Based on his own life, Mr. Gallo has created a heartwarming movie about a young artist whose passion to paint takes

him on an emotional and life affirming journey. The movie features an impressive cast including Ray Liotta, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Ron Perlman and young Trevor Morgan. Film Critic Jami Bernard from the NY Daily News says, "Filmmaker George Gallo has reached into his soul to make this deeply heartfelt story. Local color is funny, angry and totally human - with resonance for everyone who dares to dream."

Other important events over the weekend include an art critique session on Friday, free painting demonstrations on Saturday by some of OPA's most recognized artists and plein air painting on Sunday. All events are open to the public.

As always, OPA has a strong lineup of participating Master Signature members including Kevin Macpherson, Calvin Liang, Joyce Pike, Albert Handell, Thomas S. Buechner, Jeffrey R. Watts, David Hettinger, David Leffel, Jeff Legg, Huihan Liu, Craig Tennant, Neil Patterson, Joan Potter, William Chambers, Steven Lang, Nancy S. Crookston, Zhiwei Tu, Ruo Li, Sherrie McGraw, William Reese and Ramon Kelley.

Gallery viewing hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday through Saturday.

For more information on how to register for these events or view any of the paintings for sale, please contact OPA at 815-356-0987 or go to: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com.



Board Member Ken Cadwallader OPA, award winner Jeffrey D. Hargreaves and David Hettinger OPAM



Artist Scott Boyle and his wife, Esther, enjoy socializing while at the reception

CRITIQUES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

OPA is now offering a critique service thanks to the many wonderful Signature and Master Signature members who have volunteered to help us with this endeavor. If you would like to have your work critiqued, please mail to OPA two identical discs containing 3-10 paintings of your most current work, a brief one-page bio along with a \$25 check payable to OPA. The service will also be available to non-OPA members at a cost of \$50. One disc will be sent to one of our Signature or Master Signature members for their review and the other will be kept on file. The volunteer critiquer will review your work and provide you with constructive criticism and feedback. As you know, our volunteer critiquers are very busy, so please allow four to six weeks to receive feedback.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RUO LI OPA'S NEWEST MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBER

Ruo Li was born in 1954, in Hunan, China. He came from a Christian family and his grandfather was a very influential pastor in the area. Before the Communists took power in 1949, Western Christian commissioners often visited his grandfather's home. As the youngest of the five children in the family, Ruo received a lot of love but his happy years didn't last very long. When Ruo was three years old, his father, a former nationalist army officer and a graduate from the famous Huang-pu Military Academy, was labeled as being "rightist" and was sent to the countryside. Although his parents did not divorce, they never lived together again. Ruo and his four brothers and sisters were raised by his mother alone. Being a vice principal of an elementary school, his mother had a fairly decent income. But it was not enough to raise her five young children. As a result, Ruo grew up under very poor conditions.

Ruo Li's life long journey of art started from home. When he was about ten years old, his elder brother, noticed Ruo could draw well. So he started to teach him some basic drawing skills. When Ruo entered middle school, he was



allowed to attend an art club and received further training from a very strict but warm-hearted art teacher. During the Cultural Revolution, high school graduates were sent to the countryside to receive "second education" from the poor and illiterate peasants. Fortunately, Ruo did not have to go. Having the highest test score, Ruo entered the Light Industry Arts and Crafts School after graduating from high school. Five years later, when the so-called "Cultural Revolution" finally ended in 1977, universities and art academies started entrance examinations again. Hundreds of thousands of young men and women tried to seize their last chance to go to college. And it was very competitive and Ruo was one of the three lucky ones in Hunan Province, accepted into the prestigious Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art where he received four-years of formal training in Western

style painting.

Before leaving for America to attend a personal art show in 1989, he taught for eight years in the Fine Art Department of Henan University. He was the Vice Director of the Teaching and Researching Committee of the Art Department, the youngest ever appointed, and well on his way to becoming an associate professor. However his trip to the United States changed the direction of his life. Shortly after his arrival, the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. All Chinese students and visitors, who were inside the United States at the time, were allowed to stay. Ruo eventually settled in California. The beauty of the West Coast, the convenience of the Chinese community and comfortable weather all contributed to his decision to choose the Los Angeles area as his new home. By 1994, five years after Ruo Li arrived at his second homeland, *U.S. Art Magazine* selected him as one of the top ten artists in the country to watch.

During the last 20 years, although his English is limited, he has supported many social activities and public groups by donating his art works to them.

SIGNATURE MEMBERS EARN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Becoming a Signature Member of OPA is not an easy feat. To qualify for consideration for this title an Associate Member must have demonstrated exceptional merit and have exhibited in either 1.) three national OPA exhibitions or

2.) two national OPA exhibitions and three OPA regional shows within the last five years. Artists must show an overall consistently outstanding quality of painting. Congratulations to: Harry Ahn, Ebrahim Amin, Steve Atkinson,

Wanda Choate, Jim Connelly, C. Michael Dudash, Michael Mao, Terry Norris, Richard Prather, Brian Slawson, Hodges Soileau, Qiushen Wei and Shi Zhong Yan for achieving this distinction.

