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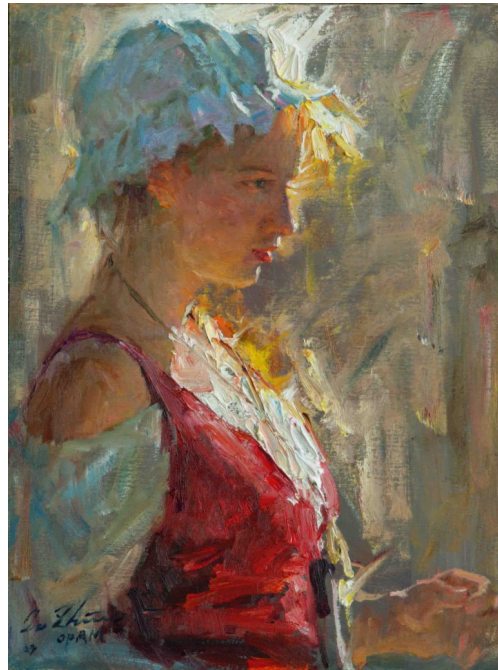
volume 24 issue 3

FALL
2014

“FIRST IN THE WORLD” OPA MASTER SIGNATURE EXHIBITION

It was an historic moment in time as the opening reception for OPA’s “First in the World” Master Signature Exhibition in Carmel, California got underway July 25, 2014. Over forty Master Signature members, representing many of our most distinguished artists participated in this exclusive exhibition in the charming seaside village of Carmel.

The weekend was festive in nature, as the Masters in attendance recognized the significance of this important milestone in the organization’s history. Never before have



Zhiwei Tu OPAM won Best of Show for his painting “Still Interested”

so many OPA Masters come together to celebrate the extraordinary talent of this group as a whole and to admire and pay tribute to the amazing journey each artist has taken to arrive at this point in his/her career.

OPA past President Neil Patterson OPAM served as the inaugural Juror of Awards for this momentous event. As if jurying wasn’t hard enough, jurying the “First In the World Master Signature Exhibition” proved almost impossible when trying to select a winner, as each painting was outstanding.



“BFF” painted by Nancy S. Crookston OPAM won the People’s Choice Award of Excellence



An Honorable Mention was awarded to Jeffrey R. Watts OPAM for his painting “Old Soul”

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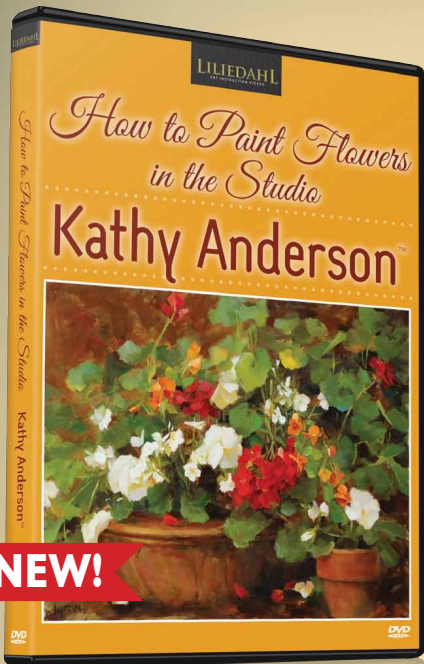
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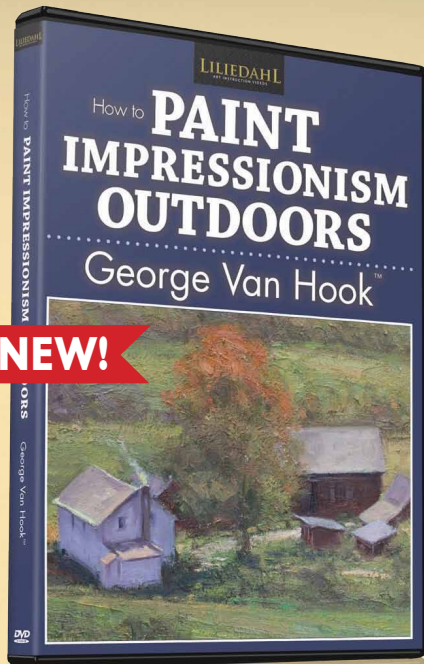
George Van Hook

