



# OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 24 issue 2

SUMMER  
2013

## Brushstrokes

### NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

This year's 22nd National Exhibition & Convention was held at InSight Gallery located in the charming town of Fredericksburg, Texas. If you weren't able to make the trip, this is an artist destination that you should add to your "must see" list! As artists, we have all seen many galleries throughout the years, but InSight Gallery is clearly one of a few that stands out above the rest. InSight Gallery's beautiful stonework, coupled with its expansive space, high ceilings, and countless windows create a lasting impression as one walks through the door. In short, it is impressive. Adding to this, sales were strong, indicating the economy is finally on its way back. A special thanks to owners Meredith and David Plesko, along with their staff for pulling out all the stops to make this event a success. Well done!

Guests who elected to take part in this year's convention at the Admiral Nimitz Museum & Conference Center were also in for a real treat. Beginning with *Southwest Art Magazine's* pampered paint out on Wednesday through a number of exciting demonstrations and presentations over the next four days, guests and attendees came away feeling inspired, recharged and ready to step up their game.



"Jonathan" by Johanna Harmon OPA won the Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division

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The awards ceremony was held Friday evening at the Admiral Nimitz Conference Center. The excitement was tangible and the artists who won were deeply moved by the recognition they received from this year's Juror of Awards Master Signature artist Sherrie McGraw. In particular, this year's Associate/Signature Division Gold Medal winner Johanna Harmon OPA was overwhelmed and gratified by the well-deserved honor. Congratulations to all of the artists who participated in this year's exhibition. A complete list of this year's winners is found at the end of this article.

Over the next few issues of the *Brushstrokes*, we will feature several informative articles written by OPA artists about the presentations they attended. We hope you enjoy them.

#### ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION

**Gold Medal: Johanna Harmon OPA for "Jonathan" - funded by OPA**

**Silver Medal: Mary Qian for "Misha" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine***



Mary Qian won the Silver Medal for her painting "Misha"

**Best Associate Award of Excellence:** Jason Saunders for "Mid-winter Sycamores" - funded by Jack Richeson & Company

**Most Original Award of Excellence:** Lori Putnam for "Crimson and Clover" - funded by Martin F. Weber Company

**Realism Award of Excellence:** Brenda Howell for "South Rim Majestic" - funded by Scottsdale Artists' School and Friends of OPA

**Realism Honorable Mention:** Chad Aldrin for "Neah Bay" - funded by Blue Ridge Oil Colors and General Pencil

**Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence:** John Budicin OPA for "Evening Eucalyptus" - funded by Friends of Ted Goerschner OPAM

**Impressionist Award of Excellence:** Kathy Anderson OPA for "Spring Rainbow" - funded by M. Graham & Company and General Pencil

**Animals Award of Excellence:** Mitch T. Baird OPA for "Duck, Duck, Duck, Goose" - funded by *Fine Art Studio Online*

**Animals Honorable Mention:** Edward Aldrich for "Challenger" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors Co. & Ampersand Art Supply

**John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence:** Charles Young Walls for "Majesty Rising" - funded by Ray-Mar Art

**Figurative Honorable Mention:** J. Ken Spencer OPA for "Reading in the Orchard" - funded by Natural Pigments & Source Tek

**John Marion Pardy Landscape Award of Excellence:** Darcie G. Peet OPA for "Cliff Shadow - Monument Valley" - funded by the family of John Marion Pardy

22nd National Exhibition con't.

**Bronze Medal:** Stan Rogers for "Carrer del Sant Sever, Barcelona" - funded by *Plein Air Magazine*

**Best Signature Award of Excellence:** Jacqueline Kamin OPA for "Pink Roses with Silver" - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*



The Best Signature Award of Excellence was won by Jacqueline Kamin OPA for "Pink Roses with Silver"



Jason Saunders won the Best Associate Award of Excellence for his painting "Mid-Winter Sycamores"



Stan Rogers won the Bronze Medal for "Carrer del Sant Sever, Barcelona"





Darcie G. Peet OPA won the John Marion Parady Landscape Award of Excellence for "Cliff Shadow - Monument Valley"

**Portraiture Honorable Mention:**  
**Lori Beringer** for "Quiet Strength" - funded by Classic Gallery Framing, Inc. & Savoir-Faire

**Seascape Award of Excellence:**  
**Xiao Jiang** for "Reflection of Summer" - funded by Fine Art Studio Online

**Seascape Honorable Mention:**  
**Derek Penix** for "Lingering Reflections" - funded by Blick Art Materials & HK Holbein

**Still Life Award of Excellence:**  
**Qiang Huang OPA** for "Awakening" - funded by Scottsdale Artists' School and OPA



"Awakening" by Qiang Huang OPA won the Still Life Award of Excellence

22nd National Exhibition con't.

