

EASTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION ANNOUNCES WINNERS

Members who had the opportunity to attend the 2010 Eastern Regional Show held October 15 through November 13 at Walls Gallery in Wilmington, North Carolina were in for a real treat. Owners Nancy Marshall and David Leadman worked tirelessly to provide OPA members with a non-stop, pack-filled weekend full of demonstrations and presentations.

Top billing went to OPA Master Signature member Charles Movalli, who spent the better part of the weekend skillfully fielding questions from eager participants. With a keen ability to impart knowledge while keeping things lively and entertaining, Charles lead off with a fascinating slide presentation discussing the old

An integral part of the weekend's success can be attributed to OPA Signature members Tom Bluemlein OPA and Howard Friedland OPA who gave audience members informative and interesting demonstrations. Both illustrated their unique painting styles that have

Masters.

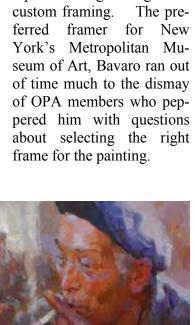


"What Dreams May Come" won the Associate and Signature Division Gold Medal for Kevin C. Beilfuss

made them successful, award winning artists. OPA president Neil Patterson OPAM was on hand to dispense helpful advice during an informative Q&A session on Saturday. Immediately following, artists were able to seek further counsel from Neil and his fellow cohorts.

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Owner

of

Frames, Marcelo Bavaro

discussed the history of

framing, as well as other

topics relating to high end

Ouebracho

Master Signature Division Gold Medal winner "A Good Smoke" painted by Kevin Macpherson OPAM

Eastern Exhibition con't.

However, the real show-stopper was the artwork itself. Every painting in the show was deserving of a space and what a space it was! A last minute change authorized by the OPA Board of Directors had Walls Gallery capitalize on a terrific opportunity to house the exhibit in Wilmington's affluent Mayfair Town Center. A premium location, with enormous wide open space was turned into a high end gallery by a bevy of volunteers, friends and family of Nancy and In short, it was simply David. spectacular!

Charles Movalli had no easy task selecting the winners, but with careful thought he was able to pick this year's award winners. This year's Gold Medal award winner in the Associate/Signature Division was Kevin Beilfuss for his stunning painting, "What Dreams May Come." In the Master Division Kevin Macpherson OPAM took home top honors for his painting, "A Good Smoke."

Congratulations to the 2010 Eastern Regional winners:

Gold Medal Winner – Associate/ Signature Division

Kevin Beilfuss for "What Dreams May Come" \$4,000 funded by OPA

Gold Medal Winner – Master Signature Division

Kevin Macpherson OPAM for "A Good Smoke" \$3,500 funded by OPA

Silver Medal Winner

Timur D. Akhriev for "Silence" \$1,000 funded by OPA

Bronze Medal Winner

Yan Sun OPA for "Boats at the Harbor" \$1,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence Winners:

Cameron D. Smith for "A Moment's Rest" \$500 funded by OPA

Michael Dudash for "Rahab" \$500 funded by OPA

Daud M. Akhriev for "Herd" \$500 funded by OPA

Xiao S. Jiang for "Boat Place" \$500 funded by OPA



"Boats at the Harbor" painted by Yan Sun OPA won the Bronze medal



Cameron D. Smith won an OPA Award of Excellence for "A Moment's Rest"



Artists and guests took time away from enjoying the exhibition for a group photo



JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT By Charles Movalli OPAM

It would be a lot easier for everyone concerned if there were specific criteria for the judging of an art show: a list of, say, ten qualities that all good pictures should possess. But, unfortunately, there aren't. Some works break all the "rules" yet brim with life, while others follow the "rules" and lack all vitality. The latter are what Sir Joshua Reynolds refers to as paintings seen with "admiration in the mouth and indifference in the heart". So all a judge--or at least this judge--can bring to the job is a lifetime of looking at paintings, thinking about them, and doing them. This experience then reacts to the personal and mysterious qualities in a particular painting. Two judges, with different experiences, might view the same show and pick entirely different prize winners. That's why shows are usually judged by one artist or three--but never two. Not if the proceedings are to proceed peacefully! In this case, even the one judge had a hard time, since the work was so varied--and so good. Getting into a show of this sort is a prize in itself. All participants should be proud of their accomplishment, whether prize winners or not.



