



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

Brushstrokes

21st NATIONAL EXHIBITION IMPRESSIVE

Winding your way through Evergreen, Colorado's rolling hills and breathtaking lake and mountain views, it's easy to understand why this affluent suburb of Denver is such a sought after zip code – and a perfect backdrop to OPA's 21st National Exhibition.

Evergreen Fine Art Gallery's impressive adobe style facade blends in well with its picturesque surroundings and its stunning interior space beautifully compliments each artist's painting.

Making this exhibition run like a fine oiled machine is no easy feat, but owner's Barb and Phil Shanley and their dedicated staff of professionals impressed many with their positive "can do" attitude and tireless work ethic.

Friday evening's highly anticipated opening reception exceeded expectations as cars lined up and down the street for blocks after the parking lot filled up early. Guests and OPA artists took in the show, which met with rave reviews. Immediately following, this year's Juror of



"Tide" by Xiao Jiang won the Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature division

Awards, Quang Ho OPAM, talked passionately about the artists' paintings he selected to receive awards. At the top of the list was this year's Gold Medal winner, Xiao Jiang for his stunning painting "Tide," also a fan favorite. On hand to receive the Gold Medal in the Master Signature division was Jeff Legg OPAM for his exquisite painting, "The Provision".

The week was full of terrific educational and social events for attendees. Leading the way, was *Southwest Art Magazine's* Pampered Paint Out, which was exactly that! Guests were invited to SW Art sales representative Kimberly Moore's stunning home nestled in a mountain valley among towering pine trees. After a delicious breakfast, artists scattered over the expansive property to find the perfect painting spot. Pulling out all the stops, Kimberly and the rest of the SW Art staff offered artists a much needed afternoon respite, relaxing on the Moore's resort-like patio listening to live music and being treated to a

CONTENTS

Twenty-first National Show	1
Juror of Awards Statement	6
Meet the Winners	14
On-Line Showcase Winners.	16
Notes From Your Board	17
Painting Our Future	18
Dates to Remember	20



Paul McCormack won the Silver Medal for his painting "Karen in White"

21st National Exhibition con't.

delicious barbeque lunch. The long but fabulous day ended on a high note with drinks at sunset. Thanks to the staff at *Southwest Art Magazine* for all their hard



"Morning Tea" by Craig Srebnik OPA won the Best Signature Award

work on OPA's behalf and especially to Kimberly Moore for graciously opening her home and creating a memorable day for our members.

On Thursday, artists had another full day to paint the beautiful Colorado landscape. A huge thanks to OPA members David Santillanes and David Mayer for taking charge of this event and directing members to the very best painting spots in the area. Artists met at the gallery first, where *Plein Air Magazine's* Charlie Boguz and Kathleen Lawrence Davis, put out a scrumptious spread of fresh fruits, muffins, and juices for a thankful and hungry group of artists.

OPA was fortunate to have the venerable Daniel E. Greene OPAM as this year's Distinguished Artist. Mr. Greene's expansive career includes painting some of the country's most iconic figures including many prominent leaders.

Thanks to *Southwest Art Magazine* Editor, Kristin Hoerth, for taking time out of her busy schedule to personally interview Mr. Greene for this event. Her questions were thought provoking and made for an extremely interesting and informative session.

The rest of the weekend included a myriad of informative educational sessions. Be sure to read the entire newsletter as we recap some of the sessions for those of you who were unable to attend. Congratulations to all of this year's participants. A complete list of this year's award winners follows:



The Bronze Medal was awarded to Wanda Choate OPA for "Idle Hours"

ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Xiao Jiang for "Tide" - funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Paul McCormack for "Karen in White" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*



"Guardian of the Sacred Fruit" won the Most Original Award of Excellence for Louis Escobedo

21st National Exhibition con't.

Bronze Medal: Wanda Choate OPA for "Idle Hours" - funded by Jack Richeson & Company

Best Signature Award: Craig Srebnik OPA for "Morning Tea" - funded by *Plein Air Magazine*

Best Associate Award: Sandra E. Power for "Studio Chair" - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*

Most Original Award of Excellence: Louis Escobedo for "Guardian of the Sacred Fruit" -funded by Fine Art Studio Online

Realism Award of Excellence: Dave A. Santillanes for "Oak Creek Passage" - funded by Fredericksburg Artists' School and OPA



Sandra E. Power won the Best Associate Award for "Studio Chair"



The Realism Award of Excellence went to Dave A. Santillanes for "Oak Creek Passage"

Impressionist Award of Excellence: Katie Dobson Cundiff for "On My Way Home" - funded by Classic Gallery Framing, Inc. and Blick Art Materials

Animals Award of Excellence: Jim Connelly OPA for "That Little Piggy" - funded by *Art of the West Magazine*

Animals Honorable Mention: Cliff Barnes for "The Team" - funded by Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors



The Impressionist Award of Excellence went to Katie Dobson Cundiff for "On My Way Home"

John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence: Melissa Gann for "Gentleness" - funded by RayMar Art

Figurative Honorable Mention: Bryce C. Liston OPA for "A Winter's Tale" - funded by Gamblin Artist's Colors Co. and Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames

John Marion Pardy Landscape Award of Excellence: John Taft OPA for "Top Light" - funded by the family of John Marion Pardy

Landscape Honorable Mention: Cindy Baron for "Late Fall Light" - funded by Meininger Art Supply and Gamblin Artist's Colors Co.

