



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 24 issue 2

SUMMER
2014

Brushstrokes

OPA PLEASED TO PRESENT ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL EXHIBITION

For five inspirational days, OPA artists and guests gathered in Bennington, Vermont, to take part in this year's OPA National Exhibition & Convention at the prestigious Bennington Center for the Arts, June 6 through July 25, 2014. During the convention, attendees had the opportunity to hear from a compelling list of speakers and panelists, watch some of the nation's top artists demonstrate their painting expertise, participate in some great plein air painting, tour Williams College Museum of Art, as well as connect with colleagues, sponsors and industry leaders through a number of events and social gatherings.

Beginning Wednesday, attendees were off to a great start with *Fine Art Connoisseur's* Editor in Chief, Peter Trippi, who talked about some of the most prized works of art that could be found at the Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown, Massachusetts. After his presentation, guests boarded a bus to Williamstown for a special tour of the museum hosted by curator Kevin Murphy, with a private viewing of several famous works of art including Renoir, Corot, Pissarro and Hunt.



The Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division was awarded to Louis Escobedo for "Light Source"

Thursday was another beautiful day in Vermont and attendees could not have been happier than to spend a full day painting during *Southwest Art Magazine's* fantastic annual "Pampered" Paint Out. Situated on twenty acres in the foothills of the Green Mountains, Taraden Bed & Breakfast, in North Bennington, was the perfect setting for this year's event. As always, *SW Art Magazine's* Kimberly Moore went out of her way to make guests feel welcome and pampered! Bright and early guests were treated to a scrumptious breakfast followed by a delicious lunch in the afternoon. Live music played throughout the afternoon ending with a lovely wine and cheese send off. Also a popular addition was the masseuse who provided attendees with complimentary massages throughout the afternoon.

Thanks also to Taraden B&B owners Bob and Nancy Lowary who worked tirelessly to make the day special. Both Bob and Nancy are huge supporters of the arts and host several plein air groups throughout the year, including the popular annual event "Plein Air Vermont".

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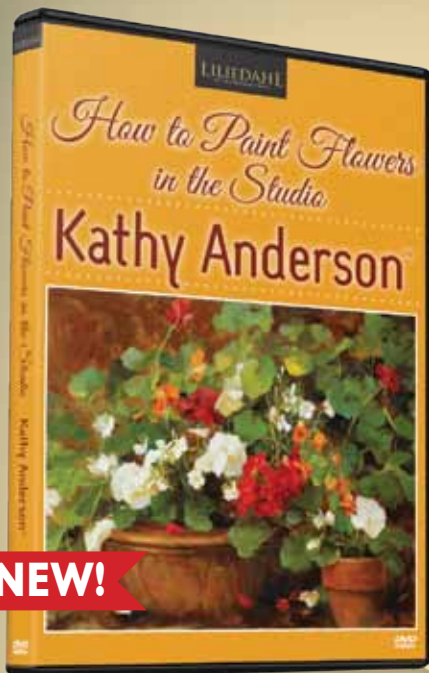
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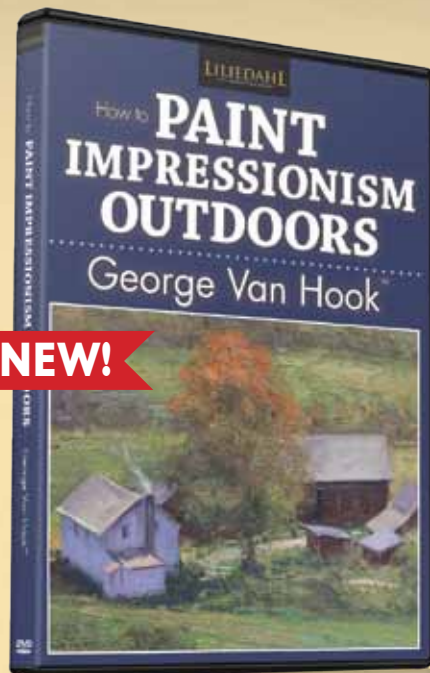
Kathy Anderson