**Landscape Honorable Mention:**  
**Trish G. Beckham** for "Rainy Day Stroll" - funded by Rosemary & Company Brushes, England & Savoir-Faire

**Johnnie Liliedahl Memorial Portraiture Award of Excellence:**  
**Adam Clague** for "More Whipped Cream" - funded by Ralph Liliedahl and Liliedahl Video Productions

**Still Life Honorable Mention:** **Pat Rohrbacher** for "Fox Gloves and Iris" - funded by Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors & Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames

**Donors' Award of Excellence:**  
**John Austin Hanna** for "Summer Cool" - funded by Fredericksburg Artists' School and Friends of OPA

**Presidents' Award of Excellence:** **Nikolo Balkanski** for "Unexpected Snow" - funded by past presidents Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

**The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists:** **Tom Nachreiner** for "Stretching" - funded by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation



Brenda Howell won the Realism Award of Excellence for "South Rim Majestic"



The John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence was won by Charles Young Walls for "Majesty Rising"



"Duck, Duck, Duck, Goose" by Mitch T. Baird OPA won the Animal Award of Excellence

22nd National Exhibition con't.

## MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

**Gold Medal - Master Signature Division:** Shi Zhong Yan OPAM for “Uyghur Woman” - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

**Silver Medal - Master Signature Division:** C. W. Mundy OPAM for “The Train Station” - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*



The Most Original Award of Excellence was won by Lori Putnam for “Crimson and Clover”

**Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division:** Albert Handell OPAM for “L’Arbre” - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

**Most Original Award of Excellence -Master Signature Division:** Jeffrey R. Watts OPAM for “Two Ladies of the Ukraine” - funded by *Art of the West Magazine* and Gamblin Artists Colors Co.

**Donors’ Award of Excellence - Master Signature Division:** Jeff Legg OPAM for “Illumination” - funded by Vasari Classic Artists’ Oil Colors and Friends of OPA

**Shirl Smithson Founders’ Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members:** Joan Potter OPAM for “Bittersweet and Pears” - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family.



John Budicin OPA won the Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence for “Evening Eucalyptus”



The Impressionist Award of Excellence was won by Kathy Anderson OPA for “Spring Rainbow”

“More Whipped Cream” by Adam Clague won the Johnnie Liliedahl Memorial Portraiture Award of Excellence

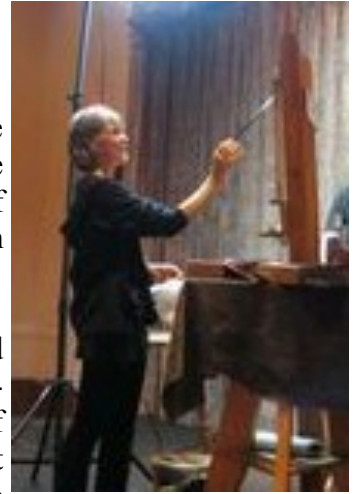


## JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT

By Sherrie McGraw OPAM

When I agreed to take on the task of judging this national exhibition, I knew it would be difficult. Many of the participants are colleagues; some have been my students, and some were new discoveries. Luckily, as my fascination with painting runs deep, I never tire of seeing new interpretations in this medium, and in that respect, judging often feels like an indulgence of my obsession with painting.

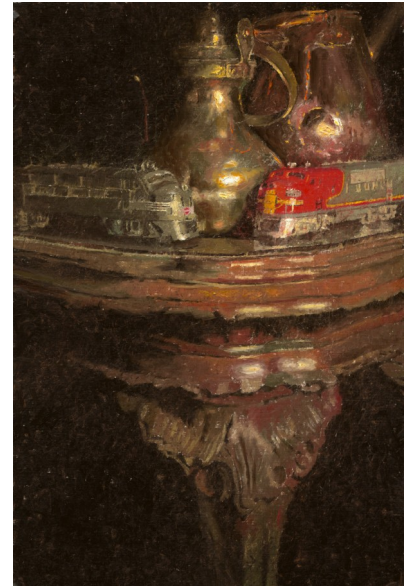
Every judge holds certain qualities dear. For me, the most compelling aspect of good painting is the presence of a visual concept. When it is strong enough, it can trump other lacks in technical ability, and this is where subjectivity creeps in. When I found myself comparing different paintings and judging their relative success in capturing a concept with interesting paint quality as well as noticing whether or not it was drawn well, the difficulty of judging compounded. At the end of the day, I felt that all of the winners had one or more of these qualities in their work. Had there been more awards, I would have felt even more satisfied, as there were paintings that unfortunately lost out in the artistic dance that is judging.



Gold Medal Award in the Master Signature division went to Shi Zhong Yan OPAM for "Uyghur Woman"



Albert Handell OPAM won the Bronze Medal in the Master Signature division for his painting "L'Arbre"

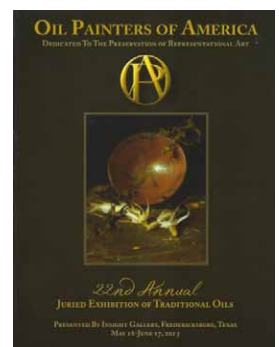


"The Train Station" by C. W. Mundy OPAM won the Silver Medal in the Master Signature division

Copies of the OPA 22nd National Exhibition catalog are available for purchase at a cost of \$25.00 each (three or more for \$21.00 each). You may purchase either online or by sending a check to:

Oil Painters of America  
P. O. 2488  
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488.