Portraiture Award of Excellence: Angela Sekerak Burns for "Dignity" - funded by Fine Art Studio Online and SourceTek



"Traipsing in Trastevere" by Jennifer A. McChristian won the Donors' Award of Excellence



"That Little Piggy" by Jim Connelly OPA won the Animals Award of Excellence



The Portraiture Award of Excellence went to Angela Sekerak Burns for "Dignity"



Melissa Gann won the John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence for "Gentleness"

21st national Exhibition con't.

Portraiture Honorable Mention: Buell C. Cole for "Wrapped in Thought" - funded by Fine Art Studio Online and Ampersand Art Supply

Seascape Honorable Mention: Lisa Egeli for "For Love & Money: Sailing the Ngalawa" - funded by Fine Art Studio Online and Winsor and Newton

Still Life Honorable Mention: Jim T. McVicker for "Orchid and Odalisque" - funded by Varsari Classic Artists' Oil colors

Seascape Award of Excellence: Barbara M. Coleman for "California Coast" - funded by Liliedahl Video Productions, Blue Ridge Oil Colors and Summit Frames

Still Life Award of Excellence: Jacqueline Kamin for "Hydrangeas and Roses" - funded by Scottsdale Artists' School and OPA

Donors' Award of Excellence: Jennifer A. McChristian for "Traipsing in Trastevere" - funded by HK Holbein Artists' Oil Colors and Friends of OPA



John Taft OPA won the John Marion Parry Landscape Award of Excellence for "Top Light"



"California Coast" by Barbara M. Coleman won the Seascape Award of Excellence



"Hydrangea and Roses" won the Still Life Award of Excellence for "Jacqueline Kamin



Derek W. Penix won the Presidents' Award of Excellence for "Duomo di Milano"

21st National Exhibition con't.

Presidents' Award of Excellence: Derek W. Penix for "Duomo Di Milano" - funded by Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists: Dayle R. Sazonoff for "Yellow Peonies" - funded by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal - Master Signature Division: Jeff Legg OPAM for "The Provision" - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

Silver Medal - Master Signature Division: William T. Chambers OPAM for "Fishing Village on the Xi River, China" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division: Nancy S. Crookston OPAM for "Shake" - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Donors' Award of Excellence -Master Signature Division: Daniel Gerhartz OPAM for "Of an Evening" - funded by Rosemary & Co. and Friends of OPA

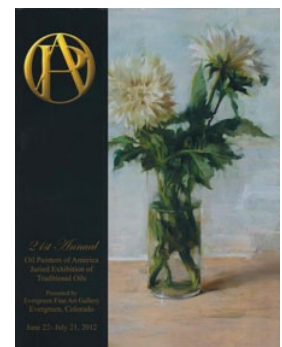
Shirl Smithson Founders' Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members: Kenn Backhaus OPAM for "Alley Way, Ronda, Spain" - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family.



The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists went to Dayle R. Sazonoff for "Yellow Peonies"

Copies of the OPA 21st National Exhibition catalog are available for purchase at a cost of \$25.00 each (three or more for \$21.00 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.





Photo© Diane Huntress 2005

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT

By Quang Ho OPAM

It's a difficult job to be a juror. I first was a juror five years ago and want to thank OPA for asking me back to be part of this memorable event.

At this level, I think everybody tries their best and it shows. Technical ability isn't even part of the equation because everybody's just doing terrific work. I just want to say congratulations to all of you who were in the show. It's really wonderful to come down to the selection of the work that was there. They're just wonderful works from very quiet rendered work to very expressive work.

The greatest work will have a very beautiful simple theme behind it. There's a visual dialog that happens in a good painting and I can see it right away. It creates a simple statement that is inescapable. All the best works always have that. The greatest of work, the structure of it is always very beautiful, elegant and simple. The pieces I chose had that. To me, in a great painting every single brushstroke is intentional and I'm aware of how it fits next to the other brushstrokes. Every movement, every subtlety is intentional but then it moves you and it carries you along so it's never predictable or boring.

Thanks to the OPA Board members for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful event and to Evergreen Fine Art Gallery for their gracious hospitality. Also, a special thanks to all of the OPA members for creating such magnificent work year in and year out. – I feel honored and privileged to have the opportunity to work with you!



Gold Medal Award for Master Signature Members went to Jeff Legg OPAM for "The Provision"



William T. Chambers OPAM won the Silver Medal Award for Master Signature Members for "Fishing Village on the Xi River, China"



"Alley Way, Ronda, Spain" by Kenn Backhaus OPAM won the Shirl Smithson Founders' Award for Master Signature Members

AMERICAN ART COLLECTOR'S DINNER SOIREE... A MAGICAL EVENING!

If you could attend the perfect party, Saturday night's dinner soiree hosted by *American Art Collector Magazine* would no doubt be at the top of the list. OPA members and guests joined AAC publisher Joshua Rose and Features Editor Amy Gause for a delicious dinner at Key's on the Green, a local favorite of Evergreen residents for its great food and scenic location.

Right in the heart of Evergreen, Keys on the Green is surrounded by mountains and towering pines with beautiful Evergreen Lake in view. Guests sat on the outdoor patio and upper deck taking in the perfect Colorado evening while mingling with old and new friends.