Daniel Graves



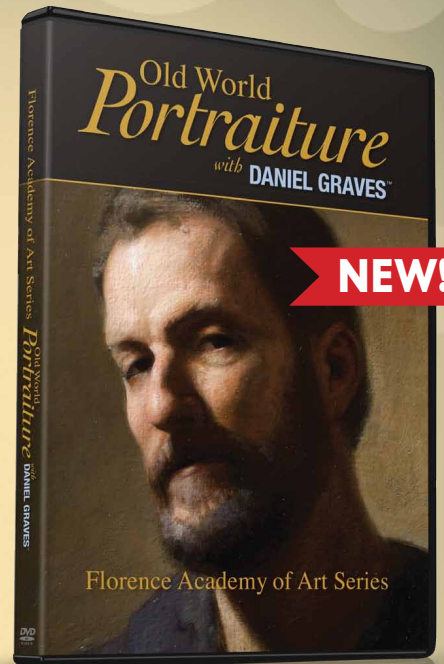
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MEET THE BEST OF SHOW WINNER ZHIWEI TU OPAM

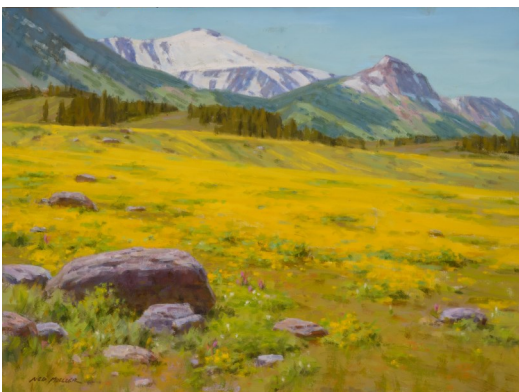
Past OPA president Zhiwei Tu OPAM is a quiet man who is not prone to flaunt his remarkable artistic talent. He has an expansive background in oil painting, exhibiting competence in a diversity of subjects. Besides being an accomplished artist he has been an art professor at Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, the College of South China Literature and Art in China and the Teaching College of Shiaoguan in China. Tu has had more than 25 one-man shows and 50 group shows in China, Japan, Algeria, Canada, England, France and the United States as well as having had 12 art books published. Recently the “Zhiwei Tu Art Museum” was opened by the Shiaoguan City government of China in recognition of his extraordinary talent.



Huihan Liu OPAM won the Second Place Award
for his painting “Song of Spirit”



“Stormy Afternoon” painted by Albert Handell
OPAM won the Third Place ribbon



“Golden Meadow - Beartooth Range”
by Ned Mueller OPAM
won an Award of Excellence



Harley Brown OPAM won an
Honorable Mention for “Peta”



An Award of Excellence was given to
Daniel E. Green OPAM for “White Orchids”

SUMMER 2014 ASSOCIATE ON-LINE SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED



First Place: Anna Bain for “Sharing Secrets”

Second Place: Anne Blaire Brown for “Wishing”

Third Place: Charles Young Walls for “La Vespertina”

Honorable Mentions: Ann Kraft Walker for “Jessica”, Suzie Baker for “Valentino”, Deborah Tilby for “Hidden in the Woods”, Jimmy Longacre for “Hill Country Celebrity”, Stephanie Deshpande for “Exploring the Basement”, Mark Boedges for “Maryland Crab Shed”, E. Melinda Morrison for “Wanna Go For A Walk?”, Elizabeth Whelan for “Portrait of Nat Benjamin, Boat Builder & Designer”, Patrick Meehan for “Semper Fi” and Jason Jackson for “Taking Flight”.

As in the past, OPA’s On-Line Showcase entries were incredible and gave Juror of Awards Bryce Cameron Liston OPA many examples of outstanding works to be considered as award winners. Many thanks to Bryce for his time and effort judging the 365 entries in this competition.

Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation once again funded this event. Without their support this competition would not be possible. Thank you to both for your continued sponsorship and encouragement.

