



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 21 issue 2

SUMMER
2011

Brushstrokes

20th NATIONAL EXHIBITION HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

This year's 20th National Juried Exhibition held at Devin Galleries in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, June 10- July 9, has been heralded a success by artists and art lovers alike. As in the past, this year's exhibition received a high number of entries both in quality and quantity. Coupled with generous awards provided by OPA's loyal sponsors, this exhibition continues to serve as one of the premier art competitions in the country today.

OPA members in attendance reported that Coeur d'Alene was a fantastic destination, and that the seminars were relevant and interesting. The educational component continues to evolve and expand due to a demand for more topics of interest.

Devin Galleries demonstrated why it is considered one of the finest art galleries in the country. Every painting was hung tastefully and the galleries recent renovation made for a beautiful display of artwork.

Friday night's awards reception at the Coeur d'Alene Resort was an exciting one! The ceremony got off to an excellent start as Dorothy Drieaus Mellin was on hand to an-



Gold Medal winning painting
"A Warm Breeze"
by Dan Beck OPA

nounce the winner of the Dorothy Drieaus Mellin Fellowship for Mid-western Artists. This year's award went to an ebullient Konrad Hack OPA, for his striking painting, "Bull Nickel".

Standing above all else was this year's Gold Medal Award winner Dan Beck OPA, who went home with \$25,000 in cash as well as the beautiful gold medal. Mr. Beck's award winning painting "A Warm Breeze" caught the eye of this year's illustrious Juror of Awards Scott L. Christensen who did an outstanding job selecting this year's winners.

In addition, this year in the Master Signature Division, C.W. Mundy OPAM claimed the Gold Medal and \$5,000 cash for his exceptional painting, "Brass with Oranges."

Many thanks to all of the sponsors who help make these awards possible. We couldn't do it without their support. A complete list of award sponsors can be found on page 4.

Thanks to our Juror of Awards Scott L. Christensen who not only took the time to jury the show, but stayed to take part in the educational events and meet OPA members throughout the weekend.

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"Empty Nest" painted by Elizabeth S. Polle won the Silver Medal

National Exhibition con't.

Finally, and most importantly, hats off to Skip and Debbie Peterson and their amazing staff for their hard work and preparation for this show. We recognize and appreciate what it takes to put on a National Show and you made it look effortless!

Congratulations to all of the artists who participated in this year's exhibition.

The winners are:

Gold Medal: Dan Beck OPA for "A Warm Breeze" - funded by OPA

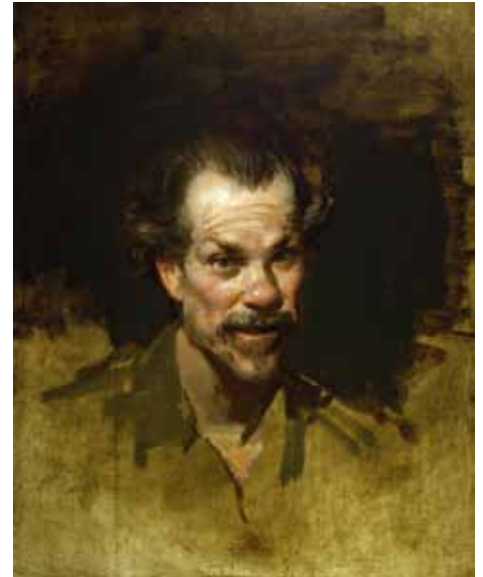
Silver Medal: Elizabeth S. Polle for "Empty Nest" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal: Marc R. Hanson OPA for "Right or Left?" - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*

Most Original Award of Excellence: Dianne L. Massey Dunbar OPA for "Jar Collection" - funded by Masterpiece Art Gallery Software

Realism Award of Excellence: Li-hsien Chung Price for "Hairdresser by Day" - funded by Jack Richeson & Company

Impressionist Award of Excellence: Teri G. Gortmaker for "Stuck" - funded by Liliedahl Video Productions



The Silver Medal for Master Signature Members was awarded to Sherrie McGraw OPAM for her painting "The Critic"

Animals Award of Excellence: Richard Boyer for "The Horse Whisperer" - funded by Fine Art Studio On-Line

Animals Honorable Mention: Bonnie Conrad OPA for "Horsepower" - funded by Gamblin Artists Color Co. and Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames



Marc R. Hanson OPA won the Bronze Medal for his painting "Right or Left?"