Starting with cocktails followed by a scrumptious barbeque, guests sat back to watch the local entertainment. OPA members watched in amazement as a herd of 50+ elk meandered single file down the nearby mountain, crossing the road and stopping to graze right outside the restaurant for a photo op. The young elk romped in the field and enjoyed a lively game of tag. It was a magical evening that could not have been scripted any better!

A huge thanks to *American Art Collector Magazine* for sponsoring this incredible evening for the third year in a row.



L to R: Daniel Greene OPAM, Jim Bruce OPA, Evergreen Fine Art Gallery owners Phil and Barb Shanley, Wendy Greene and Betty Bruce enjoy the view from the deck of the Keys on the Green



American Art Collector Advertising & Marketing Director Amy Gause and Editor Joshua Rose



Good food, great company and . . .



Live entertainment (elk as seen from the decks of the Keys on the Green)

Oil Painters of America 21st National Juried Exhibition

Distinguished Artist Series with Master Signature Member Daniel E. Greene

Interviewed by Kristen Hoerth
Managing Editor of
Southwest Art Magazine



Session review by contributing OPA Board member Howard Friedland OPA

Attendees at the 21st annual OPA National Exhibition were delighted to see an inspiring and informative Power Point presentation by renowned pastel artist and oil painter Daniel Greene OPAM. Mr. Greene has painted the portraits of many world leaders as well as leaders of industry and culture. He also paints

other subjects with great creativity and skill.

In his presentation Mr. Greene elaborated on each of the images (mostly portraits) and discussed in detail his thinking and approach to each of his models and which ones were very agreeable and which ones - not so much.

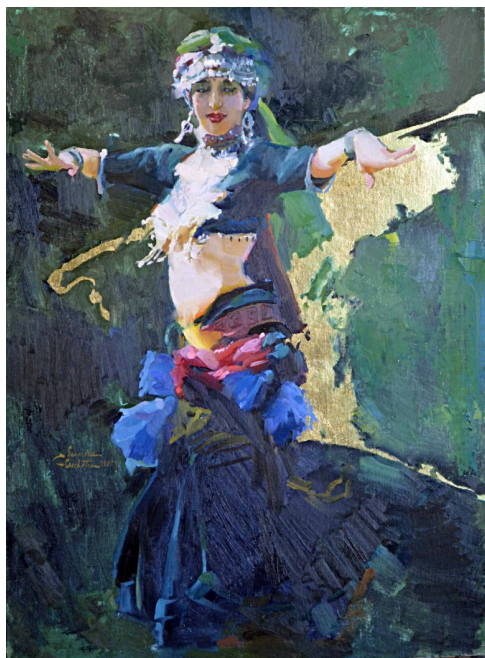
At the conclusion of his Power Point presentation, Mr. Greene sat down with Kristen Hoerth of *Southwest Art Magazine* for an in depth interview.

Hoerth: Tell us about painting Mrs. Roosevelt.

Greene: In 1961 or 62, I visited my sister and brought my pastels and a board to do a quick study of Mrs. Roosevelt. We were big admirers. This study sat in my studio for years. When Mrs. Roosevelt died, *McCall's Magazine* was looking for a photo of her to use for an article. They couldn't find one that they liked and they got in touch with me. I brought the portrait study to *McCall's* to show them and overnight I produced a finished painting of her. I asked an illustrator friend of mine how much he would charge.

My friend said he charges \$2000. I asked \$2000. And they paid me \$2000. It was interesting, about 50% of the people loved and 50% hated the painting. This was exactly the same percentages of the public's opinion of her. The FDR library bought the painting.

Hoerth: What makes a great model? Who were good models and who were tough?



"Shake" by Nancy S. Crookston OPAM won the Bronze Medal Award for Master Signature Members



Dan Gerhartz OPAM won the Donors' Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members for "Of an Evening"

Distinguished Artist can't.

Greene: They all want to be shown in their best light. Sometimes they want to be shown lighter in weight.

Ayne Rand had very definite ideas about how she wanted to be shown. She resisted my ideas and wanted a front view. She wanted to show that she faced life squarely. She debated every brushstroke.

Mrs. Carlson, whose husband invested in xerography (the technology that led to Xerox) studied parapsychology. She knew who she and I were in previous lives.

Hoerth: Visitations? Had she wanted you to paint one of her previous incarnations?

Greene: No, but she did ask me who Pauline was? As it turns out, Pauline was my grandmother's name.

She also mentioned the name Fabian. I knew of no Fabian that I could recall except the rock and roll singer in the 50's but later found out that my father in law had a partner who committed suicide by jumping off a building.

His name?.... Fabian!

Then there was a law professor who took a No Doze pill and then immediately fell asleep.

Hoerth: What are the ways you work with portraits agencies and galleries etc.?

Greene: The agency shows artist samples to the client. The client chooses an artist. If I am chosen, I will call the client to set up a meeting to discuss ideas for the portrait, where it will hang and the clothes etc. We both go over our calendars to set up a time. I will set up 10 sittings at my studio. These will not necessarily be in a row, perhaps 2 series of 5 sessions each. I have a large mirror at my studio for the sitter to see the painting's progress. The gallery does the billing. They collect 40% deposit. The artist gets a percentage. When I work from photographs it takes about 2 weeks.