George Van Hook

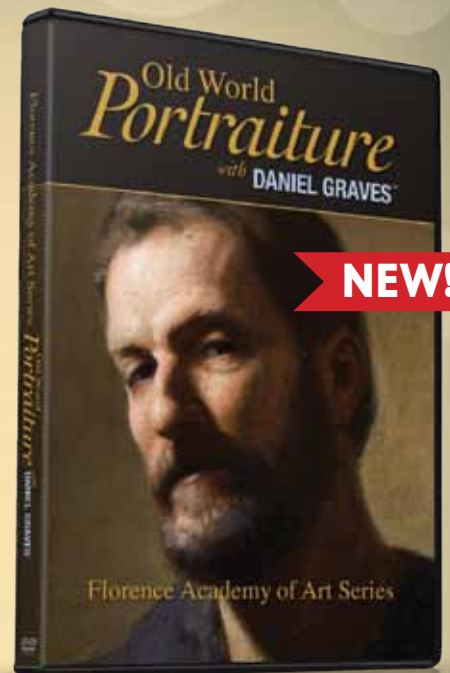
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23rd National Exhibition con't.



"Girl at Rest" by Bo Zhang won the Silver Medal in the Associate & Signature Division

Friday morning's line up brought a number of favorite award winning artists to the Bennington Center for the Arts to demonstrate their painting expertise including: Roger Dale Brown OPA, Mary Qian, Lori McNee, and Derik Penix. Attendees enjoyed milling among the various demonstrations as each artist skillfully displayed his/her different style and technique.

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Kristin Thies, CEO, of West Wind Fine Art who provided valuable and creative ideas for artists to present their most professional self. Immediately following, Daniel J. Keys, protégé of Richard Schmidt and a star on the rise, provided a painting demonstration and presentation on "Fluidity and Color".

The weekend events highlighted three of OPA's most renowned artists: Juror of Awards Charles Movalli OPAM, Distinguished Artist Alan Wolton OPAM, and Zhiwei Tu OPAM. It was an amazing experience to

watch each of these prominent artists demonstrate their artistic prowess, as well as be the recipient of so much valuable advice generously shared with attendees.

As this year's Distinguished Artist, Mr. Wolton sat down with Kristin Hoerth, Editor of *Southwest Art Magazine*, for an in-depth look into his life and career as an artist. Highlights of that interview will be shared with members in an upcoming newsletter.

Social media expert, and OPA member, Lori McNee gave an informative and insightful presentation on branding versus marketing oneself in the social media. As the owner of FineArtTips.com, Lori is well versed in helping artists promote themselves to their best benefit and offered advice on building an artist's business. A follow up article will appear in an upcoming newsletter and/or blog with more specifics from Lori's presentation.

This year's awards ceremony was held in the beautiful auditorium at the Bennington Center for the Arts on Saturday evening. OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM presented the Golden Brush Award to past



"Winter of Sylvan" by Xiao S. Jiang OPA won the Bronze Medal in the Associate & Signature Division

president Betty Schmidt. This is a special award in recognition of her dedication and contributions to the organization. As a new addition to the awards ceremony, artists who have attained the Signature or Master Signature status were recognized for this remarkable achievement. Artists who were designated a Signature or Master Signature member prior to 2014 also had the opportunity to participate and be recognized for this important milestone.

The ceremony was exciting as usual, and it was great to see so many award winners present. Congratulations to this year's Associate/Signature Gold Medal winner, Louis Escobedo, who was elated and sur-

prised by the good news that his painting "Light Source" was the big winner of the night. Nancy S. Crookston OPAM, took home the Gold Medal in the Master Signature division for her stunning painting, "Spettro."



"Summer in Tahoe" painted by Hao (Fongwei) Liu was awarded the Best Associate Award of Excellence

23rd National Exhibition con't.