"Brass with Oranges" won C. W. Mundy OPAM the Gold Medal for Master Signature Members

National Exhibition con't.

John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence: Glenn F. Harrington for "The Breakfast Table" - funded by Raymar Art

Figurative Honorable Mention: Robert Spooner for "Hammer and Iron" - funded by Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors

John Marion Pardy Landscape Award of Excellence: Tim Deibler OPA for "Storm Over Arrowhead Lake" - funded by the family of John Marion Pardy

Landscape Honorable Mention: Keith L. Bond for "Generations" - funded by Blick Art Supply

Portraiture Award of Excellence: James M. Crandall for "Tatting Lesson" - funded by OPA, Scottsdale Artists' School and Natural Pigments



"Jar Collection" painted by Dianne Massey Dunbar OPA won the Most Original Award of Excellence



The Realism Award of Excellence was won by Li-hsien Chung Price for the painting "Hairstresser by Day"

Portraiture Honorable Mention: Quizhen Wei OPA for "Intimacy" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors Co. and Ampersand Gessobord

Seascape Award of Excellence: Zee Huang for "Fishing Boats" - funded by Yan Sun OPA

Seascape Honorable Mention: John Burton OPA for "The Forgotten Coast" - funded by Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors and Dick Bell Book Maven

Still Life Honorable Mention: Qiang Huang OPA for "Memory of the Old Days" - funded by Source Tek Art Supply and M. Graham & Company

Members' Choice Award/ Associate & Signature Division: Jennifer A. McChristian for "Where R U?" - funded by Classic Gallery Frames, Rosemary & Co., Brushes of England and Dakota Art Pastels

Donors' Award of Excellence: Carolyn J. Lindsey for "Fall Leaves" - funded by Friends of OPA

Presidents' Award of Excellence: William A. Schneider OPA for "Lost in Thought" - funded by Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists: Konrad Hack OPA for "The Bull Nickel" - funded by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

Gold Medal - Master Signature Division: C. W. Mundy OPAM for "Brass with Oranges" - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

Silver Medal - Master Signature Division: Sherrie McGraw OPAM for "The Critic" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*



Nancy Seamons Crookston OPAM won the Member's Choice Award for Master Signature Members for "Walking Alone"

National Exhibition con't.

Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division: Charles Movalli OPAM for "The White Boat, Gloucester" - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Members' Choice Award/Master Signature Division: Nancy S. Crookston OPAM for "Walking Alone" - funded by *Art of the West Magazine*

Shirl Smithson Founders' Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members: David Hettinger OPAM for "Summer Breeze" - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family



Richard Boyer's painting "The Horse Whisperer" won the Animals Award of Excellence



"The Breakfast Table" won the John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence for Glenn F. Harrington



Teri G. Gortmaker won the Impressionist Award of Excellence for the painting "Stuck"

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Once again the Oil Painters of America's sponsors came through with flying colors! Artists received great prizes that included cash and/or substantial merchandise awards. OPA has been extremely fortunate over the years to have so many wonderful sponsors who have continued to support the organization. We thank you so much!

American Art Collector Magazine

Ampersand Gessobord

Art of the West Magazine

Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames

Betty & Tom Schmidt

Blick Art Supply

Bosque Art Center

Classic Gallery Frames

Dakota Art Pastels

Dorothy Drieaus Mellin and

The Richard H. Drieaus Foundation

Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine

Fine Art Studio On-Line

Fredericksburg Artists' School

Gamblin Artists Colors Co.

Jack Richeson & Company

John Austin Hanna

John Marion Pardy Family

Liliedahl Video Productions

M. Graham & Company

Masterpiece Manager Software

Natural Pigments

RayMar Art

Rosemary & Co., Brushes

Scottsdale Artists' School

Shirl Smithson Family

Source Tek Art Supply

Southwest Art Magazine

Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors

Yan Sun OPA

Zhiwei Tu OPAM

American Art Collector Evening Enjoyed by All Who Cruised

It was the perfect end to a perfect weekend! One hundred and fifty artists and friends set out on a magnificent sunset cruise compliments of *American Art Collector Magazine*. On Saturday evening guests boarded the “Coeur d’Alene” a large cruiser docked at the Coeur d’Alene Resort. Dining on an assortment of scrumptious salty snacks and sweet desserts, guests relaxed and took in the spectacular Northern Idaho sunset and breathtaking views of lake Coeur d’Alene.