The Silver Medal winner was Timur D. Akhriev for his painting "Silence"



Michael Dudash won an OPA Award of Excellence for his painting "Rahab"



"Boat Place" won Xiao S. Jiang an OPA Award of Excellence

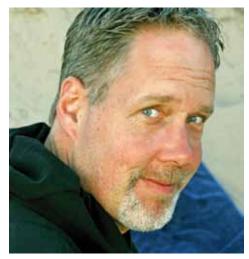


An OPA Award of Excellence was won by Daud M. Akhriev for his painting "Herd"

MEET THE WINNER Kevin Beilfuss

After graduating from Illinois State University and the American Academy of Art, Kevin set out on a free-lance illustration career which lasted thirteen years. Working mainly in the editorial area of illustration, his work consisted mostly of paintings for book covers and magazines. Some of his clients included: Penguin Publishing, Houghton Mifflin, Harlequin, Signs of the Times, Guideposts, Readers Digest, and Golf Digest.

"I had always dreamed of becoming an illustrator," explains the artist. "But the demands of painting someone else's ideas finally took it's toll. I decided that life is too short and that I had to paint from my heart. We're only given one chance at life, and I had to paint what was important to me. What's im-



portant to me", says Kevin, "is that I try to capture a little of what God has already created, in each of my paintings. One can obviously see the beauty in God's creation in the landscape, but for me it is even more profound when I see and experience that beauty in people. There is always something new and awe-inspiring to discover when painting the human figure."

Kevin's work has been the subject of several one man shows as well as being included in such prestigious annual shows as the Oil Painters of America (Regional & National Exhibitions), The Great American Figurative Shows (Waterhouse Gallery, Santa Barbara), and Salon International (Greenhouse Gallery, San Antonio). Kevin's award winning artwork can be seen at galleries throughout the U.S. Kevin has won the Peoples Choice Award and an Award for Excellence at the OPA Eastern Regional Exhibitions in 2008, and 2009. He most recently received the Award for Excellence in Figurative Painting at the 2010 OPA National Exhibition.

Kevin resides in the Chicago area with his wife Janice, and his son Drew.



Howard Friedland OPA answering questions regarding his demonstration piece



Juror of Awards Charles Movalli OPAM explains his jurying procedure at the awards ceremony



Tom Bluemlein OPA captivates his audience while describing his painting technique

Calling All Associate Members! OPA's Announces its New On-line Associate Showcase Richard H. Driehaus Funds \$5,000 Top Prize

Once again artist and philanthropist Dorothy Mellin Driehaus is providing OPA with critical funding, this time to launch its first on-line contest for Associate members. The on-line contest is currently under development and we hope it will be ready by this spring. OPA is also working in conjunction with another great supporter, Clint Watson of Fine Art Studio On-line. Clint is lending OPA his expertise in the

development of the software having launched his own successful contest Bold Brush.

A huge supporter of traditional, representational art, Mrs. Mellin is helping OPA to fund this new contest in the hopes that it will continue to highlight the importance of representational art and to provide artists with another means to gain recognition and support. In

addition to \$3,000 to be used for start up costs, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation has generously provided \$5,000 to be awarded to the winner of our first contest.

Since 2009, Ms. Mellin and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation have provided a generous \$20,000 Fellowship for an artist residing in the Midwest. Past winners of this prestigious award include Mary Qian and Jacquelyn Bischak.