**Workshop Review by 2008
Shirl Smithson Memorial
Scholarship Winner
Michael Chesley Johnson**

I was very pleased to be selected as one of the 2008 Shirl Smithson Scholarship winners this past year. For my workshop, I chose a week in October with Lois Griffel at the Acadia Workshop Center in Southwest Harbor, Maine. For those of you who don't know Lois, she was the third and final director of the well-known Cape Cod School of Art, having inherited the mantle from Henry Hensche, who in turn inherited it from founder Charles Hawthorne. The School closed a few years ago, but Lois is still actively teaching the impressionist techniques she learned from Hensche. As a painter who works mostly in a "contemporary realist" style, I was excited with the prospect of bringing a different approach to color in my work.

Southwest Harbor is on Mount Desert Island, which is home to Acadia National Park. In early October, the fall foliage hits its peak, and we were blessed with particularly spectacular foliage around some of the interior lakes and ponds. These colorful vistas were well-suited to Lois' approach. Basically, two concepts rule. First, if you stare long enough at a field of color, you'll begin to see a bit of that color's complement. Second, shadow color tends to show the complement of the light source, mixed in with the local color of the shadow area. To put these concepts into practice, it doesn't matter which order the color goes down in. You can either lay in the local color first, followed by the complement; or you can reverse the order. It's very important, though, that the values be exactly the same. The effect can be really stunning when you're working with complements like pink and green or orange and blue!



Painting at Southwest Harbor on Mount Desert Island

Lois has long worked with a knife, but lately she's taken to using the brush. I found that, although I use the brush exclusively in my own work, this week I actually preferred the knife. The knife lays down color rich and clean without stirring up the underlying complement and making mud. I enjoyed playing with the knife that week, and I have made it a permanent tool in my kit.

I want to express my thanks to the Shirl Smithson family and to OPA for giving me this wonderful opportunity with Lois.



About 50 painters participated in the Fredericksburg, TX Great Paint Out on November 15, some traveling as far as 340 miles to enjoy the sunny weather and great hospitality of Roger and Sherrill Winter

**FIFTH ANNUAL GREAT
PAINT OUT**

Calling all volunteers! This year will mark the Fifth Annual Great Paint Out — a wonderful opportunity to meet oil painters in your area. Don't wait for someone else to do it! If you are enthusiastic and good at organizing, then we are looking for you. To find out more about what is involved, please e-mail to: mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com.



Gyp Hills, west of Medicine Lodge, KS was the site of the October 25 Great Paint Out in Kansas. After a day of painting, the artists met at the Caroline Norton Studio to view the results of the day's efforts

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scholarship Applications

This year the Shirl Smithson Scholarship will be awarded to four OPA members with \$500 each to be used at a workshop on representational art. Suggested locations include Barnsite Art Studio & Gallery, Fechin Art Workshops, the Scottsdale Artist's School, and the Fredericksburg Artist's School.

By December 1, potential recipients should submit a written request together with an artist's statement, artist's resume and six representational slides, or a CD, of his/her work. The request should be sent to the OPA General Office and designated "Scholarship Application".

Master Signature Status

Congratulations to Ruo Li OPAM who was recently awarded OPA's Master Signature designation.

Signature Status

The following artists have been elevated to the level of Signature Member in OPA: Harry Ahn, Ebrahim Amin, Steve Atkinson, Wanda Choate, Jim Connelly, C. Michael Dudash, Michael Mao, Terry Norris, Richard Prather, Brian Slawson, Hodges Soileau, Qiushen Wei and Shi Zhong Yan. Congratulations to all!

Annual Business Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual General Business Meeting of OPA on Sunday, May 3 at 7:30 a.m. at the La Fonda Hotel, 100 E. San

Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. This is your opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, learn more about OPA activities, participate in the annual election of directors, ask questions and offer suggestions. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Board members are elected for staggered two-year terms. The following slate of candidates will be submitted for election this May.

Neil Patterson OPAM is an internationally acclaimed artist and workshop instructor. He has been among the "Top 100" and "Top 200" in the Arts for the Parks competition on several occasions. Neil resides in Alberta, Canada. He joined the Board in 2002 and currently serves as OPA President and Co-chairs the Gallery Selection Committee. Prior to becoming president, Patterson served as Vice-President and Chairman of the Signature Advisory Committee.

Betty Schmidt joined the Board in 1998 and has served in several positions including Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Betty currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer. Oil Painting became her primary interest after retirement as Finance Director of the City of Park Ridge, Illinois in 1993. She has participated in numerous art shows locally and nationally.