Thanks to Features Editor Amy Elliott and the *American Art Collector* staff for making this a highlight of this year's opening weekend!



American Art Collector Features Editor Amy Elliott, Neil Patterson OPAM, Ken Cadwallader OPA, *American Art Collector's* Allie Peters, Scott Christensen and *American Art Collector's* Nikki Padilla



No matter where you were standing . . .
the scenery was breathtaking



“The White Boat, Gloucester” painted by Charles Movalli OPAM won the Bronze Medal for Master Signature Members



The Portraiture Award of Excellence went to James M. Crandall for his painting “Tatting Lesson”

Copies of the OPA 20th Anniversary National Exhibition catalog are available for purchase at a cost of \$21.00 each (three or more for \$16.00 each). You may either purchase online or by sending a check to OPA at: P. O. 2488 Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488.

Copies of some back issues are also available. Please visit our website for availability of past issues:
www.oilpaintersofamerica.com.

Victorian Painting ... “No Longer a Dirty Word”
A presentation of Art History by Peter Trippi
Editor of *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*

Written by Howard Friedland OPA

Peter Trippi is a renowned expert on the subject of representational art history. He began his talk by stating “It is time to get rid of the notion that the Victorian era of painting was somehow stiff, stuffy and an “old fuddy duddy” period of painting without merit. His rapid fire lecture was punctuated with an illuminating slide presentation that illustrated the styles, subjects, tastes and cultural mores of the Victorian age. In fact, he said oil paintings were the media of their time and were the main source of entertainment and means of communicating cultural standards and changing ideas.

Great Britain’s Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert ruled the world’s greatest imperial power. The love and fidelity that they represented set the tone and manners of the era that was named for her. The leading force in the art world at that time was the Royal Academy of Art in London. In 1851 the first painting of Victoria and Albert was shown at the World Exhibition Opening. The council of the Royal Academy was charged with selecting the finest paintings for the 1876 Exhibition.

Some of the master artists of the time that Mr. Trippi referred to in

pictures and commentary were: Sir Joshua Reynolds, JMW Turner, William Perceval Firth, G.B. O’Neil, Samuel Butler, Frans Xavier Winterhalter, John Ruskin, Sir John Everett Millais, G.F. Watts, John William Waterhouse, Jules-Bastien Lapage, Walter Sickert, and Sir William Orpin (Google them to see images of their paintings).

Some of the themes that those artists explored were as wide ranging as dramatic, historic and cultural stories and funny and witty stories that poked fun and commented on the news and politicians of the day. Patriotic themes, pride in the ocean and marine scenes were also the favorites of this sea going nation. Also popular were paintings depicting modern life such as life at the seaside where all classes of society were shown together.

Morality was another subject for artists to explore such as adultery, unemployment, work ethic, heroics, anti aristocratic themes and women’s coming into their own. Classical romantic themes such as home life, children with pets, the English countryside with farm animals and wild life were favored. The English homeland and its na-



ture depicting a return to the old life and ways were worthy motifs as well. Bygone civilizations and cultures were also explored as a means of comparing the current atmosphere in Britain with prior times. Figures wearing Roman regalia and in Roman settings interested the art loving Brits of their time.

For those of us who love classical representational painting, this program was an eye opener that added another layer of art appreciation to our repertoire.

As a way of explaining the sometimes fickle fates and what’s in and what’s out in the art popularity world, Peter Trippi left us with these wise words. “Quality does eventually get noticed. It will come back. The markets will win out!”

CORRECTION

We sincerely regret the omission of Classic Gallery Frames advertisement in our National catalog. You can check out their advertisement in this newsletter on page 19.

MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER DAN BECK OPA



Dan Beck is the Gold Medal winner of the 2011 Oil Painters of America National Exhibition. Other awards include six awards of excellence with Oil Painters of America (three National and three Regional). He has also won two consecutive Raymar Art Competition Awards of Excellence and an Award of Excellence with Salon International hosted by Greenhouse Gallery. *The Southwest Art* November 2008 issue had a feature article "A Painter's Playlist" and his painting "Waiting" was selected for the cover of that issue. He has also been featured in *American Artist*, as well as in *Art of the West* and *Art Talk* magazines.