**ASSOCIATE &
SIGNATURE DIVISION**

Gold Medal: Louis Escobedo for
“Light Source” - funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Bo Zhang for
“Girl at Rest” - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal: Xiao S. Jiang
OPA “Winter of Sylvan” - funded
by *Plein Air Magazine*

Best Signature Award of Excellence: Kathy Anderson OPA for
“Red Tulips and Oriole” - funded
by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*

Best Associate Award of Excellence: Hao (Fongwei) Liu for
“Summer in Tahoe” - funded by
Jack Richeson & Company



“Sunny Kids’ by Clement Kwan OPA
won the
Animal Award of Excellence



Charles T. Cox OPA won the Donor's
Award of Excellence for “Portofino
Passeggiata”

Most Original Award of Excellence: Tim Tyler OPA for “The
Happy Homemaker” - funded by
FASO

Donors’ Award of Excellence: Charles T. Cox OPA for
“Portofino Passeggiata” - funded



Tim Tyler OPA won the Most Original
Award of Excellence for
“The Happy Homemaker”

by Ampersand and Friends of OPA
Presidents’ Award of Excellence: Dan Schultz for “The Chase” -
funded by past presidents Zhiwei Tu
OPAM and Betty Schmidt

Realism Award of Excellence: Dianne L. Massey Dunbar OPA for
“Cement and Tree Shadows” -
funded by FASO

Realism Honorable Mention: Sheri Farabaugh for “Beside the
Still Waters” - funded by Blick Art
Materials, Liliedahl Video Productions
and New Wave Art

Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence: Deanne L. Lemley for “A
Rose Between Two Thorns” -
funded by the Friends of Ted
Goerschner OPAM

Impressionist Honorable Mention: Qiang Huang OPA for “Morning
in Zhouzhuang” - funded by Wil-
liamsburg Handmade Oils, Rose-
mary & Co and New Wave Art



The Realism Award of Excellence went
to Dianne L. Massey Dunbar OPA for
“Cement and Tree Shadows”

23rd National Exhibition con't.

Animal Award of Excellence:
Clement Kwan OPA for "Sunny Kids" - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours

Animal Honorable Mention:
James Coe OPA for "Ice on the Creek" - funded by Natural Pigments, ArtFrames.com and New Wave Art

John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence:
Christopher Z. Zhang OPA for "Market Day" - funded by Ray-Mar Art

Figurative Honorable Mention:
Hilarie Lambert for "The Commute" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors, Co. and Martin F. Weber

Landscape Award of Excellence:
Victor A. Schiro for "Hungry Valley" - funded by Fredericksburg Artists' School and Friends of OPA

Landscape Honorable Mention:



Dan Schultz's painting "The Chase" won the Presidents' Award of Excellence



"Market Day" by Christopher Z. Zhang OPA won the John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence

Susiehyer for "Metro Lights I" - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oils and Guerrilla Painter

Portraiture Award of Excellence:
Aimee Erickson for "Self Portrait with Key" - funded by Scottsdale Artists' School and Friends of OPA

Portraiture Honorable Mention:



The Best Signature Award of Excellence was given to Kathy Anderson OPA for "Red Tulips and Oriole"

Kelly A. Sullivan for "Aidan" - funded by Glaser Frames and Grumbacher

Seascape Award of Excellence:
Michael Situ OPA for "Golden Light" - funded by Michael Harding Artists Oil Colours

Seascape Honorable Mention:
Paul Cheng for "Hung the Ocean" - funded M. Graham & Company and Martin F. Weber

Still Life Award of Excellence:
Anne Blaire Brown for "In a Good Light" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors Co. and SourceTek

Still Life Honorable Mention:
Joreen M. Benebenek for "The Gardener's Shed" - funded by Blue Ridge Oil Colors and Martin F. Weber

The Dorothy Drieaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists:
Michael P. Van Zeyl for "Warm Glow in a Polar Vortex" - funded by The Richard H. Drieaus Foundation



"In a Good Light" by Anne Blair Brown won the Still Life Award of Excellence



Aimee Erickson won the Portraiture Award of Excellence for "Self Portrait with Key"

23rd National Exhibition con't.