Drew Leadman holds Award of Excellence winning painting, "Herd" by Daud M. Akhriev



Artists Martin Pate, Charles Young Walls and David Boyd Jr. gather to view Pate's painting "Ouiet Power"



Gallery owner David Leadman holds "Rahab", winner of an OPA Award of Excellence, painted by Michael Dudash

CRITIQUES AVAILABLE

Remember that OPA has a critique service made available through the donation of the services of many of our Signature and Master Signature members. To have you work critiqued, mail OPA 2 identical discs containing 3-10 images of your most current work, a brief one-page bio and a \$25 check payable to OPA. The service is also available to non-OPA members at a cost of \$50. One disc is sent to a Signature or Master Signature member for review and the other will be kept on file. The volunteer critiquer will review your work and provide you with constructive criticism and feedback. Please allow four to six weeks to receive feedback.

Mark Your Calendars OPA Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary June 6 – June 12, 2011



Oil Painters of America celebrates its 20th Annual Exhibition of Traditional Oils this June bringing artists and collectors together to celebrate the "best of the best" in traditional representational art. The OPA Annual Exhibition is a must-attend event for artists seeking to further their professional development and expand their networking opportunities. Collectors will enjoy the opportunity to meet and mingle with so many of today's finest artists and industry professionals.

Devin Galleries takes the spotlight as the exhibition's host gallery where 200 of the finest paintings will be on display from June 9 through July 10, 2011. This year's opening reception will culminate with the highly anticipated awards ceremony where one deserving artist is selected to receive the highly coveted Gold Medal Award and \$25,000 top prize. In addition, OPA sponsors will once again provide members with significant cash and merchandise awards.

OPA is very pleased that renowned artist Scott L. Christensen has agreed to serve as this year's Juror of Awards. At the top of his profession, Christensen is known for his vivid and awe inspiring landscapes. He is

recognized around the globe, as evidenced by his recent invitation to show in Russia's Ilya Repin St. Petersburg State Academic Institute for Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture.

Educational events will be held at the magnificent Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, June 8-12, 2011. For those who can come early in the week, local Idahoan and OPA member Kyle Paliotto along with help from his OPA peers will map out and lead plein air painting outings on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7 & 8. door painters can participate in "Art in the Making" on Thursday at the exclusive shopping mall located directly across the street from the Coeur d'Alene Resort

On Thursday evening, join the OPA Board of Directors at the welcome reception which will take place poolside, weather permitting! After a break for dinner, attendees can spend the evening with Master Signature artist Charles Movalli who will provide members with an entertaining and knowledgeable presentation on the Cape Ann artists. Mr. Movalli will also take

center stage on Friday afternoon as this year's Distinguished Artist.

As always, OPA has a lot of help organizing this event from its many long-time sponsors. Magazines such as American Art Collector, Fine Art Connoisseur, Art of the West, and Southwest Art continue to support OPA in a multitude of ways and we want to express our gratitude for their assistance. We have a strong list of loyal followers and we want to encourage members to take note of our sponsors and consider supporting those who have been supporting us for many years!

Enclosed in this newsletter is the registration form with this year's complete line-up of events. Don't miss our 20th Anniversary Celebratory Cruise sponsored by none other than *American Art Collector Magazine*. For the second year in a row, *American Art Collector* is supporting OPA in a big way as they join OPA in OPA in commemorating this special anniversary by hosting an after dinner cruise on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene, Saturday evening, June 11th. It should be a fun night for everyone!

Rob Liberace assisted each artist individually



Examples of work studied were this portrait by Rob Libarace



Crouching Figure by Rob Liberace

2010 Shirl Smithson Scholarship Winner – Renate Reuter

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a most gracious thank you to the Oil Painters of America for selecting me to receive a Shirl Smithson Scholarship last year. In May, 2010 I attended Rob Liberace's workshop entitled, "The Classic Figure- A Modern Approach" held at the Southern Atelier in Sarasota.