Dan has been invited to nationally prominent shows such as the annual American Miniature Show at Settlers West Galleries, Tucson, Arizona, the first annual summer miniature show at Trailside Galleries in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the annual "Fall Classic" in Hamilton, Montana and the annual Great American Figurative Artists Show at Waterhouse Gallery, Santa Barbara, California.

His paintings have found collectors in both the private and corporate world on a national level as well as from such diverse places as Canada, Japan and the Middle East. He is in the permanent collection of the Littleton Historical Museum and has exhibited with the Phippen Museum, Prescott, Arizona.

MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER C. W. MUNDY OPAM

C.W. Mundy, an American Impressionist Artist, was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated with a Fine Art Degree from Ball State University in Indiana in 1969, and following graduation, moved to California, continuing to paint, play music and attend Long Beach State, California for a Masters Degree in Fine Art.

Upon returning home to Indiana in 1978, CW lived in Nashville, Indiana and became the first artist / illustrator to work for Bob Knight, the legendary basketball coach at Indiana University.

After a 10 year stint with sports illustration, C.W. took on the challenge in the early 1990's of painting in a more impressionistic style, going out of doors and painting "en plein air" and "from life".



This painting style led C.W. to a series of European Plein Air painting trips, beginning with the exhibition *Paysages de France* in 1995. Other European Collections include *Italy: Light & Color* in 1996, *England: The Treasured Isle* in 1997, *The Mediterranean Tour* in 1998, *Spain: Cities and Harbors* in 1999, *Vienna and Prague* in 2000, *The European Collection* in 2002, *Paysages de France: A Decade Later* in 2005 and most recently *Venice to Paris 2009: Light and Shadow*.

20 Great Oil Painting Tips by Craig Shillam

OPA recently came across member Craig Shillam's awesome blog called CashArtBlog.com. Craig attended this year's National Exhibition and wrote some very insightful articles that we thought would be of interest to our members. Thanks to Craig's generosity we are able to share some of them with you!

Having recently attended the Oil Painters of America 20th Annual Exhibition, I came away with some great oil painting tips I would like to share with you. Some you may already be aware of, and some might be new to you. But if there is just one good tip here that you can use, it's worth reading on...

Up until a couple of weeks ago, I had never attended any of the Oil Painters of America functions, and I didn't know what to expect. I was hoping to get some good oil painting tips, as well as some marketing ideas. I got all that and more. The complete schedule lasted almost a full week, but I was only able to attend on the weekend, so I signed up for five seminars, and took in the show at Devin Galleries in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Several seminars were offered, from demonstrations to marketing, some were free, and some were not.

I came away with a lot information, so much so, that I am going to write three posts on the seminars I attended. This first post will deal with oil painting tips, the second and third (soon to follow) will deal with art marketing.

Oil Painting Tips

The first seminar I attended was by artist Ned Mueller OPAM. I had never heard of Ned before, but he

went to Art Center and loves to travel, so I signed up for his talk.

Here are some great oil painting tips from Ned Mueller OPAM:

1. "Plein air painting is the best thing you can do to improve your paintings." He went on to say that if you can get the big shapes in, get the colors right and the shapes right, you'll get a likeness.

2. "All good drawing is good judgment. If you make good judgment decisions, and do enough of it, you will get really, really good."

3. "Loosen up. Hold the pencil or brush way out in front of you and use your shoulder."

4. "A good painting is an interesting arrangement of shapes and colors. Most paintings are doomed from the start because the artist hasn't figured out what to say and how to say it."

5. "Once you start seeing the world more abstract, you start seeing like an artist. There can be a good painting in a pile of rags."

6. ***"There are three stages of being an artist:*** 1. You start by painting what you know. 2. Then you paint what you see. 3. When you paint what you feel, you start improving."

Those are great oil painting tips, and Ned Mueller OPAM seems to be a pretty popular guy. There were people around him everywhere he went. Another thing he said was that he is in his 70's and he still goes to life drawing, and does a lot of gesture drawings. If you would like more information on Ned Mueller's work and/or workshops, it's just a click away at: www.nedmueller.com.