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal - Master Signature Division: Nancy S. Crookston OPAM for "Spettro" - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

Silver Medal - Master Signature Division: Kenn Backhaus OPAM for "Look to the Light" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division: Albert Handell OPAM for "In the Cedar Grove at Menodocino" - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*

Most Original Award of Excellence-Master Signature Division: David Hettinger OPAM for "Two Time with Two Friends" - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Donors' Award of Excellence - Master Signature Division: William T. Chambers OPAM for "Clodiana and Friend" - funded by *Art of the West Magazine*, Holbein and Friends of OPA

Shirl Smithson Founders' Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members: Ruo Li OPAM for "The Moment of Sunset" - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family.

If you were unable to attend this year's fantastic exhibition please be sure to mark your calendar for next year's 24th National Exhibition and Convention in sunny St. Augustine, Florida. Next year's event is at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Galleries DBA Brilliance In Color Gallery, April 29 - May 25.



"A Rose Between Two Thorns" by Deanne L. Lemley won the Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence



The Seascape Award of Excellence was awarded to Michael Situ OPA for "Golden Light"

CRITIQUES AVAILABLE

Have you taken advantage of the OPA critique service? It's easy to do.

To have your work critiqued by one of OPA's Signature or Master Signature members mail OPA 2 identical CD's containing 3-10 images of your most current work, a brief bio and a \$25 check payable to OPA. The cost for non-members is \$50. The volunteer critiquer will review your work and provide you with constructive advice and feedback. Please allow four to six weeks to receive a response.

“Quintessential Vermont” Party Hosted By *American Art Collector’s Magazine* Just Magnificent!



Tours of the Park-McCullough House showed the features of the Romantic Revival style that was popular at the time it was built

After five years of playing host to one of OPA’s most highly anticipated social events, *American Art Collector Magazine* has earned the reputation for knowing how to throw a great party. This year’s “Quintessential Vermont” party at the Park-McCullough House did not disappoint. The highlight for many was the tour of the amazing thirty-five room Victorian Mansion, one of the finest, most significant mansions in New England.



Members, guests and staff enjoyed dancing to the Buzz Saw Boys Band

THANK YOU TO OUR AWARD SPONSORS, RAFFLE CONTRIBUTORS AND VENDORS

Our National Exhibition and Convention would not be the successful event it is without the continuing support of our award sponsors, raffle contributors and vendors. This year we were able to offer 9 baskets in our raffle, with items ranging from books by noted Master artists to oil paints to frames, with many other art-related items, at a cost of \$5.00 per ticket (which was quite a deal).

American Art Collector Magazine
Ampersand Art Supply
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Blue Ridge Oil Colors
Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine
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M. Graham & Company
Martin F. Weber Company
Michael Harding Artist Oil Colours

Natural Pigments
New Wave Art
Plein Air Magazine
RayMar Art
Rosemary & Co., Brushes
Shirl Smithson Family
SourceTek Art Supply
Southwest Art Magazine
Williamsburg Handmade Oils
Zhiwei Tu OPAM



Members and guests speak with vendors and buy a variety of art supplies



Incredible raffle baskets contained great merchandise and gift cards, thanks to our generous sponsors

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT

By Charles Movalli OPAM



Two kinds of shows are very difficult to judge: ones where the work is all bad and you have to pick the best of the worst. And shows where everything is good -- and you have to pick the best of the best. Before entering the galleries at the Bennington Center for the Arts, I thought the job might take a couple of hours. As soon as I saw the first room -- and heard that there were TWO floors of paintings -- I knew I would be climbing stairs for the better part of the day. The work was of such a high overall quality; not a bad one in the bunch!

Picasso, asked when he knew a picture was finished said his "hand" told him. In my case, I trust my eye. I'm sure I must have a "philosophy of art" and that it generates "criteria"-- but such "criteria" are not things I consciously search out when judging. After all, there is a mystery to art. If my eye is attracted to a painting, I assume it must have something that satisfies this mysterious criterion. Sounds subjective? It is! If I had easily defined criteria, I could write them down, mail in a checklist, and leave the job to a committee. But given all the art I've seen and thought about over the last forty years, I must have developed some sort of "taste." It's not a universal taste; and a different judge might pick different prize winners. But I go along with Gainsborough: "the eye of the artist is as good as the tongue of the lawyer."