Submission for the current Associate and Signature On-Line Showcase must be received by December 15. The cost is only \$14 per entry and you may enter as many paintings as you would like. Visit the OPA website for entry info and to view the rest of the award winning entries.



MEET THE ON-LINE SHOWCASE WINNER ANNA ROSE BAIN

Anna Rose Bain was born and raised in rural Wisconsin. She began drawing from the moment she could pick up a pencil. Inspired by her grandfather, who started painting at the age of 70, she spent her free time as a child sketching from nature and poring over art books. She was home schooled, giving her the opportunity to focus on art. Her primary medium was colored pencil until she began classes at Hillsdale College, majoring in Art. There, she fell in love with oils and decided to focus her studies on painting. Her strong background in drawing helped her to move forward in advanced classes such as figure painting

and sculpture. Under classical instruction and rigorous technical training, Anna excelled in the Hillsdale art department and received a full scholarship for her senior year, allowing her to attend summer painting classes at the Florence Academy of Art.

Anna now resides in Garland, TX with her husband, Steve and daughter, Cecelia. She works full-time as a fine art oil painter and commissioned portrait artist, teaches private painting lessons and workshops, and is actively involved in the local arts communities.

Anna’s classical style both idealizes the subject and captures its true essence, while employing a direct painting method. She draws her inspiration from the joys and struggles in her life. Her paintings are an expression of gratitude and an exploration of the questions one faces at different stages of their life.

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S PAINT-OUTS



Illinois' September Paint-Out started cool but warmed up and became sunny for artists (front row) Betty Schmidt, Martha Leisten, Joy Bauer, (back row) Lee Radtke and Jeffrey Baumgartner



The skies cleared and the sun prevailed at the **Massachusetts** Paint-Out on September 21

Wayne Peltier, Tanya Harsch, Carol Freiswick, Dorothy Downing, Frank Robertson, and Pamela Giarratana, with other artists in attendance, but not in the photo

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SHIRL SMITHSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP OPEN TO ALL CURRENT ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND ART STUDENTS

The Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship is named after Oil Painters of America's founder Shirl Smithson. Four scholarships are awarded annually with three designated for active OPA members while one scholarship is awarded to a part or full-time student currently enrolled in art school or an art related program. (Students need not be OPA members to apply.)

Upon review of the application materials, the Scholarship Committee will select four artists to receive scholarships based on the quality and strength of the art work submitted and the potential for further development. One scholarship is designated specifically for a student who is currently enrolled in an art program.

Scholarships must be used to attend a workshop or class in representational oil painting. Scholarship winners must receive approval from Oil Painters of America prior to enrolling or attending a workshop or class. All scholarship funding will be sent directly from OPA to the designated workshop and/or class.

All Associate members are encouraged to apply. Recipients of a scholarship are eligible to apply again.

Potential recipients should submit an application (by December 1) including an artist's statement, artist's resume and a CD containing six representational images of his/her work. The request should be sent to the OPA General Office at: P. O. Box 2488, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488 and designated "Scholarship Application". Applicants will be notified by March 1.

My Story: John Michael Carter OPAM OPA Board Member (and Fundraising Committee)



I have been painting 35 – 40 years; I've been exhibiting in galleries and entering competitive shows during this time. One thing I noticed was that an invitation to a show was often influenced by whether or not I was represented by a particular gallery or dealer who had connections with the shows. As a painter you needed to be “plugged into a network”. Some years ago I became aware of Oil Painters of America (OPA) and its national show and I did some research about the organization. I was pleased to find out that OPA emphasized fair practices in its competitions – it removed favoritism by continually changing jury pools. OPA was making an effort to have a major national exhibition where an artist had an opportunity to have work accepted solely on artistic merit. I became a member, started showing with OPA and felt it would be a good platform for my work, where traditional realism is supported and not a “thing of the past.”

OPA is dedicated to the support and preservation of traditional realism. For me painting is a way of understanding and experiencing my visual world. OPA provides a venue that supports my outlook on painting and offers opportunities to share my work with the art community through its exhibitions and activities. Through its membership, OPA can make a strong affirmative statement for the continued inclusion of traditional realism as an important part of the world of contemporary art. As an individual artist it is difficult to make ones voice heard in the environment of contemporary art but as a large group supporting that traditional philosophy, OPA has a chance of making that voice louder and clearer for all of its membership.