More Oil Painting Tips

In addition to Ned Mueller OPAM, I also signed up for a painting demonstration by Neil Patterson. The only thing I knew about Neil Patterson was that he is the current president of the Oil Painters of America. This guy is a pretty cool cat. First of all, it's the appearance: Long, graying beard, dressed in black with a black brimmed hat. Second, it's his voice. Come to find out, he lives up by Calgary, Alberta, and he has a bit of an accent to go with a soothing voice and a ton of knowledge. I could listen to him all day.

The following are some great oil painting tips by Neil Patterson OPAM as he was doing his painting demonstration up on a stage in front of about forty people or so.

1. "Paint with the paint, not the brush. Paint like a millionaire, use lots of paint."

Shillam con't.

2. "Don't think about values." He only thinks about colors.

3. "Have no preconceived idea... have more feeling. If you have a preconceived idea, it will never turn out that way."

4. "The connection that people have to painting is what sells. The type of painting you do depends upon your temperament."

5. "If painting is misery, you might as well go clean house."

6. "Don't let galleries pigeon hole you – you paint what you want."

7. "Painting is the road that never ends. I know less now than when I started."

8. "I don't care if my painting turns out or not, because I enjoy myself."

9. "We think paintings are more important than they really are. *The act of painting is the important thing.*"



"Lost in Thought" painted by William A. Schneider OPA won the Presidents' Award of Excellence

10. "Yellow is the tip of the nose, red is the modifier, and blue is cold. People are attracted to the fire, not the cold." Keep this in mind when you are painting. Yellow advances more than any other color, not red.

11. "Windsor & Newton developed the paint brush with the black handle, so an artist can use it to check the values of the painting."

12. "Take A Chance!"

13. "If you really want to be a better painter, do this: Prepare 365 small canvases for painting. Every morning when you get up, before you do anything else, paint one painting for fifteen minutes. No more than fifteen minutes. Number them. You will learn to paint in bigger areas and paint faster." He mentioned that he had one person from one of his workshops do this, and the results were incredible.

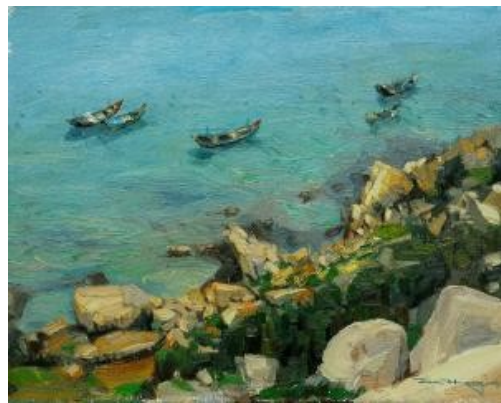
14. "There are no rules. If there are rules, you have to stay within them. When you paint a long time, you have your own set of guide-



Konrad Hack OPA won the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists award for his painting "The Bull Nickel"

lines. If we all paint by the same rules, we all paint the same way."

15. The one thing I could really "feel" as I was watching and listening to Patterson was the freedom he must feel with his work. I felt free just watching him put that paint down. It was a really good feeling. At the end of the painting demo, Mr. Patterson preceded to put a frame on the demo painting, and give it away to the person with the right number taped beneath their chair. It wasn't me, sorry to say. How cool is that? If you would like to check out more about artist Neil Patterson OPAM go here- <http://neilpatterson.com>.



"Fishing Boats" painted by Zee Huang won the Seascape Award of Excellence



The John Marion Pardy Landscape Award of Excellence was given to Tim Deibler OPA for "Storm Over Arrowhead Lake"

A NATIONAL EXHIBITION PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



Devin Galleries owner Skip Peterson welcomes all to the awards ceremony



The Welcome Reception offered plenty of time to socialize



Ned Mueller OPAM draws a crowd during his demonstration



Kyle Palliotto organized this year's paint out



Plein air artists gather to show their work



Neil Patterson OPA demonstration



L to R: Shairl Honey, Susan Abma, Kyle Paliotto and Jane Barton



OPA's Art in Motion was great fun!



Howard Friedland OPA offers a critique



Craig Zuger's demonstration



Teresa Cowley is a member of the Oil Painters of America. She draws inspiration for her work from the different places she has lived, most importantly, though, from the lives and stories of the people she has had the privilege of knowing. For her, that makes the possibilities limitless as she seeks to bring to the canvas those special moments and narratives. She considers art to be a reflection of how we see and live life. Teresa hopes her work and writings can encourage your heart, lift your spirit, or tickle your fancy! Feel free to contact her at: info@teresacowley.com.