Hoerth: In one of your paintings there is a rug that is very detailed. Is that a challenge?

Greene: Absolutely. I break it down from large to smaller and smaller pieces.

Hoerth: In your subway paintings are you faithful to the detail of the tiles and mosaics in the subway?

Greene: Impressionism doesn't need to have exact perspective. In realism however it needs to be exact.

Hoerth: Who would you like to paint?

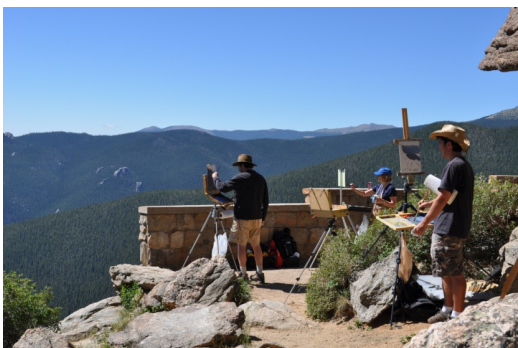
Greene: President Obama. He has a great head. I haven't been fortunate to paint a president.

Hoerth: Are there any paintings that you would like to have back?

Greene: There is a painting that is now in India. My mother said "you need to make a living" when I wanted to keep my best paintings.

Hoerth: Which of your awards and honors stand out?

Greene: As I grow older, it's the ones from other artists, like Oil Painters of America. When my peers honor me it means the most to me.



The plein air event, organized by David Mayer and David Santillanes offered artists beautiful weather as well as breathtaking and spectacular scenery

Distinguished Artist can't.

Hoerth: When you are judging a portrait competition or a show, what do you look for?

Greene: My criterion for judging portraits is: how they are drawn, colors, technique, applying ones understanding and vocabulary of painting, imagination and realized intention, composition. If I feel that the artist is too influenced by another artist or shows no distinctive point of view. They must have a singular point of view. Then you always compare one picture to another.

Hoerth: What determines your choice of medium? Pastel or oils.

Greene: I choose oils for my large paintings because pastels are on a rigid board and require glass and a heavy frame. With pastel I have all the colors before me so if there is a time constraint I use pastel. If there might be a glare on the oils in the working area I will use pastel. Texture is also a consideration. Sometimes I like a break so I may switch to oil or pastel. Paintings that are under glass such as watercolor or pastel seem to be harder to sell.

Hoerth: Has your palette changed over the years?



The Artists' Reception held at the Evergreen Fine Art Gallery was well attended

Greene: I use the same palette if it is a portrait, still life or landscape. Occasionally I use different colors.

Hoerth: What are your views of the art market today?

Greene: I am not a good judge. When I was starting out in Greenwich Village in New York abstract painting was the rage. This kind of art wasn't challenging enough. I couldn't learn enough. Classical painting was more of a challenge. I didn't think I could make a living but galleries started looking for representational artists and there has always been a group of collectors that wanted the work. There is great resistance by modern art collectors to representational art.

Hoerth: What are the challenges and rewards of teaching?

Greene: What I like the most is the excitement in the classes. The models, the set ups all the talented students that inspire others. It's an exciting atmosphere. To be a good teacher you must be able to express a point of view and be able to com-



Speaker and OPA artist Lori Woodward discusses new ways artists promote their work during the tough economy

municate and phrase concepts to clarify ideas and feelings. On the negative side, teaching takes time away from work but it is pleasing to see a student who takes it to a high level.

Hoerth: What is a piece of advice you can give students.

Greene: I can't give advice to professionals but students should learn fundamentals and then express themselves. Perseverance.

Hoerth: That's a great note to end with! Thank you.

Q and A session:

Neil Patterson: Did you ever feel like it was a struggle?

Greene: No. It was a progression. The constant problem was earning money. I got my expenses down to pay for art supplies and food and rent.

Patterson: Did you ever think about quitting?

Green: Never!



William T. Chambers OPAM receiving the Silver Medal for Master Signature members with OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM, Juror of Awards Quang Ho OPAM, Amy Gause of *American Art Collector*, Executive Director Kathryn Beligratis and Joshua Rose of *American Art Collector*



The Pampered Paint Out, held at *Southwest Art Magazine's* sales representative Kimberly Moore's beautiful home included everything from breakfast to live entertainment, not to mention the spectacular views for painting

“The Current Market for Representational Painting” with *American Art Collector Magazine's* Joshua Rose

Session review by contributing OPA artist Julia Bright

Joshua Rose is the Editor of *American Art Collector Magazine*, *Western Art Collector Magazine* and the newly launched *American Fine Art Magazine*, so he knows what he is talking about when it comes to the contemporary art market in America. He has noted several trends which are going on

in the art market today, and he shared his observations with session participants:

1. State of the art market today

The Western art market is doing very well, and so is representational art everywhere in the US. Galleries traditionally carrying western art are now starting to sell other types of representational paintings. The Scottsdale Artist School,

which has been a leader in teaching traditional art methods has been reborn and has evolved beyond expectations. Galleries which never previously sold figurative work are now selling it. Prix De West, a traditionally western show has invited artists such as Jeremy Lipking, Carolyn Anderson, and Scott Burdick, who are not western genre painters to participate in the show. This



Current Market con't.

speaks volumes for realist figurative, still life and landscape art becoming more viable and sellable on the west coast and across the US. Traditional art is not getting more western, it is evolving into showing artist who approach a wider variety of subject matter.