Some back issues are also available, but not for every year. Please visit our website for availability of past issues: [www.oilpaintersofamerica.com](http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com).



## MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER JOHANNA HARMON OPA



Johanna Harmon was born in 1968 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but spent most of her childhood in Tempe, Arizona. Johanna began designing and recording visual observations at the age of seven, but it wasn't until almost two decades later that she was introduced to the traditional language of art at the Scottsdale Artists' School in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Fechin Art Institute in Taos, New Mexico, and the Art Students League of Denver in Denver, Colorado. There, she studied painting alongside prominent figure artists with varied artistic philosophies and approaches such as Carolyn Anderson, John Asaro, Scott Burdick, Mark Daily, Daniel Gerhartz OPAM, Quang Ho OPAM, and C.W. Mundy OPAM.

Her work has been exhibited with the Art Renewal Center, *The Artist's Magazine*, California Art Club Gold Medal Exhibition, Oil Painters of America, Portrait Society of America, and Scottsdale Artists' School. She has received numerous prestigious awards throughout the years. Most recently she was honored with the OPA Signature Member designation, and acceptance into the 2013 Oil Painters of America's 22nd National Juried Exhibition - her eighth National Juried Exhibition - where she received her second Gold Medal Award, becoming the first artist to receive two OPA National Exhibition Gold Medal Awards in the organization's history. Her first Gold Medal was awarded in 2007.

Over the past decade, her work has been presented in numerous solo, group and juried exhibitions, and is collected internationally. Her work has been published in *Southwest Art*, *Artbook of the New West*, and *Focus Santa Fe*.

Harmon has taught workshops at North River Arts Society in Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts, and the Coppini Academy of Art in San Antonio, Texas. Currently, she teaches at The Art Student's League of Denver. Her emphasis is on the clarification of visual intention, while nurturing the overall painted subject. This pivotal understanding defines her work today. She credits Cecilia Beaux, Nicolai Fechin, John Singer Sargent, Joaquin Sorolla and Anders Zorn as inspiration.

Johanna now resides in beautiful Highlands Ranch, Colorado, with her husband of 16 years, Steven.



The Seascape Award of Excellence was won by Xiao Jiang for the painting "Reflection of Summer"



John Austin Hanna won the Donors' Award of Excellence for his entry "Summer Cool"



"Unexpected Snow" by Nikolo Balkanski won the Presidents' Award of Excellence



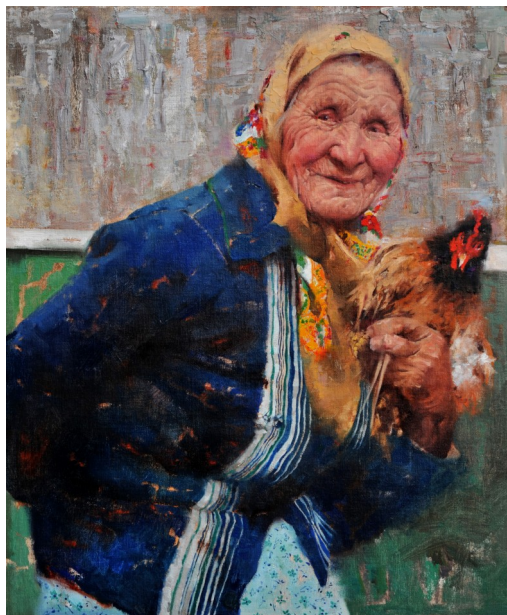
## MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER SHI ZHONG YAN OPAM

Shi Zhong Yan was born and raised in the coastal city of Qingdao, China. Influenced by his father who was an architect, Shi Zhong fell in love with art at a young age. He studied under various well-known local artists and at the age of sixteen he was accepted by Central Academy of Fine Arts Affiliated School, often referred to as the cradle of fine artists, where he studied for four years.



When the culture revolution swept China, Shi Zhong never gave up on his artistic dream. He was exiled and worked at manual labor in the countryside, but still took every minute he could to paint the world around him. When the cultural revolution ended, he was one of the first students accepted by China Academy of Fine Arts' graduate program. He continued his studies under one of the most well-known artists in China, Mr. Quan Shanshi. Shi Zhong studied in-depth the styles and techniques of Russian and European as well as American Impressionist Masters and was influenced by artists like Rechin, Degas, Cezanne, Sargent, etc.

In 1998, Shi Zhong and his family moved to the United States where he began a new chapter of his life as well as artistic career. Shi Zhong now resides in Illinois. He has four collections of artwork published and has been published by countless magazines and newspapers. Shi Zhong has had many solo and group exhibitions in China, the United States, Japan, France, Australia, Canada, Taiwan and Hong Kong. He has received many awards and his paintings are collected and loved by collectors all over the world.