Scott Tallman Powers OPA joined OPA's Board of Directors in 2004. He is a graduate of Chicago's American Academy of Art and The Palette & Chisel Academy of Fine Art. Scott is Chair of the Jury Selection Committee. He also serves as OPA's Show Demonstration Coordinator and is an integral part of the National Show, working with the many volunteer artists participating in the show, as well as heading up the plein air painting events.

Past President, **Zhiwei Tu OPAM** has been a member of OPA since 1993 and joined the Board of Directors in 2000. Tu is recognized internationally for his figurative painting. He has won many awards, including the American national Award at the 1998 OPA exhibition.

Ken Cadwallader OPA is the newest member to join the OPA Board of Directors. He is a Signature Member of OPA. Ken is a graduate of Kendall College of Art & Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also attended Royal College of Arts in London, the Palette and Chisel Academy and the Loveland Academy of Fine Art. Ken has participated in many prestigious shows such as the Arts for the Parks, Oil Painters of America, and Portrait Society of America, receiving awards in all. Ken served as the Chair of the OPA Critique Committee from 2006-2008 and is now serving as Chair of the Program Committee.

A REMINDER

You may renew your membership, revise your information (such as mailing address) or order past catalogs on-line by contacting OPA at: <http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com>.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE

NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Amery Bohling received the Alden Bryan Memorial Award for Traditional Landscape Painting for "The Darkness and the Light" at the Allied Artists of America Exhibition in New York City in November 2008.

Deborah Deonigi was interviewed for an article that appears in the January, 2009 issue of *American Art Collectors* magazine. Deb is also one of two featured artists for the Cole Gallery's anniversary show.

Mark Downey was the winner of the 40th annual "Viewpoint" national juried competition, sponsored by the Cincinnati Art Club for his painting "Nene's Paradise".

Hulan Fleming won a Best of Show award at the 2008 Historic Ritzville Days Western Art Show. He also won an award in the 2008 Paint the Park 100 Competition for his painting "Edge of the Glades".

To find out about Air Force art go to www.wbez.org to read a radio interview with **Konrad Hack OPA** about the Air Force Artists of 2008 exhibit at the Gallery of the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago. If you have high-speed connection you can listen to the actual radio interview.

Steve Henderson was recently accepted as a member of the Western Art Association in Ellensburg, WA. Two of his paintings were selected to be part of the auction held during the 37th Annual Ellensburg National Art Show and Auction and will hang in the Clymer Museum of Art.

Debra Huse was recently accepted in the Yosemite Renaissance XXIV annual exhibition that celebrates diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite.

Anna T. Kelly's painting "Float Tent, Rose Bowl" was named the Museum Purchase Award winner in the Contemporary Masters, Artistic Eden II: Scenes of Contemporary Life in the San Gabriel Valley fine art exhibition. It is on display at the History Center Galleries at Pasadena Museum of History.

Jack Koonce won a Purchase Award from the Bennington Center for the Arts for his painting "Banana Tiger Dance". The painting will now be part of the museum's permanent collection.

Elayne Kuehler is hosting an exhibition at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts with 27 pieces of new art being shown.

Barney Levitt was juried into Salon International 2009, an exhibition hosted by Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art and will be featured in *American Art Collector Magazine*. Barney was also selected for the Patron's Choice Show by the Copley Society of Art, Boston, MA.

Deon Matzen won the Rogue Guirey Simpson Memorial Award for her painting "The Watercarrier" at the American Women Artists national competition.

September McGee has been accepted into eleven national/international shows since January, 2008 and has received six show awards for her entries.

Betty Nash recently presented a solo show of still life oil painting at the Verizon Gallery in Irving, TX.

Cathy Pitts won first place in the Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation National Competition. Her works will be showcased at the Hollis Taggart Gallery in New York City on June 7.

Ron Sanders received Top 100, Mini Top 50 and 2nd 100 honors in the 2nd annual Paint America Top 100 National Exhibition. He also won Top 100 and 2nd Mini Top 50 honors in the 2008 Paint the Parks national Competition. Ron's "Triple Self Portrait" was featured in the National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society 18th Annual "Best of America" 2008 Exhibition.

Grace Schlesier received the Third Annual Paint America Top 100's highest recognition for outstanding quality and depiction of America for "Light and Shadow".

Kay E. Witherspoon was selected to paint 25 original aspen landscape oil paintings for installation at the Residences at The Little Nell, a complex of 26 condominium properties on the Aspen Mountain Gondola Plaza.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1 – Deadline for submission for 2009 Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is having been juried into three OPA National Exhibitions OR two National and three Regional Exhibitions within the last five years..

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2009 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

December 1 - Deadline for submission for 2010 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

National Shows

May 1 – May 31, 2009 Eighteenth Annual National Juried Exhibition at Sage Creek Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM.

Regional Shows

August 6 - August 30, 2009 Western Regional Juried Exhibition at Howard/Mandville Gallery in Kirkland, Washington

November, 2009 - Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition at Corse Gallery & Atelier in Jacksonville, Florida

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