On the East Coast, Christie's and Sotheby's are breaking records in terms of sales of realistic art. Painters such as Lucian Freud, Bernhard Richter, Francis Bacon, all figurative painters are fetching record prices. This is a significant develop-

ment, as paintings on canvas, not installations are the ones breaking all records. This is a grave indication that realistic art is once again coming into its own. Manhattan galleries, such as Spanierman, Arcadia, Eleanor Ettinger and Hirschl & Adler, located in prime high-end shopping areas of NYC, on and around 5th and Park Avenues are selling traditional realist art, representing artists such as Jacob Collins, Ron Hicks, Robert Liberace and others. Figurative painting is alive and well in New York City, and many of these shows are being reviewed by art critics.

2. New and upcoming art markets across the country

The selling season is becoming shorter for galleries. Several areas of the country, such as Cape Cod, which traditionally has had great and lengthy selling seasons are now down in sales. However, other areas which have been mainstays in art sales are up – Santa Fe, Scottsdale, Jackson Hole, with Charleston being an up and coming market.

3. What's happening in galleries coast to coast

Many of the galleries which made it through this tough economic climate so far are doing better. They have survived because of innovative selling techniques, such as increased marketing through non-traditional channels, increased advertising, operating longer hours, etc. Some galleries are doing shows in hotels, showcasing artist demos in galleries, etc. The galleries which go the extra mile, traveling to fairs, doing auctions, benefits, etc. are surviving and thriving in this difficult market.

4. Current art market's fascination with art fairs and auctions

Art fairs and auctions are becoming increasingly popular across the US, and realist art is shown everywhere. Art Basel, probably the most known fair had rows of booths of realistic art displayed, and Art Houston, Art San Francisco, Art LA, Art Aspen and Art Hamptons all have sections devoted to realist art. Collectors connect with this type of



Gallery staff representative Doug Kacena, William T. Chambers OPAM, gallery owner Phil Shanley, Michael Carter OPA and Konrad Hack OPA



Konrad Hack OPA discussed his unique experiences as a military artist

Current Market con't.

art, they understand it on an emotional as well as an intellectual level, and the art establishment knows that. At smaller auctions outside of New York City, paintings by leading painters such as Howard Terpning and Richard Schmid are selling for record-breaking prices. Art prices are skyrocketing, and beating S&P as an investment. Some investment advisers are recommending that their clients hold 30% of their portfolio in art. Galleries selling contemporary art have a lot invested in the market, so they are protecting their turf. However, realist art is undoubtedly gaining in popularity, as is evident across art fairs and auctions in the US. The art fairs and auctions promote interest in realist work across the price spectrum,

which is, no doubt, being reflected in local art markets as well.

5. New galleries and artists emerging in the representational art world

A new trend in evidence now is that collectors are becoming dealers of art. In some cases, beginning collectors do not trust their own taste in art. They are relying on gallery owners to advise them on what art to buy. Collectors shop galleries and gallery owners, who become trusted advisers as well sources for art. Crossover galleries, which sell traditional western as well as figurative, still life and landscape representation art, such as InSight Gallery, in Fredericksburg, Texas, have grown by leaps and bounds in the past couple of years. Collectors and galleries are

looking for the next new and emerging artist. Painters such as George Carlson, who was a sculptor, and only recently turned to painting are winning all the prestigious show awards.

Bottom Line: price-wise, mid-market and bottom markets are gone. Buyers are a lot more discerning than even 3-4 years ago. Although art is still selling, and some innovative galleries and artists are doing extremely well, there are no immediate sales. Galleries (and artists) have to work harder and smarter for a sale. Representational art is coming into its own with collectors, dealers and critics, however, who are paying more and more attention to it on a national level.



Susan Abma and Jerry Goroski jointly presented information on how to create better digital images



Daniel E. Greene OPAM begins his portraiture demonstration of OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM

PLEASE REMEMBER

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.

MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER XIAO JIANG



Xiao Song Jiang was born in 1955, in Wuhan, China. In 1978 he studied fine arts at the China Academy of Art, formerly the Zhejiang Art Academy, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1982, then began lecturing watercolor at the City of Wuhan Construction College. Four years after, Song was selected to further develop his skill at the provincial Hubei Art Academy. During his time there, he accumulated years of experience, painting, sketching, and working for a refined grasp of color and technique.

Throughout his early career, Song has received numerous awards as one of the representatives of Chinese paintings with works displayed at international art exhibitions in the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Turkey, and Singapore. He also had the honor of having four representative works collected and preserved at the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) and three works at the Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum.

In 1988, Song immigrated to Canada and invested a passion for its vivid scenes of the broad North American landscape. While there, he travelled widely from coast to coast and gained some 20 years of experience forming his unique style of a mixture of brush and knife with attention to the unique natural detail, richer handling of light, shadow and depth in each piece, which has won him numerous awards in North American exhibitions and art festivals. He now lives by the lake in Toronto, Canada with his wife and son.

MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER JEFF LEGG OPAM

Jeff Legg OPAM, a native of Missouri, studied painting and drawing at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and also Atelier Lack, a private art studio school modeled after 15th to 19th century classical European instruction.