Jeffrey R. Watts OPAM won the Most Original Award of Excellence in the Master Signature division for "Two Ladies of the Ukraine"



"Illumination" by Jeff Legg OPAM won a Donors Award of Excellence in the Master Signature division



The Shirl Smithson Founders' Award for Master Signature Members was awarded to Joan Potter OPAM for her painting "Bittersweet and Pears"



## MEET THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN ARTISTS WINNER TOM NACHREINER

Driven by a passion for excellence, Tom spent his earlier years as a nationally known figurative illustrator. More recent years have afforded him the privilege of a fine art rebirth, painting from his heart "en plein air" and conducting year round workshops. Among many other recognitions, recently Tom has won "Best of Show" at the 2006 & 2011 Cedarburg Plein Air Painting Competitions. He won "Best of Show" at Milwaukee's Plein Air Event in 2008, First Place at 2008 Door County Plein Air Festival, Second Place at the same event in 2009, and Third Place in 2011. He was juried into OPA's National Shows in 2009, 2012

and 2013 as well as OPA's Eastern Regional Show in 2010 and Salon Show in in 2013. In 2010 Tom was published in "Best Oil Painters of America". This July 2013 will be Tom's seventh year at the Door Country Plein Air Festival of 40 national and international invited artists.

"I want to say just enough with paint to evoke the imagination." Tom paints for the love of dynamic composition, the celebration of color, and the tactile feel of applying juicy, wet paint to the canvas, at the same time having fun, enjoying the sounds and feelings of being outdoors, talking to others, doing what he loves, and trying to learn as much as he can before the end of each day."



Tom Nachreiner won the Dorothy Drieaus Mellon Fellowship for his painting "Stretching"

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## OPA CRITIQUES ONCE AGAIN WELL ATTENDED

As in past years OPA offered critiques to members and guests at the National Show and Convention. Artists were asked to bring samples representative of their work for review by OPA Signature and Master Signature members. Thank you to our critiquers for donating your time and expertise to this event.



Critiquer Elizabeth Pollie OPA



Critiquer Scott Royston OPA



Critiquer Lisa Egeli OPA



## ***Oh, What a Night! American Art Collector's Amazing "Party Under the Stars"***

Once again, *American Art Collector Magazine* "WOWED" OPA members and guests at this year's "Party Under the Stars" event which AAC has generously sponsored for the past four years. This year's event took place under the beautiful star-filled Texas sky at the historic Pat's Dance Hall. Reminiscent of a time when life was simpler, Pat's Hall was a perfect venue for guests to unwind and enjoy the camaraderie of old and new friends. Without a doubt, top-billing goes to the huge and magnificent old oak tree situat-

ed right in the middle of the outdoor venue. Its glorious branches were illuminated as they stretched out across the night sky.

Guests dined on a delicious old fashioned Texas barbeque compliments of Fredericksburg's local favorite Cranky Frank's BBQ. And, to make this evening extra special, guests listened to the mesmerizing sound of one of Austin's hottest country bands, "The Lonesome Heroes Band."

Not surprising, some of our multi-talented artists felt inspired to join the band and share their musical talents with us. Kirk Larsen threw down a mean harmonica and guests sang along with the band's melodic tunes.

Another great memory to add to the list! Thanks to *American Art Collector*, especially to Joshua Rose, Alex McKee and Amy Elliott Gause for their continued support.



The inviting entrance to Pat's Hall



Four guys sharing a great night together



The Lonesome Heroes Band was outstanding



Joshua Rose leads dancing under the stars



Great BBQ was the fare of the night



All enjoyed an evening of good food, entertainment and camaraderie



Alex McKee with  
*American Art Collector*  
Magazine



Barbara Carter Fine  
Gilded Frames talks  
to artist Jim Bruce  
OPA



Ali Cruickshank and  
Charlie Bogusz of *Plein  
Air Magazine* and *Fine  
Art Connoisseur*



Rosemary &  
Co. Brushes  
was a crowd  
pleaser



## THANKS TO ALL OF OUR AWARD AND RAFFLE SPONSORS

As in the past, our national exhibition and convention was fantastic, due in a large part to the continued support and effort of our sponsors. This year's winning artists received fabulous prizes in the form of cash and/or merchandise awards. We also want to thank those who contributed to our raffle baskets. We were pleased to have 5 fantastic baskets filled with various art related items for anyone wishing to buy a ticket. Thank you so much to our sponsors for all of their assistance and cooperation.