How John Michael Influenced One of His Students to Support OPA

I had known “Jack” for a year and one half, because he was a student in several of my workshops. I mentioned OPA to Jack and told him that I was on the Fundraising Committee. Jack mentioned that he was in control of a family charitable foundation and decided to re-organize some of his giving priorities because he felt that OPA was very important. He ended up giving OPA over \$16,000 (undesignated) in one year through the family foundation. “Jack” also went on to purchase paintings at the recent national show and has other creative ideas to support OPA.

John Michael Carter OPAM has already identified yet another prospect who is getting involved in OPA and it is helping her experience as a painter of representational art.

Do you have a story to tell and share with other OPA members? Contact Bob Wulff, our new OPA Development Specialist and he will help you write it: BWulff@oilpaintersofamerica.com.

23RD ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL OILS CATALOG STILL AVAILABLE

Copies of the OPA 23rd National Exhibition catalog are still available at a cost of \$25.00 each or three or more for \$21.00 each. Send a check or money order to:
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Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488

You may also visit our website to order this, or past issues: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com.

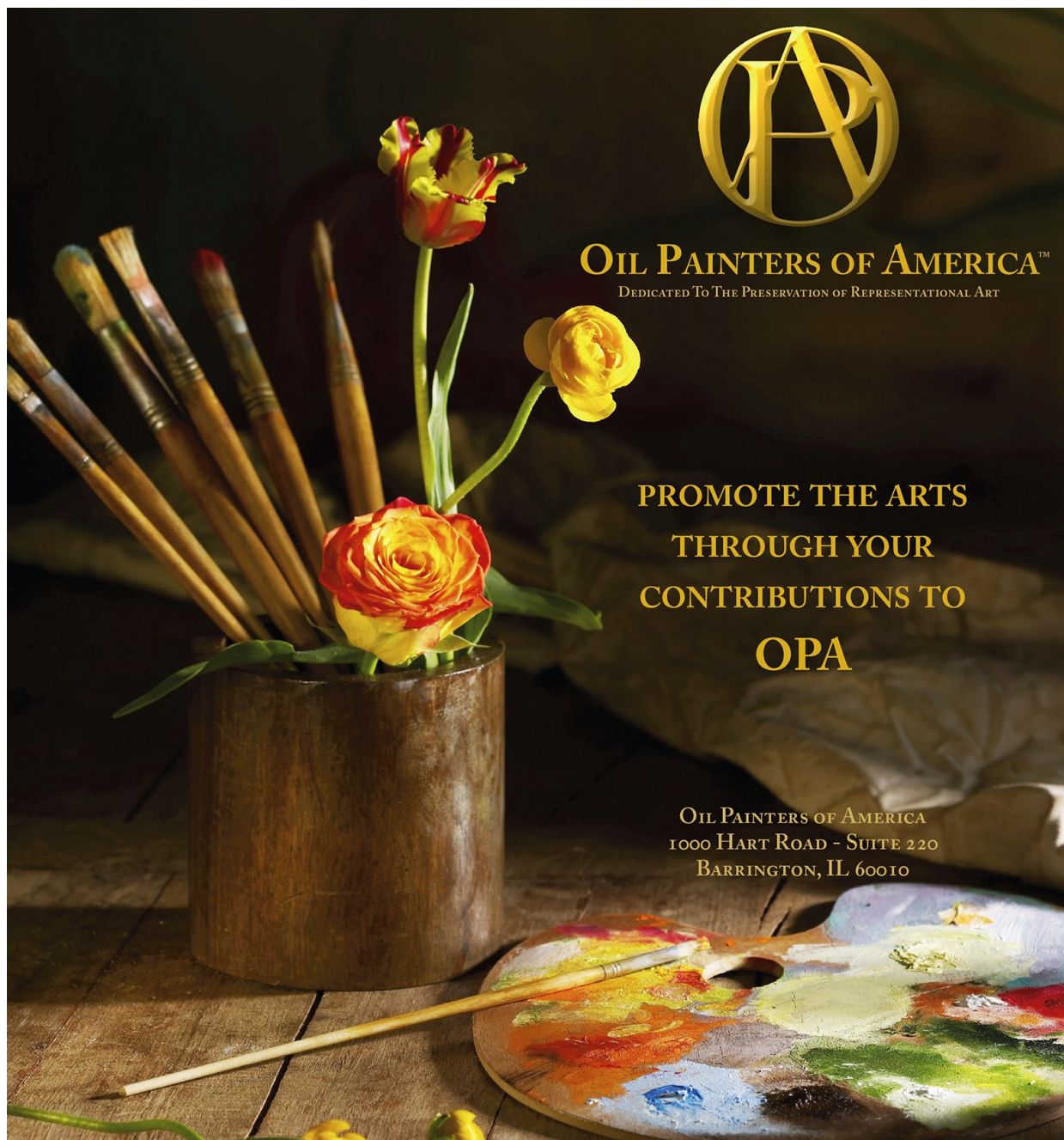
SPREAD THE WORD about OPA

..... as did John Michael Carter OPAM

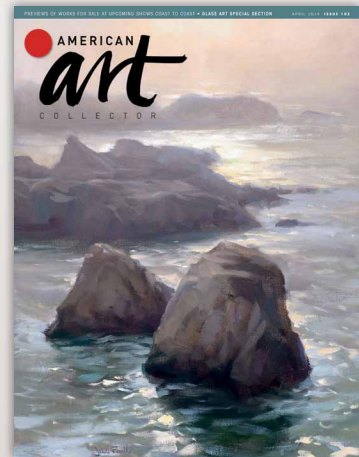
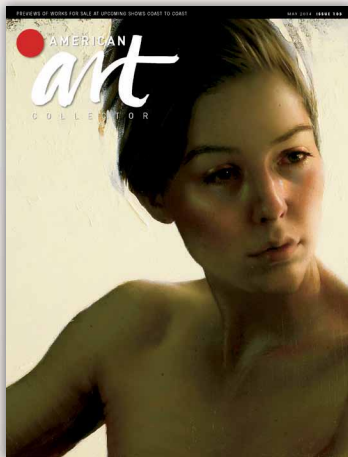
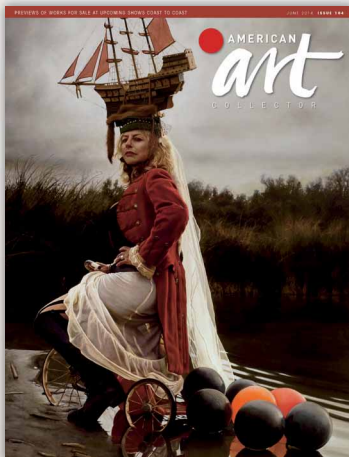
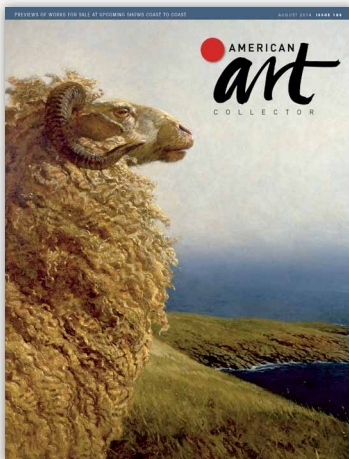
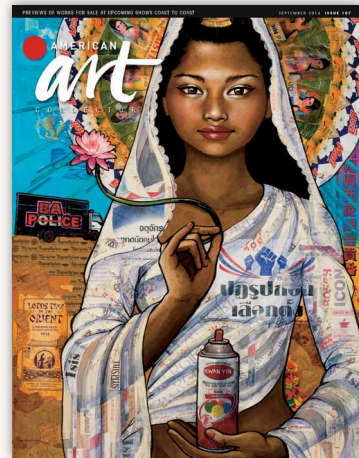
Help Secure Outside Funding with our new brochure with built-in contribution envelope.....

Many people want to “support the arts” but don’t necessarily have a vehicle for doing so. Order these new fundraising brochures from OPA to take with you to exhibitions and have on display in your studio to let the public know about our work and garner their support. They have a built-in reply envelope.