His “old master” techniques combined with his inspired contemporary use of chiaroscuro engage fellow artists and collectors world wide. Today, Legg’s artwork is represented by some of the nation’s most distinguished galleries including Astoria Fine Art, Jackson, WY, Morris and Whiteside Galleries, Hilton Head Island, SC and M Gallery of Fine Art in Charleston, SC.

Mr. Legg is an Oil Painters of America Master Signature painter and a nationally recognized award winning artist. His paintings have been featured in many publications including *The Artists Magazine*, *American Artist*, *North Light books*, *Art of the West*, *Western Art Collector*, *American Art Collector* and has graced the cover of *Southwest Art Magazine*. Mr. Legg now resides in Estes Park, Colorado where he paints daily in his studio.



MEET THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP WINNER

DAYLE SAZONOFF



Dayle has been painting since 1996. She has a private studio at the Palette and Chisel in Chicago, Illinois and served on their Board in the capacities of Secretary, Vice President, and President.

Dayle has studied oil painting with the late Diane Rath OPA and watercolor with David Becker. She has participated in workshops with Albert Handell OPAM, Margaret Kessler, Gregg Kreutz, David Leffel OPAM, Phil Beck, Hedy Moran, and Ken Auster.

Awards include the Palette & Chisel Irving Shapiro Watercolor competition for a landscape and the Harriet Bitterly award for an oil landscape. Her oils and watercolors were accepted in juried shows in Gallery North, New Buffalo, MI.

Dayle's paintings are in the Amoco Oil Corporate Collection, Lucca's restaurant in Chicago, and La Chaumiere Bed and Breakfast in Calistoga, Napa, California, Dijon, France, as well as in many private collections.

Currently Dayle has been giving her full attention to painting oil still lifes. "There has been a recent resurgence in the popularity of this subject matter. The important interplay of colorful and colorless in a painting, the pattern of light, and the composition are great challenges to me. Cut flowers, fruit, and favorite objects, new and worn, are reminders of life's transience and of things past."



Dayle Sazonoff won the Dorothy Drieaus Mellin Fellowship with "Yellow Peonies"

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS

Our national exhibitions would not be as great as they are without the continuing support of our sponsors. Once again our artists received fantastic prizes in the form of cash and/or merchandise awards. We take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for all of their assistance and cooperation.

American Art Collector Magazine
Ampersand Art Supply
Art of the West Magazine
Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames
Betty Schmidt
Blick Art Supply
Blue Ridge Oil Colors
Bosque Art Center
Classic Gallery Framing, Inc.
Dorothy Drieaus Mellin and
The Richard H. Drieaus Foundation

Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine
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Scottsdale Artists' School
Shirl Smithson Family
SourceTek Art Supply
Southwest Art Magazine
Summit Frames
The Artist's Magazine
Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors
Winsor & Newton
Zhiwei Tu OPAM

2011 ON-LINE SHOWCASE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Once again we give heartfelt thanks Mrs. Dorothy Mellin and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, for sponsoring our Spring, 2012 On-Line Showcase. Also thank you to Calvin Liang OPAM for being our Juror of Awards for this competition.

Congratulations to Associate Showcase first place winner Albert Ramos Cortes for his award winning painting, "Absence - Presence - Absence".

A complete list of the winners follows:

First Place: Albert Ramos Cortes for "Absence - Presence - Absence"

Second Place: Nikolo Balkanski for "Village Shades"

Third Place: James M. Crandall for "Candy Vendor, Via Fillungo"

Honorable Mentions: Phil Starke for "Oak Creek Autumn", Gary Kim for "Mountain Man, Bill", Derek Penix for "French Fishing Boat", Patricia Rohrbacher for "Tulips & Siberian Iris", Lindsay Goodwin for "Light on Copper", Lindsey Bittner Graham for "Daddy of 'em All", Rob Rey for "Elegant Enigma", Frank Gardner for "Mother's Pride", David Henderson for "Fosterfields", and Gayle Stratford for "Trouble Coming".



Albert Ramon Cortes' On-Line Showcase award winning painting "Absence - Presence - Absence"



MEET ON-LINE SHOWCASE WINNER ALBERT RAMOS CORTES

Albert Ramos Cortés was born in Barcelona, Spain, and grew up in the nearby town of Argentona. In 1998 he began an illustration and graphic design career in Spain, but in 2004, he decided to move to the United States, to study illustration and to further develop his skills. He enrolled at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and during the pursuit of his B.F.A., he continued to work for various clients back in Spain. All the while, his interest in fine art had been growing, and after being graduated cum laude in 2009, he decided to continue his studies at the Academy of Art University, where he eventually obtained his Master of Fine Arts degree in Drawing and Painting.

Ramos has won numerous awards for his art, and his work has been published in several magazines and books. The group shows in which he has participated here and abroad, include exhibits at galleries such as the Waterhouse Gallery in Santa Barbara, the Modern Eden in San Francisco, and the Galeria Artelibre in Zaragoza, Spain. Ramos' work depicts a realistic representation of his memories, people, places and situations he left back home, as he tries to paint them before they get lost in time.



Nikolo Balkanski won the Second Place award in the Spring On-Line Showcase For "Village Shades"



James M. Crandall won the Third Place award in the Spring On-Line Showcase for "Candy Vendor, Via Villungo"



The Scottsdale Artists' School

The Scottsdale Artists' School offers over 200 adult classes and workshops a year in drawing, painting and sculpture and grants over \$38,000 a year in scholarship requests.