The Gold Medal Award
in the Master Signature Division was
awarded to Nancy S. Crookston OPAM
for "Spettro"



Kenn Backhaus OPAM won the
Silver Medal in the
Master Signature Division
for "Look to the Light"



The Donors' Award of Excellence in the
Master Signature Division was awarded to
William T. Chambers OPAM for
"Clodiana and Friend"



MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER LOUIS ESCOBEDO

Louis was born in Sweetwater, Texas and received a BFA in Advertising Art from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. During his time as an illustrator he received awards from many organizations such as the Dallas Texas Visual Society. In 1981 he received a gold medal from the Society of Illustrators in New York. In 1985 he changed careers and moved from illustration to fine art.

During his fine art career Louis received the Gold Medal at the OPA National Exhibition in 1994. He has exhibited in many galleries in the US including California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland, and Illinois.

Louis' many talents include experimenting with composition, design and seeing today's life and objects from a philosophical point of view filled with humor and beauty. Whether it is people walking down the street, a kitchen sink, or the window of a retail store, his work has imagination, color, and insight from all that he sees and feels. Louis is always striving to master his use of color, tone and texture.

“One of the most important things in my life is to paint and for people to enjoy my paintings.” *Louis Escobedo*

Louis is the recipient of many awards in the last 30 years of which his most recent accomplishments include:
Gold Medal at the OPA National Exhibition - 2014

OPA Summer Salon Award Exhibition in Petoskey, Michigan - 2013

Allied Artists of America 99th Annual National Exhibition, NYC John Young Hunter Memorial Award - 2012

Most Original Award for Excellence at the OPA National Exhibition – 2012

His work has been exhibited at the Hermitage Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, the Colorado History Museum, the Denver Art Museum, Butler Institute of American Art and the Phippen Museum, among others.



The Landscape Award of Excellence was given to Victor A. Schiro for "Hungry Valley"



Distinguished Artist Alan Wolton OPAM being interviewed by Kristin Hoerth, Editor-in-Chief of *SW Art Magazine*



Zhiwei Tu OPAM demonstrates his portrait painting techniques, using Neil Patterson OPAM as his model



MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER NANCY S. CROOKSTON OPAM

Nancy Seamons Crookston's paintings are often described as peaceful and calming. The California based painter is attracted to the human figure in moments of stillness and reflection. Nancy loves to capture glimpses of a beautiful woman taking time to exhale or the tenderness between mother and child and the innocence of children engaged in quiet play. She loves painting plein air landscape while capturing a moment in time with the changes of nature. Now living in California she is excited to paint the beautiful people and places she sees every day. Her workshops help painters to learn the principles of Russian Color in which her studies under the Russian Master Sergei Bongart has influenced.

Nancy has earned numerous awards including the Gold Medal Award at the 2000 National Oil Painters of America Show, the 2011 Eastern Regional OPA Master Signature Gold Award and the Bronze Master Signature Award at the 2013 National OPA show. She has been in exhibitions in Japan, United States and China.



Albert Handell OPAM won the Bronze Medal in the Master Signature Division for "In the Cedar Grove at Menodocino"



"Time with Two Friends" by David Hettinger OPAM won the Most Original Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division

INSPIRING DEMONSTRATIONS

Friday morning began with 4 award winning artists presenting demonstrations and giving insights into their various painting techniques as they painted throughout the gallery. Soft background music accompanied the demos while observers walked from artist to artist absorbing information and enjoying the event.



Mary Qian



Roger Dale Brown OPA



Derek Penix



Lori McNee

MEET THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN ARTISTS WINNER

Michael P. Van Zeyl

For Michael Van Zeyl, portraiture is much more than a one-sided translation of the artist's point of view taking form in a subject. It's an engaging visual dialogue that renders a soul in light, shadow and pigment, continuing the conversation for future generations to appreciate.

While technical skill and accurate rendering are only part of Michael's gift, his experience has honed his craft to the highest standard. His talents were apparent by age seven and he spent subsequent decades mastering a wide range of painting techniques. In particular, 17th century Dutch and 19th century impressionist styles have resonated with him and surfaced in his own works.