*American Art Collector Magazine*  
Ampersand Art Supply  
*Art of the West Magazine*  
Artisans at Rocky Hill Gallery  
Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames  
Betty Schmidt  
Blick Art Materials  
Blue Ridge Oil Colors  
Classic Gallery Framing, Inc.  
Daler Rowney  
Dorothy Drieaus Mellin and  
The Richard H. Drieaus Foundation  
*Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*  
Fine Art Studio On-Line

Fredericksburg Artists' School  
Friends of OPA  
Friends of Ted Goerschner OPAM  
Gamblin Artists Colors Co.  
General Pencil Company  
Golden Artist Colors, Inc.  
Guerrilla Painter  
HK Holbein Artists' Oil Colors  
Jack Richeson & Company  
John Marion Parry Family  
Liliedahl Video Productions  
M. Graham & Company  
Martin F. Weber Company  
Natural Pigments

*Plein Air Magazine*  
Ralph Liliedahl  
RayMar Art  
Rosemary & Co., Brushes  
Savoir-Faire  
Scottsdale Artists' School  
Shirl Smithson Family  
SourceTek Art Supply  
*Southwest Art Magazine*  
*The Artist's Magazine*  
*The Artist's Road*  
Vasari Classic Artists' Oil Colors  
Winsor & Newton  
Zhiwei Tu OPAM



## DEMOS!

Written by OPA member  
A.C. Lindner

Friday morning of the OPA 22<sup>nd</sup> National Convention kicked off with painting demonstrations at the Admiral Nimitz Museum by Kenn Backhaus OPAM, Scott Burdick, John Michael Carter OPAM, John Cosby and Elizabeth Robbins OPA. Attendees enjoyed watching the painters at work and learned from the tips they shared. Here are a few observations and notes I made during the painting session as I moved from station to station.

Scott Burdick painted a head study of a young girl indoors. His set-up included a large floor light with a daylight filter. He began his painting by blocking in a flesh tone on the canvas. Scott said he likes to work from big to small and from warm to cool incorporating component colors. As he put down his reference points, he said he was thinking of the relationship between key points such as the eyes, and then everything else was measured off of that. He said he tries to find a balance between the drawing

and the brushwork. In painting a pretty lady or a girl, he said he is more constrained with his brushwork because it is so important to get the drawing right; but he will play up the brushwork when he paints a model with character, such as the old face of a Navajo. He engaged his model in conversation so as to fully capture her essence in the portrait.

John Michael Carter OPAM, painted his model, a young woman wearing a brightly striped scarf, by starting with a middle value blue to lay in undertones to begin organizing the shapes of the face. He focused on having cool lights and warm shadows; his set-up included a large daylight filter floor lamp with a secondary warm fluorescent accent light. Once he had his cool under painting drawn, he came in with flesh tones in a range of values. As he worked across the painting he put in shapes and pieces of color in a way that made me think of a mosaic or stained glass. As he changed colors he changed brushes. In working with periphery areas, sometimes rather than using a brush, he used a palette knife. Then he came in with a fan brush to knock down

edges just a little bit without losing his brushwork. In painting the scarf, variation in paint application ranged from a dry brush technique to create a shape of paint rather than making fabric, to a few pieces of very heavy impasto; he explained that a flat abstract shape makes a developed shape seem rounder.

Elizabeth Robbins OPA, painted a still life of white roses from a traditional shadowbox set-up. She began with a very dark wash over the entire canvas, and then used a paper towel to wipe out areas for the roses, creating varied shapes. She did this in order to emphasize mass rather than drawing. The roses were painted with one flower in more detail and contrast to serve as a focal point, and the remaining roses fading into less focus as they receded into the background. Once the subject was painted, she did not have to paint a background or shadows because the initial wash was dark enough to serve as both. In a short amount of time, she had the whole painting looking complete in her loose painting style. She said that she likes to have fun and be free spirited when she paints, and that she



Kenn Backhaus OPAM draws a crowd



Scott Burdick's model Ainsley Plesko and her brother Jake smile for onlookers



John Michael Carter OPAM instructs as he paints

Demos! Con't.

doesn't like rules, except that you should paint what you love. I noted that she squints when painting, which would aid in pushing the values to achieve the nice chiaroscuro effect she accomplished.

Outdoors, John Cosby painted a boat scene from his travels in Cuando, China. He began his painting by blocking in shapes of colors. He said that in any flat surface he is trying to create a sense of color change. He is always looking for movement - red, blue, green. He will stay in a value while changing the color to create this movement. As he painted, he put green water in front of a smoggy red sky, pulling the water forward, the smooth water reflecting the warm color of the sky. He put more texture in the boat, painted green with a blue highlight, with a heavy impasto light value on the inside of the boat. He said that he is very careful with the values in his painting and how he

builds them in creating the painting. He puts big value jumps in the foreground and less in the background to create a sense of depth. Finally he added the smaller details. I was impressed that John was able to paint this beautiful piece while not being able to see his iPad image well due to glare. He said that he "had to draw on experience for this one," a good reminder that sometimes you have to paint what you know and not what you see.

In the gazebo, Kenn Backhaus OPAM, painted an architectural scene using a reference photograph from Pioga, Italy. He began with an umber wash to block in the drawing. After adding warm yellows, he dropped in his cool notes. He worked quickly, stepping back from his work frequently. I enjoyed his animated dialogue as he loaded paint onto his brush as it swirled around in the loads of paint on his palette. He said that the first thing he sees is the design, and then he draws into it with good

brushwork, the focal point having the sharpest edge and contrast. He pointed out the six sources of light: sunlight, ambient (sky), reflective, overcast, moonlight, and artificial. He set up the colors based on what was in light and what was in shadow, getting the color temperature shifts right, and then got more definitive as the painting progressed. He used a palette knife to put in impasto demarcation, giving the painting dimension. He pointed out that it is important to understand the planes and how they change depending on how they face the light; he said that this is where you will find those temperature shifts.