The workshop was a comprehensive exploration of anatomy with both drawing and painting and it also included a portrait demo. Time was devoted to the precise measurements of figure/body and muscle form. This was done in mediums with the emphasis on shaping with dark and light. In addition to various drawing demonstrations the participants were shown a variety of approaches to painting the figure/portrait. He also demonstrated the monochromatic under painting techniques with earth tones and the adding of basic colors to achieve a successful painting.

In addition Rob taught techniques for handling the canvas and materials. All in all the participants found this to be one of the most informative and successful workshops they had attended. Rob is a great artist and teacher and I would highly recommend his workshop to anyone!

Many thanks for this wonderful experience.

Renate Reuter



OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM, with Drew Leadman, Juror of Awards Charles Movalli OPAM and Award of Excellence winner Cameron D. Smith with his painting "A Moment's Rest"



Tanya M. Harsch with her entry "Sebbie Flying over the City"

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OPA'S NEW SIGNATURE AND MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Congratulations to Ned Mueller who was selected to receive the designation of Master Signature status. Ned joins a distinguished group of artists who have consistently demonstrated exceptional merit and accomplishment in representational oil The Master Signature painting. Advisory Committee, comprised of five Master Signature members, is charged with reviewing candidates' applications for this status. See Mr. Mueller in action as he demonstrates his painting expertise at this year's 20th National Exhibition

Congratulations to the following OPA members who recently were selected to receive Signature status: Daud M. Akhriev, Mitch Baird, Kimberly Casebeer, Kathleen Dunphy, Nancy Franke, Meadow Gist, Robert Hagberg, Johanna Harmon, Dali Higa, Timothy Horn, Grace Kim, Bryce Liston, April Raber, Elizabeth Robbins, Debbie Stevens, John Taft and Jian Wu. Signature membership may be conferred to an artist of exceptional merit who is a member in good standing and who has exhibited in at least three OPA National Shows or two OPA National Shows and three Regional Shows. (Regional Shows must be within the last 5 years) The Signature Member Advisory Committee, comprised of five Master Signature members, is charged with reviewing candidates' applications for this status.

Annual Business Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual General Business Meeting of OPA on Sunday, June 12, at 8:00 a.m. at the Coeur d'Alene Resort, 155 South Second Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. 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 to submit their resume for future consideration on the Board. A slate of candidates will be submitted for election this June as follows:

Howard Friedland OPA (2013) John Michael Carter OPA (2013) Ken Cadwallader OPA (2013) Neil Patterson OPAM (2013) Zhiwei Tu OPAM (2013)

Scholarship Applications

Congratulations to OPA Members Christine Debrosky, Clarkdale, Arizona; Ying Liu, Cypress, California; and student winner Adam Nowak Montgomery, Illinois for being the Shirl Smithson Scholarship Winners for 2011.

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, Scottsdale Artist's School, and the Fredericksburg Artists' School.

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

7th Annual Great Paint Out

If you are interested in coordinating a Paint Out in your state, please send us an e-mail for more information. This is a great opportunity to network with your peers. Paint Outs should take place during the months of September, October, and November. Please e-mail Karlene Mondloch at: Membership@oilpaintersofamerica.com.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

ENTRY SIZE — Not all exhibitions have the same size specifications for entries. Please make certain that your entry fits within the size constraints specified in the prospectus for each show.

CHANGING ARTIST INFORMATION - When updating your address you must change it on both the OPA membership database AND the Juried Art Services website. These two sites work independently of each other. Also, please confirm that the name that appears on the OPA site is *exactly the same* as that which appears on the Juried Art Services site.

2010 PAINT OUTS

The **Virginia** Paint Out was held on October 30 and hosted by Marla Coleman. A total of 23 artists participated in this beautifully sunny day of painting.