Email Bernadette Mills for a Scholarship Application at bmills@scottsdaleartschool.org or visit their website at www.scottsdaleartschool.org for a complete listing of classes and workshops.

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the General Business Meeting, held during the National Exhibition in Evergreen, Colorado, the following Board members were elected for two year terms:

Kurt Anderson OPA

James Bruce OPA

William Chambers OPAM

Konrad Hack OPA

Susan Abma was elected for a one year term, finishing the term of a prior Board member.

Joyce Pike OPAM is the first recipient of the OPA Golden Brush Award. This award has been created in recognition of outstanding contributions and continued support to the Oil Painters of America.

Joyce was presented with this award at the national exhibition in Evergreen, Colorado.

On-Line Showcase first place winners not only receive recognition for their award winning paintings but will now receive an additional benefit. All first place On-Line Showcase winners will automatically be accepted in their next regional exhibition, should they wish to enter.

We offer a special thank you to Master Signature artist Alan Wolton who was kind enough to write the first article for our blog on "Style vs. Technique". Visit the

OPA blog to read this and other interesting articles which cover a variety of art-related topics. Be sure to weigh in with your comments.

Please remember, when sending images for jurying into an exhibition, the image should be of your unframed painting.

All members should access their profile occasionally to update the type of subject matter they paint. This information is included on the OPA website and helpful to individuals who are searching for an artist who paints a specific theme. To update this, or any information



Ed Kucera and a very pretty model (his daughter) after the Sunday painting demo



Neil Patterson OPAM, Best Signature Award winner Craig Srebnik OPA, Kathleen Lawrence Davis of *Plein Air Magazine* and Juror of Awards Quang Ho OPAM



Joyce Pike OPAM presents painting insights during the painting demonstration on Sunday afternoon

Notes From Your Board con't.

about your account, go to the OPA website, Member Services menu and select Update Member Info. New members should particularly take note.

If you have not made the gallery who represents you aware of the Gallery Locator Service, you should

do so. This is a means whereby collectors may locate galleries that represent OPA artists. It is advertising for both you as an artist and for your gallery.

A new feature of the OPA website is the Call for Entry Listing area. This feature will announce upcoming shows that are open to representational artists but are not OPA

sponsored exhibitions. To announce an upcoming exhibition visit our website. There is a nominal charge of \$25.00 for registering a Call for Entry.

Our online presence is growing. During the month of August there were approximately 19,145 "hits" on all of the OPA sites, such as our website, blog, Facebook, etc.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Roy Blankenship received the Merit Award for Best Narrative for his painting "Ray of Hope" at the juried "Water Show" held at the Chester County Art Association and March and April, 2012. His work was also included in Catherine Quillman's book *100 Artists of the Brandywine Valley*.

Bonnie Conrad is participating in the Sears Gallery at Dixie State College in an exhibit entitled, "There are Always Stories to Tell". This show features artists who have enjoyed painting all over Southern Utah.

K Henderson will have 2 paintings exhibited at the Salon International 2012. The exhibition will feature 434 original oil paintings selected from artist entries from around the world.

Paula Holtzclaw was honored with the "American Art Collector's Award of Excellence", for her painting "Last Light" at the Women Painters of the Southeast Exhibition in April, 2012. The show was hosted by the Corse Gallery in Jacksonville, FL. Paula

also is exhibiting again this year at the Scottsdale Salon of Fine Art at the Legacy Gallery.

Cheryl Koen's painting "Power" won Best of Show at the Hubbard Museum Biennale Grande 2012 in Ruidoso, New Mexico. In addition, the painting "Power", was selected out of 1000 entries to be part of a book on international equine art, *Ex Arte Equinus V*. Fifty artists from all over the world were chosen, representing the best of equine art in 5 different categories.



President Neil Patterson OPAM presents the Golden Brush Award to Joyce Pike OPAM



OPA President Neil Patterson
OPAM, Gold Medal Winner in the
Master Signature Division Jeff Legg
OPAM and Juror of Awards
Quang Ho OPAM



Johanna Harmon OPA at the painting demo held at the Evergreen Fine Art Gallery

Painting our Future can't.

Kevin Macpherson OPAM was the only non-Chinese artist invited by the Chinese government to participate in painting the western province of China, Xinjiang for a museum exhibition that will travel throughout China and possibly the United States. Macpherson was also honored by having his painting selected by the Organization for the Olympic Fine Arts 2012, which was exhibited at the Museum of London during the recent Olympic Games.

Paul Mullally OPAM was also a featured artist at the Olympic Fine Arts 2012 Exhibition in London, England. His painting "Alaska bound - Triumph of Spirit" was selected for this exhibition that was sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and sponsored by the People's Republic of China.

Ryan Orewiler announced that the Hilton Hotel has commissioned him to create 12 pieces to be displayed in locations throughout the hotel. He has also been accepted into Hayley Gallery New Albany, Ohio and will have his first solo exhibition at Hayley Gallery in November 2012.

Jean-Baptist Renard has become a member of Visual Art Exchange, a non-profit gallery that supports and educates emerging professional and student artists.