It was interesting to see so many different approaches to making a painting, and how each end result turned out beautifully. A special thanks goes to these wonderful artists for sharing their expertise with us. I know we all learned from watching them work.



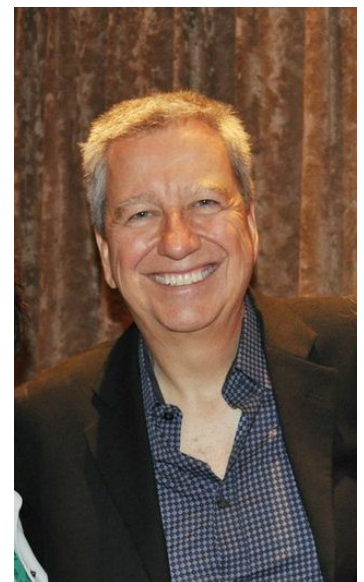
Kenn Backhaus OPAM spoke about overcoming an artist's commonality



Modernism versus traditional art was discussed by contemporary artist Scott Burdick



Art law attorney Bill Frazier spoke on "What Every Artist Needs to Know"



Art publisher and entrepreneur Eric Rhoads gave an inspiring presentation on brand building



## SPRING 2013 ASSOCIATE ON-LINE SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

As in the past, the entries in the most recent On-Line Showcase were awesome. Thank you to our Juror of Awards Mostafa Keyhani OPA who found it hard to jury with so many fantastic paintings. And again, thank you to Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and The Driehaus Foundation for their continued support of this competition!

The second showcase for 2013 is currently underway. This competition is open to Associate members and may be entered anytime between now and August 15. There is no limit to the number of paintings you may enter and no size restrictions either. The cost is only \$14 per entry! Visit the OPA website for entry info.



“Antique Market in Nice, France”  
by Derek Penix

**First Place:** Derek Penix for “Antique Market in Nice, France”

**Second Place:** Carla D’aguanno for “Sunshine & Sweet Melon”

**Third Place:** David Riedle for “Peonies”

**Honorable Mentions:** Adam Clague for “Golden Rhythms”, Mark Daly for “Silver Mood”, Paul Cheng for “Gentle Bird Flathead”, Ann Larson for “Teton Summer”, Thomas Wezwick for “Some Creek Up North”, Anne Blaire Brown for “Up for Discussion”, Nikolo Balkanski for “End of March”, Ezra Suko for “The Road Ahead”, Laura Kersey for “Un Tour di Firenze” and Pauline Roche for “The Souvenir Merchant”.

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## MEET ON-LINE SHOWCASE WINNER DEREK PENIX

Derek Penix was born on December 29, 1980 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Growing up Penix was surrounded by artists in his family as his mother and grandfather were painters. Penix did not pursue painting until after graduating from high school. Penix’s mother encouraged him to pursue his talent and took his paintings to a local gallery where he sold his first piece.

Through the years Penix has been inspired by old masters such as Nicolai Fechin, Sargent and the French Impressionists. But it has been over the last few years that Penix has been the most influenced by artist Quang Ho OPAM. Penix had the opportunity to take a workshop under Mr. Ho and later to study with him. Since then, Penix believes his paintings have grown more in the last two years than in his prior twelve years of painting.



As an artist Penix gains inspiration from his environment, whether that be at the park, in his home, or traveling abroad. He enjoys the freedom to paint different subject matter and has learned to push himself to try new things, even if they are out of his comfort zone.

Penix was recognized in *Southwest Art Magazine*’s “21 Under 31” artist competition in 2010. He continues to paint full time as a professional artist and continually strives to advance his skill.

## PAINTING OUR FUTURE

### NEWS BRIEFS AN SPECIAL OCCASIONS

**Kim Casebeer OPA** won First Prize in the January/February bi-monthly PleinAir Salon competition with an oil painting based on a location near her Topeka home.

**Daniel Mark Cassity** is pleased to be noted in the August edition of *Southwest Art Magazine's* "Artists to Watch". Cassity has three upcoming exhibitions one of which is a solo show at the Snyder Art Museum in Bastrop, LA from Sept 5 - October 18.

**Earlayne Chance's** painting "Rio Ruidoso, August" was accepted for the 2013 Celebracion del Arte Exhibit, at the Hubbard Museum of Western Art in Ruidoso Downs, NM.

**Shirley Gipson** recently won the Merit Award in the Still Life category at the 2013 Salon International, sponsored by the International Museum of Contemporary Masters (hosted by Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art).

**Tom Nachreiner** was honored to receive the "Best of Show" award for the third year in eight years he has entered "The Cedarburg Plein Air Competition". There were 170 painters in the event and over 365 paintings entered.