Nell Chesley takes time to smile for the camera



Chuck Larivey proudly shows off his finished work of art

The **Louisiana** Paint Out was held on November 13th at the very beautiful gardens of the Houmas House Plantation, southeast of Baton Rouge. The event was hosted by Elaine Kuehler



Artists included Dana Mosby, Kathy Stone, Barbara Deville, Kathy Statham, Katie McGarry, Jane Brown and hostess Elayne Kuehler.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Roger Alderman's painting "Back Street" was awarded second place in the 2011 Painters of the American West Showcase. This event was held in conjunction with the Tucson Plein Air Painters Society Artist Member Show

Amery Bohling is proud to announce the opening of her new gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona. Amery recently received the Best of Show Award at the Scottsdale Artists School Beaux Art Instructors Exhibition. She was also in the Grand Canyon Art Festival last fall and will be participating in the Cowgirl UP! Exhibition, March 2011.

James W. Bruce, Jr. OPA has been commissioned to paint a

48"X96" landscape for the "Great Room" of the new Judicial Center which will be the home of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Court of Appeals. The painting will be a landscape depicting one of the lakes of Oklahoma – one of the state's important natural and man-made resources.

Mary Jane Q Cross is pleased to announce that Q Cross Atelier has opened their New Showroom in Woodstock, Vermont in January 2011. To quote Mary Jane "It is an unexpected dream come true!"

Nina Fritz was asked to be the courtroom artist for the Federal

Healthcare Bill Oral Arguments held in Pensacola, Florida in December.

Two of **Elaine Hahn's** Paintings were accepted into the 2010 Paint America Mini Top 50 Competition and "Wekiva Sunrise" won the 2010 Mini50 Grand Prize Purchase Award. The paintings will be in the Paint America Traveling Exhibit throughout 2011 showing across the country.

Micaiah Hardison's painting "Surf Lesson" was accepted into the Salon International at Greenhouse Gallery, Texas. Also, Micaiah was honored to be included in the November issue of *Southwest Art Magazine* "21 Over 31" competition.

Painting Our future con't.

Ann Hardy OPA was awarded the "Best Still Life" award in the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society National Exhibition held September through November, 2010.

Laura Koller is pleased to announce that her painting "Diamond Z Bar" has been accepted into "The Illusion of Reality" museum exhibition sponsored by the International Guild of Realism. This will be a traveling exhibition on tour for 2 to 3 years, visiting between 10 and 15 museums across the United States.

Shelly Salter has been juried into the Bonita Springs Art League's art community at the Promenade.

Bill Schneider OPA has one of his paintings featured in the January issue of Southwest Art Magazine's article "The Good Guys—Masculine Portraits from Six Talented Artists". The painting is "Studied at the Repin", a portrait of Misha. Bill is also pleased to announce that "Red Heat" received an Honorable Mention in the "Outside the Box" category in the Portrait Society of America Member's Only Competition.

Hodges Soileau OPA won a First Place Award for his painting "A Summer Afternoon" in the Portrait Society of America Members Only Competition.

Line' Tutwiler won the Best of Show "Gold" at the Acadia Invitational II 2010 in Bar Harbor, Maine.

OPA wishes to apologize for their error in including erroneous information in the Fall, 2010 *Brushstrokes* concerning Renate Reuter. We incorrectly reported that Renate was juried into the Bonita Springs Art League's art community at the Promenade. We apologize for this incorrect listing.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2011 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

October 15 – Deadline for submission for Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is having been juried into three OPA National Exhibitions or two National Exhibitions and three regional shows. (Regional shows must be within the last 5 years.)

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2011 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

April, 2012: Twenty First Annual National Juried Exhibition at Weatherburn Gallery, Naples, Florida.

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2011 Eastern Regional – Addison Gallery - Orleans, Massachusetts Sept. 17 – Oct. 15 - Painting Size: Associate and Signature members 432 sq. inches - Masters: 720 sq. inches

2011 Western Regional – Lee Youngman Gallery - Calistoga, California Oct. 8 – Oct. 30 - Painting Size: 1200 sq. inches

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