Dear Dabby,

I am a portrait artist and especially enjoy painting children. Lately, though I've wanted to paint something that can sit still. I'm thinking about rock portraits. What say you?

Signed,
Wanting a change

Dear Wanting,

I say move out of the studio to paint en plein air. Rocks are quite accommodating and wonderful to paint, able to hold a pose for hours.

Although you likely know the drill, some thoughts, nonetheless, on plein air painting...

Be mindful about what kind of pollen fills the air and when. Pollen Deco contributes greatly to that

fresh, alla prima look and helps to lead the viewer through the painting. The wind will usually distribute it over the best parts. Inspiring, I tell you. Some artists have been known to further enhance their artwork with a dash of dirt here and there -- using the Pollack Method of Application, of course.

A popular song you might hum as you work: "The gnats go marching one-by-one, hurrah, hurrah! Around the colors they will roam, hurrah, hurrah!" Be careful not to conduct this Great Chorus with your brush as you attempt to reroute these delightful creatures!

As you work, you can take out whatever distracts from the scene, but when Little Susie's mother inquires as to whether you will paint her darling on the bridge, remember

to say, "Why, [considered pause] yes!" Her mother might buy the painting, after all. (Don't be bothered by any ka-ching you hear... stay focused.)

Be prepared to summarize, in 15 minutes, everything necessary for Onlooking Wannabe to paint his masterpiece. After all, McPlein Air Drive-Through R-us. Never mind that the light is changing, changing.

The best part -- you will return again and again to respond to the awe-inspiring beauty you see, no matter the hazard or challenge.

Just come prepared, and paint the light!

Love,
Dabby

©Teresa Cowley



The National Exhibition opening reception was well attended by many artists, guests and collectors



Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Juror of Awards
Scott L. Christensen

OPA's Associate Online Showcase – A Great Success!

OPA's inaugural Associate On-Line Showcase proved to be an overwhelming success and an opportunity for members, galleries and collectors to view some incredible artwork created by our talented associate members.

Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation were instrumental in providing OPA with the financial means to launch this new showcase. We could not have done it without them! Thanks to Ms. Mellin for her commitment to our organization.

And...kudos to J. Ken Spencer OPA who had the difficult task of selecting a first, second and third place winner, along with 10 honorable mentions.



Online Showcase first place award winning painting "Harvey Girls" painted by Katya O'Hagan

The first, second and third place winners received cash awards graciously funded by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. Congratulations to the winners:

First Place: Katya (Katie) O'Hagan for "Harvey Girls" - \$3,000

Second Place: Robert Spooner for "Frasca Chefs" - \$1,500

Third Place: Brian Jekel for "The Star of the East" - \$500

The following artists received Honorable Mention:

Mark Bailey for "In the Weeds"

Michael DeVore for "The Stew"

Simon Lok for "Los Felix Sunset"



Online Showcase second place was awarded to Robert Spooner for "Frasca Chefs"

Howard Lyon for "Mary Kept These Things and Pondered Them In Her Heart"

Yanin Movchan for "Family Tree"

Cuong Nguyen for "Michael"

Marci Oleszckiwickz for "A Polish Christmas"

Robert Rey for "Present Company Excluded"

Jason Sacran for "Perspective of Youth"

Aaron Allen Westerberg for "Transition In Rose".



Online Showcase third place painting was "The Star of the East" painted by Brian Jekel

CORRECTION

In the Spring issue of *Brushstrokes* we incorrectly typed the name of C. Michael Dudash's award winning painting. The correct name of his painting should have read "Rahab". We apologize for this error.

MEET THE FIRST ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER KATYA O'HAGAN

Katya (who would prefer to be called “Katie”) O’Hagan was born and raised in Scotland and moved to the States in 1993. Growing up on the remote north coast, she often passed the time by sketching the customers who came into her father’s pub. Although these drawings were well received, her talent for portraiture was not something she explored further or took seriously until many years later, in 2004, when she picked up her first set of oil paints. Although largely self-taught, she has benefited greatly from the ongoing mentorship of her friend, and fellow Hudson Valley artist, Paul McCormack.