Order half a dozen (6) today by emailing our Development Specialist, Bob Wulff:
BWulff@oilpaintersofamerica.com. For additional information please call Bob at: 847-302-4720 (mobile).



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MORE 2014 OPA PAINT-OUT PHOTOS



This year the OPA Great Paint-Out in **East Boothbay, Maine** on September 10, was attended by both the Plein Air Painters of Maine (PAPME) and the Plein Air Painters of the Southeast (PAPSE), as well as OPA members. The Southeast painters traveled very long distances (Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina etc.) to join us. The weather was beautiful. The temperature perfect. Everyone had a great time. In fact we spent the whole week painting together and had a pizza party after the Paint-Out!

Front row: Jane Chapin, Pam Padgett, Candy McKellar, Luise van Keuren, Ken Harvey, Bob Grant, Midge Coleman, Greg Laderer, Judy Pumfrey, Barbara Barclay, Helen St. Clair, Kathleen Billis, Corinne McIntyre, Diane Dubreuil **Second Row:** Julian Sacks, Tom Whittle, Penny Markley, Pat Zolper, Dawn Whitelaw, Felicity Sidwell, Larry Pumfrey, Bobbi Heath, Anne Blair Brown, Paula Frizbe, Gwen Nagle, George Hayes **Third Row:** Mitch Billis, Gene Klink, Ken Carlson, Geoff Bladon, Suzanne Marinell, Dan Graziano, Anne Self, Rick Reinert, Kevin Menck, Sarah Greenier, Tom Greenier, Ian Orman, Bill Farnsworth, Rich Nelson, Stephan Giannini, Scott Boyle - 11 more artists missed the photo—53 painters in all



From the smiles on their faces, the 33 artists who attended the **Marceline, MO** Paint-Out had an enjoyable day



A total of 26 artists participated, painting indoors and out, at the **Maryland** event. Everyone had a great time ending with some artists lining up their work and engaging in a very interesting critique.

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NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAVE THE DATES

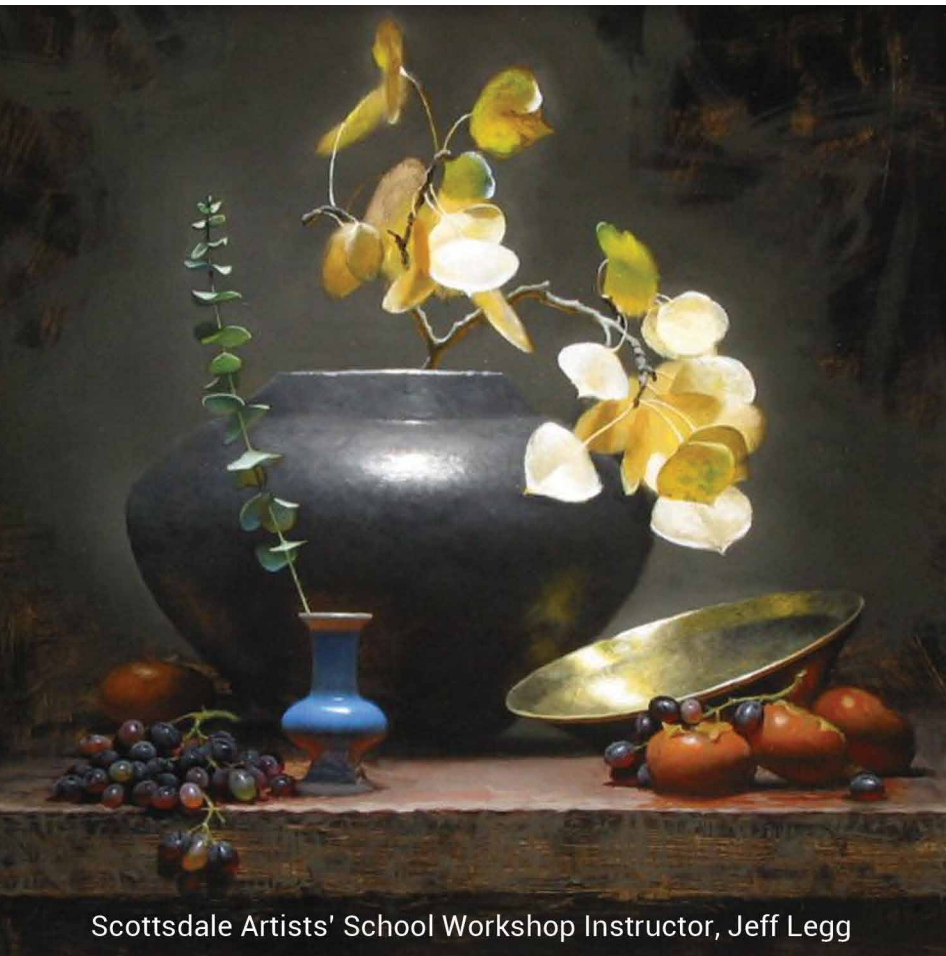
The 2015 National Exhibition and Convention will take place May 1 through May 25, with a preview being held April 29 & 30. Convention dates are Wednesday, April 29 through Sunday, May 3. The event is being held at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art at its Brilliance in Color Gallery in St. Augustine, Florida. The convention will begin with a 2-day plein air event and include painting demos, panel discussions and informative presentations by noted authorities in the art world. Make sure to mark your calendars for this educational and fun experience.