Ron Sanders recently had two works titled "Recon" and "Different Horizons" featured in Dana Gallery's Icons of the West International Juried Show. He also had his work, "Sacagawea's Journey," accepted into the Paint America Top 100 National Show in Topeka, KS.

Kristen Savage was joined by other regional artists at the May 4th First Friday Art Walk in Fort Collins, Colorado as they showcased a new series of paintings inspired by a local burlesque troupe, The Cupcake Cabaret.

William Schneider OPA was a finalist in the Raymar competition with his painting "Odalisque". His painting "Picante" was awarded Best of Show at the Texas Spirit National Art Competition and Show. Additionally, "Pearl Necklace" was awarded Honorable Mention for Artistic Excellence at Salon International 2012 held at Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art in San Antonio, TX.

J. M. Steele was pleased to have her oil "Rough Rider" juried into the "Icons of the West" exhibition at the Dana Gallery in Missoula Montana along with 2 other paintings, "Cow Girls I" & "Cow Girls Enchanted Evening".

Carol Swinney OPA was accepted into the 2nd Annual Scottsdale Salon of Fine Art Exhibit and Show for her painting "Evening Golds". She was also invited to participate in the 32nd Annual Cheyenne Frontier Days Western Art Show and Sale, held in conjunction with the world's largest rodeo celebration, held in July.

David Tanner's painting "Self-Portrait" won first place in *American Artist's* Annual Cover Competition. It will be featured on the cover of the magazine in September 2012. "Self-Portrait" also received Second Honorable Mention in the Portrait Society of America's recent Member Competition. Tanner also was awarded an Honorable Mention for his painting "Young Man in a Straw Hat".

Arden Vincent won the Judges Award, Second Place in the Oil/Acrylic category for her painting "Morning Mist in Noyo" at the Santa Paula Art & Photography Exhibit in Santa Paula, California.

CRITIQUES AVAILABLE

Are you aware that OPA offers a critique service for both members and non-members?

To have your work critiqued by one of OPA's Signature or Master Signature members 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 cost for non-members is \$50. One disc is sent to the critiquing artist 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 a response.



Women's t-shirt
Sizes: medium to X-large

NEWEST OPA APPAREL

The newest item added to merchandise available from OPA is a 100% cotton, natural color, short sleeve t-shirt printed in black with the OPA logo. The shirts are priced at \$18.00 including shipping. (Orders shipped to Canada or Mexico add \$5.00.)



Men's t-shirt
Sizes: medium to 2X-large

To view all merchandise visit the OPA site, go to the Resources Menu and select Merchandise.

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. (Regionals must be within the last 5 years.)

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2012 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Twenty-Second Annual National Juried Exhibition at InSight Gallery, Fredericksburg, Texas
May 17 - June 17, 2013 - Juror of Awards: Sherrie McGraw OPAM

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2013 Eastern Regional – McBride Gallery - Annapolis, Maryland
October 20 - November 17, 2013

2013 Western Regional – Southwind Art Gallery, Topeka, Kansas

SALON SHOW EXHIBITION

2013 Salon Show – Crooked Tree Arts Center, Inc. - Petoskey, Michigan
June 20 - August 31, 2013 – Painting Size: 320 sq. inches

ASSOCIATE ON-LINE SHOWCASES

October 1 - December 5, 2012

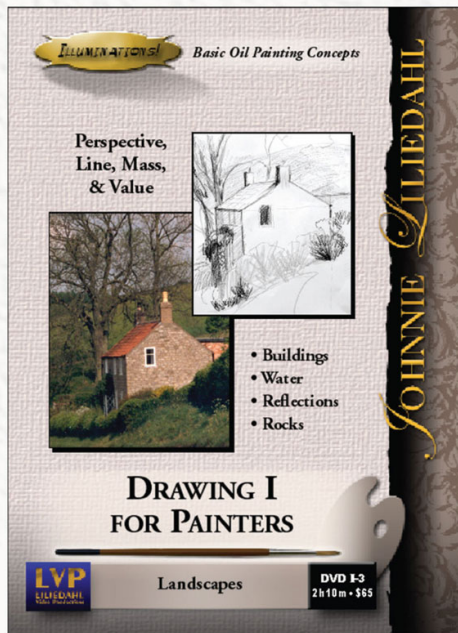
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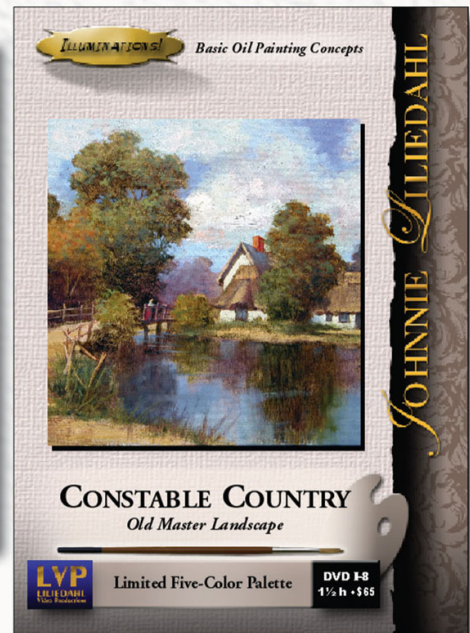
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In conjunction with our coverage of the 2012 Eastern and Western
Regional Juried Exhibitions in the October issue, we are pleased to
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