Her work has shown in several galleries and group shows throughout New York and New Jersey, including the National Arts Club and the Salmagundi Club. She was a finalist in the Richeson Gallery’s 2011 competition, the *Artist’s Magazine* competition in 2010 and 2011, and her work was selected for the *Artist’s Magazine* 2012 calendar. She is the Executive Secretary of ACOPAL and will show with that group at the Butler institute in December, 2011.



Important! Venue Change for 2012 National Exhibition

OPA has moved next year’s 2012 National Exhibition from Naples, Florida to the Evergreen Gallery in Evergreen, Colorado. The show will now take place June 22 through July 21, 2012. The online submission deadline has changed to February 24, 2012.

Please send your thoughts and prayers to Heather Begley, owner of Weatherburn Gallery who is undergoing medical treatment. We look forward to her full recovery and an opportunity to go back to Weatherburn Gallery in the near future.



Charles Movalli OPAM is interviewed by Allan Duerr for the Distinguished Artists Series



Jane Barton discusses Western Art with her audience



Scott L. Christensen at the onset of his painting demo



Workshop with Robert Johnson in Estes Park, CO by Diane White

I want to thank the OPA for awarding a scholarship to me for 2010. The OPA scholarship gave me a wonderful opportunity to study landscape plein air painting with Robert Johnson in beautiful Estes Park, CO this fall. Robert is a generous and thoughtful teacher. His paintings, whether still life or landscape, are full of thick and vibrant paint.

The first day we met at the historic Baldpate Inn for a brief introduction to his thoughts on painting, and then we were out to paint the beautiful aspens surrounding the inn. Robert did a demo in the afternoon, showing his technique in starting a painting of aspens. Each day started or ended with a brief demo, where we

watched as his carefully placed brush strokes seemed to magically recreate the scene in front of us. Setting up in "open shade" was the first thing I quickly learned when the sun hit my painting and I could not get correct values according to the scene in front of me. He stressed the importance of getting the idea of the painting down as soon as possible and the importance of designing the painting from the start including the area of compelling interest. The rapidly changing weather conditions made that a necessity. A couple of days of rain only provided us with the privilege of watching a still life demo.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to study with Robert Johnson. A workshop not only provides lessons from the artist teaching but the opportunity to meet other wonderful artists from around the country. The concepts that I learned can be applied to all areas of my painting as well as landscapes. I realized that I need a lot of hard work to become a proficient plein air painter but it only served as encouragement to get out there and do it more often. I would encourage all to use this wonderful opportunity that OPA provides through the Shirl Smithson Scholarship.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The original location of the 2012 National Exhibition has been changed to the Evergreen Fine Art Gallery in Evergreen, Colorado.

REMINDER!

Please do not submit images of paintings that are framed.

Members are also reminded that they must be residents of North America to participate in an exhibition. Non-residents may apply to become supporting members but will not be eligible to enter a competition.



At the General Business Meeting, held in Coeur d'Alene during the National Exhibition, the following Board members were re-elected for two year terms:

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

The first Online Showcase competition was a resounding success. The second competition will be open to both Associate and Signature members with separate awards being given in each division. Entries in the second competition are being accepted September 10 through November 10, 2011.

If you know of any art related company that would like to sponsor an award, please contact us at: mail@oilpintersofamerica.com

PAINTING OUR FUTURE

NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Bonnie Conrad OPA won "Second Place Oil" at the Dixie Invitational hosted by the Sears Gallery at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah on February 18th.

Mary Jane Q. Cross is pleased to be a new member of The International Guild of Realism IGOR. She has also had the honor of being accepted into the Art Renewal Center (the largest online museum in the world) as an Associate Living Master.

Bill Farnsworth has illustrated his third book written by Susan Goldman Rubin entitled *Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto*.

Robert Grogan was featured in the *Franschhoek Style Magazine*, Winter issue, for his mentoring of a young Zimbabwean painter. In September, his work will be shown at the National Museum of Wildlife Art's Western Visions show in Jackson, Wyoming.

Konrad Hack OPA received a congratulatory letter from the Department of the Air Force for receiving the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists at this year's national exhibition.

Mary Hagy has been juried into the "2011 International Salon of Contemporary Masters Show" at Greenhouse Gallery in San Antonio, TX.