It has come to our attention that a few members are including the initials "OPA" after their signatures on their artwork. These initials may only be used by members who have been awarded the status of Signature Member. Inclusion of these letters by a non-Signature member is a violation of the OPA By-laws and Policies.

Look for your 2015 membership renewal forms in your mailbox in November. Please review the data carefully and record any changes. The address you provide must be one where mailings may be physically delivered, or you will not receive mailings, such as the national

catalog. As noted in the last newsletter, dues have increased from \$60 to \$70 for the 2015 year. Remember that applications for the Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship are due in the OPA office no later than December 1.

The following are some facts we thought you might find of interest concerning our online presence. In 2014 the OPA website has had a total of 268,614 page views (hits) for an average of about **1066** page views per day. The OPA blog has had a total of 44,766 page views (hits) for an average of about **178** page views per day. Pretty impressive statistics!



Scottsdale Artists' School Workshop Instructor, Jeff Legg



Scottsdale Artists' School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to developing the capabilities of artists and aspiring artists. The School houses six fully equipped studios and offers more than 200 diverse programs a year.

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PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Michael Gillespie spent the month of August in Italy as Artist in Residence in rural Tuscany, at a 5-star hotel and resort. He did mostly plein air paintings, painted one portrait, and taught some art lessons. He also visited historic sites, art museums, and visited in the teaching studio of Matthew James Collins, Instructor at the Charles H. Cecil Studios in Florence.

Elayne Kuehler will have a one person gallery exhibition at the Three Rivers Gallery, in Covington, Louisiana. Her work will be on view

beginning October 11 through November 1st. Elayne has been invited to participate in the Garden District Gallery's Fifth Anniversary Group Exhibition located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The show will hang through October 26th. And lastly, Elayne has been invited to participate in the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art's Annual Miniature Exhibition located in New Orleans, Louisiana. An opening reception will be held on November 8 and the show will hang through December 12.

Betty Schmidt participated in the juried art show "Art of the Land 2014" sponsored by the Land Conservancy of McHenry County in September.

Tim Tyler OPA was recently invited to become an "out of state member" of the California Art Club.

Mike Wise will be featured in the January, 2015 *Southwest Art Magazine* article "Artists to Watch".

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Twenty-fourth Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention - Cutter & Cutter Fine Art at their Brilliance in Color Gallery, St. Augustine, Florida - Convention April 29 - May 3, Exhibition: May 1 - May 25, 2015,
Juror of Awards: Huihan Liu OPAM
Canvas size not to exceed 1200 square inches, Entries being accepted online Nov 3, 2014 - January 23, 2015

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2015 Western Regional - details not yet finalized

2015 Eastern Regional - details not yet finalized

ON-LINE SHOWCASES

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

ON-LINE AUCTION

November 1 - open to Signature and Master Signature members

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