**Karen Petrovich** won the Best of Show in the 2-D category at the Boulder City Fine Art Festival in April and will be the show's featured artist in 2014, held in Boulder City, NV.

**Ron Sanders** has been juried into two prestigious international exhibitions: the 2012/2013 International Arc Salon, Art Renewal Center Online Exhibition and the Salon International, Greenhouse Gallery show. He was also featured in the first annual Faces & Figures National Exhibition at the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda, FL where he received the Judge's Figure Award.

**William Schneider OPA** was awarded First Place in the AANC 22nd National Juried Exhibition for "Alone in Warsaw" as well as being recognized among the "Favorite 15%" in the Bold Brush Competition. Schneider's painting "Jealous Circe" received the Award of Merit in the 2013 On-Line Open International Exhibition sponsored by the National Oil and Acrylic Painters society.

**Johanna Spinks** is please to announce that The Museum of Ventura County in CA, has just accepted into its permanent collection 58 portraits painted from life in one sitting by Spinks for her "Face of Ventura" series. The portrait series, which included movie star Kevin Costner, was featured weekly for two years in both a local newspaper and local radio show. Johanna is now painting The Face of Malibu, these sketches appearing each month in The Malibu Times along with an interview with each sitter.

**William A. Suys, Jr. OPA** is in "Today's Masters" in the March/April issue of *Fine Art Connoisseur*

*Magazine* as part of a feature on animal portraiture. His painting "Soldier" – a full-body horse portrait featuring authentic Civil War (Union) tack – is pictured in the story. Suys' painting "Perceptions" has been chosen to hang in the Salon International 2013 at the International Museum of Contemporary Masters of Fine Art, held annually at Greenhouse Gallery in San Antonio In December, Suys' painting "Curious Calf" won First Place in the Jack Richeson National Animals, Birds & Wildlife Exhibition, and more recently, Suys won Second Place at the Randy Higbee Gallery's annual 6" Squared show in CA.

**Jerry Venditti's** painting "Imagine...if I were the last Bee" was selected by the Artists for Conservation Organization for their annual Festival. Artists for Conservation (AFC), is the world's leading artist group supporting the environment. The annual AFC Festival is the top conservation-themed exhibit of original nature & wildlife art.

**Arden Vincent** won Honorable mention for her street scene "Rain and Shine" in the Santa Paula Society of the Arts 76th Annual Art & Photography Exhibit which recently took place in Santa Paula, CA.

**Billie Wright** was selected as a finalist in the Richeson 75 Online Still Life and Floral Competition with her oil painting "Skulls". She also received honorable mention awards with her oil paintings "Misty Morn" and "The Boss" in the Richeson 75 Online Animals, Birds and Wildlife Competition."



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2013 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 3 OPA National Exhibitions or 2 National Exhibitions and 3 regional and/or salon shows. (Regionals/salons must be within the last 5 years.)

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2013 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

### **NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS**

Twenty-third Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention, Bennington, Vermont

Exhibit hosted by Bennington Center for the Arts - June 7 - July 27, 2014 - Juror of Awards: Charles Movalli OPAM

### **REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS**

2013 Western Regional - SouthWind Gallery, Topeka, Kansas - Sept. 6-Oct. 26, 2013 - Juror of Awards: Ned Mueller OPAM

2013 Eastern Regional - McBride Gallery, Annapolis, Maryland - Oct 20.-Nov 17, 2013- Juror of Awards: Nancy Howe OPA

2014 Western Regional – Mountainsong Galleries, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California - August 28-October 30, 2014

### **ON-LINE SHOWCASES**

June 1 - August 15, 2013 - open to Associate members - Juror of Awards: Kim Casebeer OPA

October 1 - December 15, 2013 - open to Associate and Signature members, with separate awards for each division

### **PAINT OUTS**

(events confirmed as of newsletter going to press, refer online for events added after press time)

September 4 - East Boothbay, ME - Contact: Corinne McIntyre

September 7 - Marceline, MO - Contact: Darrell Gardner

September 21 - Fayetteville, GA - Contact: Kathaleen Brewer

September 28 - Juliette, GA - Contact: Carol R. Griffin

October 5 - Keene, KY - Contact: Terri Melgar

October 5 - Ringwood, NJ - Contact: Ramona Dooley

October 6 - Volcano, HI - Contact: Vicki Penney-Rohner

October 16 - Boerne, TX - Contact: Teri Jo McReynolds

November 7 - San Antonio, TX - Contact: Charlotte Cox

November 9 - Charleston, SC - Contact: Dee Beard Dean

## NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The yearly General Business meeting was held at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites, during the 2013 National Exhibition and Convention. The following Board members were elected for two year terms:

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

OPA is pleased to announce that in 2015 we will add a plein air show to our exhibitions. The show will include approximately 400 pieces. More information will be available when details are finalized.