K. Henderson has had paintings accepted at "In the Company of Cowgirls" art show in Pendleton, Oregon, the Butler Institute of Art's 75th Mid-year Exhibition in Youngstown, Ohio

and the 2011 Art Kudos international exhibition 7th online juried competition.

Suzanne Poursine Massion was featured in the Winter 2011 issue of the *Northwest Quarterly.com* magazine in an article entitled "Why There's Always Time to Paint".

Jennifer McChristian's painting "Le Marais Twilight" received the Best of Show award at the January 2011 Raymar Art Competition.

Kevin Menck was part of a duo exhibition entitled "Pastorals and Portraits" at the M Gallery of Fine Art in August.

Martha Moore Meskauskas has illustrated a children's book titled "Not So Perfect Polly" that was recently published.

Zbigniew Nyczak received an Honorable Mention award for the painting "Canyon The Chelly" at the Arts Council of the Coneho Valley.

Neil Patterson OPAM is pleased to announce the release of his DVD "Aspens" that presents several demonstrations of his relaxed and vibrant painting technique.

Virginia Pendergrass is pleased to announce her painting "Mist on Mills Creek" was selected for the 2010 **PaintAmerica Top 100** national exhibit. A second painting, "Mill's Creek" received a Mini-100 honorable mention.

Tim Perkins recently won First Place in Oils at the Scottsdale Artist School Best and Brightest Show.

Nicholas Petrucci has been honored in the August 2011 edition of the *American Art Collector* which presented a full page on "Artist Focus: Nicholas Petrucci" featuring portraits of Father Michael and Her Honor.

Ron Sanders was selected by the United States Mint to participate in their Artistic Infusion Program as an associate designer. The Artistic Infusion Program is designed to develop and train a pool of talented external artists ready to work with the United States Mint's in-house staff of sculptor-engravers to create new coin and medal designs. Also Ron's painting entitled "Experimenting" was chosen as the Grand Prize Winner of the *American Artist Magazine's* Cover Competition. The painting was featured on the cover of the June 2011 issue of the magazine.

Grace Schlesier is honored to have three of her paintings hanging in the Olaf Weighorst Museum on Rea Ave. in El Cajon, California.

William A. Schneider OPA won the Award of Merit for "Indigo and Copper" at Emerald Art Center's Emerald Spring Exhibition National Juried Show 2011. Bill also won the Bernard Carey Memorial Award for Oil Landscape at the Academic Artists Association 61st National Exhibition for "January Sunshine".

Painting Our Future can't

Glenn James Secrest's painting "USS San Pablo On Yangtze River Patrol" is featured on the front cover of the October 2011 issue of *Naval History* magazine.

Carol Swinney OPA was one of 25-30 artists invited to participate in the first Clymer Art Exhibit and Auction in Ellensburg, Washington. She was also invited to exhibit three paintings in a special exhibit at Tohono Chul Park in Tucson, Arizona called "Out in the Open: The Art of Plein Air", as well as having been accepted into

a new exhibition held at Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona called "Scottsdale Salon of Fine Art".

Rex F. Tower had a painting accepted at the Richeson75 exhibit held this summer in Kimberly, WI at the Richeson Gallery and also on line.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of John Thomas (Tom) Schmidt. Tom was the beloved husband of member Betty Schmidt and our resident photographer for many years. He accompanied Betty to the national exhibitions and supplied us with many of the photos that have been included in our past newsletters as well as some of the photos that appeared as backdrops to the prospectus mastheads. June, 2011

Diane Rath OPA of Lake Bluff, IL passed away in September. She was an avid supporter of OPA.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Twenty First Annual National Juried Exhibition at Evergreen Fine Art Gallery, Evergreen, Colorado
June 22 - July 21, 2012 - Painting Size: 1200 sq. inches

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

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

2012 Eastern Regional – Bennington Center for the Arts - Bennington, Vermont
Sept. 29 - Oct. 28, 2012

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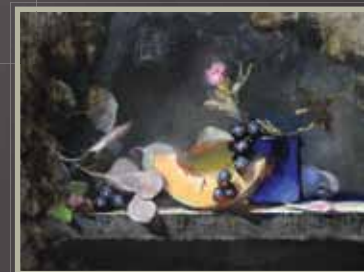
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