Members are reminded that the Shirl Smithson Scholarship has been established to award a scholarship to an artist to attend a workshop to advance his/her career in painting. Scholarship submission deadline is December 1. Information concerning applying for this may be obtained on the OPA website.

This is the time of year to start thinking about attending, or hosting, one of OPA's Paint Outs. Currently 10 Paint Outs have been organized for September through November. See "Dates To Remember" on page 15 or go to the OPA website for more information.

The following statistics reflect how many artists and guests are following OPA via electronic media:

4858 fans on Facebook,  
242 followers on Twitter,  
17 followers on Pinterest  
4527 people receive our blog  
2166 visits to blog per month.

If you haven't visited the OPA blog, you're missing some interesting reading. Articles change on a weekly basis and cover a multitude of topics concerning painting and related areas. You may view the blog at OPA's website or by going to: [www.opablog.com](http://www.opablog.com)

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Peggi Kroll Roberts

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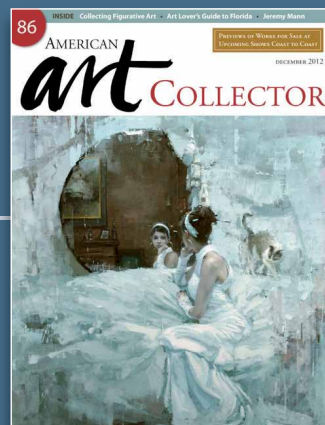
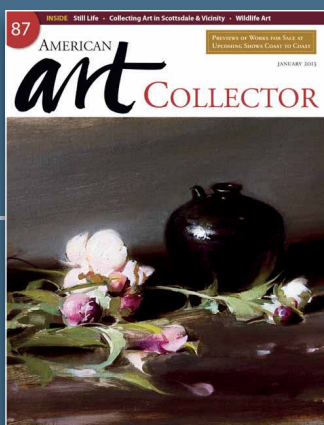
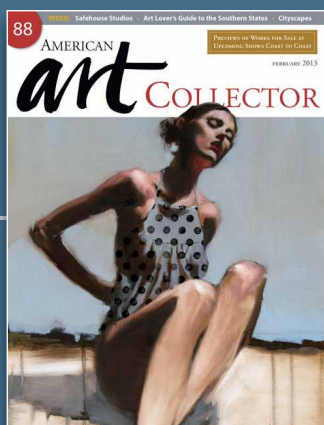
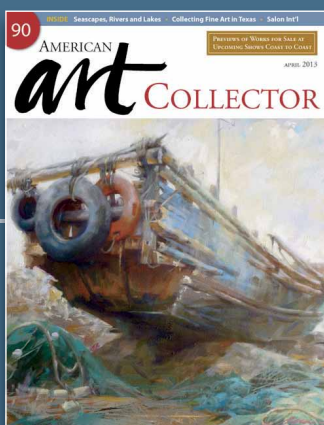
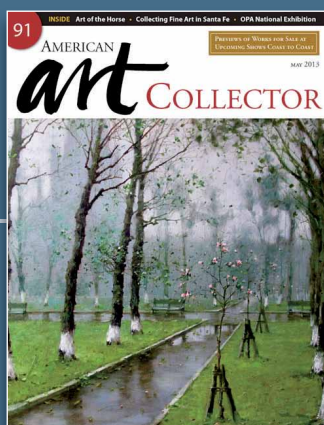
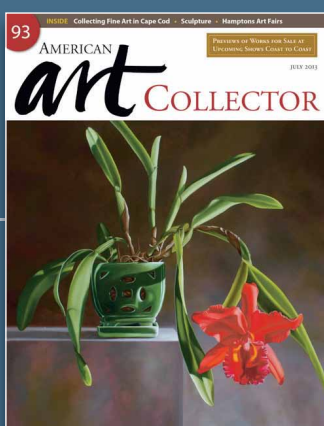
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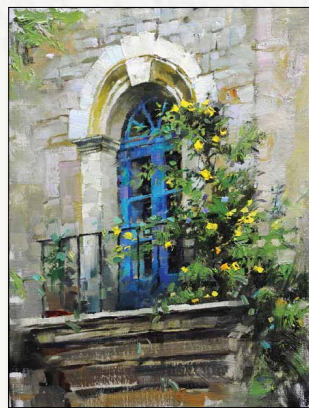
**Johnnie Liliedahl**  
*Sarah*  
1h 40m • \$65\*



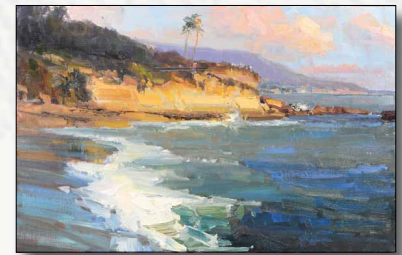
**Daniel Keys**  
*Hydrangeas & Orange Slices*  
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**Zhaoming Wu**  
*Solitude*  
4h 40m • \$135\*



**John Michael Carter** OPA  
*Balcony with Roses*  
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**Kathryn Stats**  
*Seaside, Reflections of Southern California*  
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