Michael P. Van Zeyl won the Dorothy DrieHaus Mellin Fellowship for "Warm Glow in a Polar Vortex"

His formal training began at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, continuing on at Chicago's Historic Palette & Chisel Academy and the Art Students League in New York, where he studied with the most accomplished artists who also paint directly from life under natural light. Michael is currently a faculty member at the Palette & Chisel and has been the club's most popular instructor for several years.

Michael's work is already appreciated in many public and private collections, such as the United States District Court, University of Chicago, DePaul University School of Law, Chicago Theological Seminary and American Hotel Register. He has received awards from the Portrait Society of America, The Artists Guild and the Portrait Society of Atlanta, and has been a three-time Gold Medal winner at the Palette & Chisel.

"To capture a true, lifelike image, I create a visual dialogue with my subjects by studying their expressions through conversations over time. The end result is a cohesive compilation of the subtle changes in gesture, light and energy that I observe in a subject's genuine movements."

Copies of the OPA 23rd 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:

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Please visit our website for availability of past issues:
www.oilpaintersofamerica.com.



ROAD TRIP TO THE WILLIAMS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART IN WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

By Howard Friedland OPA

On the morning of Wednesday, June 4th, the 2014 Oil Painters of America National Show and Convention at the Bennington Art Center, got off to a rousing start. The always electrifying and edifying speaker Peter Trippi, (Editor of *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*) started the OPA Program Series with a Power Point lecture in the Center's auditorium. Peter spoke in detail about the architecture, history, design and artwork of the Williams College Museum in Williamstown Massachusetts. To some, this kind of information could seem rather dry. However, Trippi's enthusiasm and rapid-fire delivery had us all excited to see the museum later that morning.

The museum was established in 1790. It now houses more than 13,000 works of art of mixed styles and periods. The museum collects,

American Art, Contemporary Art, Photography, Prints and Paintings from India.

Accompanying the images shown, Peter shared information and anecdotes about much of the museum's artwork and artists. Peter finished his talk with a question and answer session.

So, now we were all excited and ready to board the chartered bus that was waiting outside the Center to take us to the museum. Even though the museum is in Massachusetts and we were in Vermont, the bus trip didn't take very long.

We arrived at the museum and were met by Kathryn Price, Curator of Collections for the museum. After a short welcoming orientation, our group was split into two smaller groups and my group was taken into a small room where we were shown original paintings by Ennis, Corot,

Twachtman, Pissarro and a very large painting of Niagara Falls by Hunt. Hunt was one of the painters who was influential in getting American painters to study in France. After that, our group went upstairs with curator Kevin Murphy to see the Early American portraits. We saw the Jonathan and Karen Fielding Collection of 17th and 18th century paintings and furniture. Returning downstairs we saw an exhibit of contemporary works done by students of Williams College.

When our enlightening adventure at the museum was over, we visited the local art galleries of Williamstown. Followed by a delicious lunch at a local restaurant where we had time to visit with each other to share the excitement for what was going to be a fantastic OPA National Exhibition and Convention.

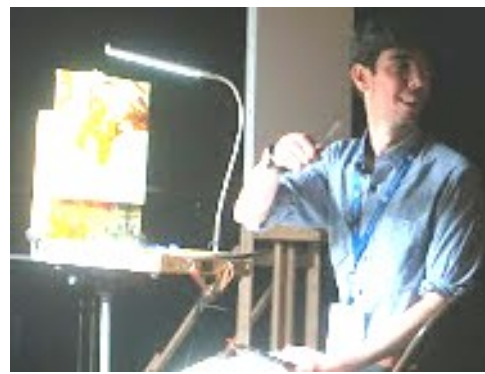
For further information on the Williams College Art Museum please go to: <http://wcma.williams.edu>



One room of the lovely
Bennington Center for the Arts



Juror of Awards Charles Movalli OPAM,
Gold Medal Winner Louis Escobedo and
President Neil Patterson OPAM



"Fluidity and Color" was the theme of
Daniel J. Keys' Friday presentation

BREAKING INTO THE FIELD OF PORTRAITURE

By Kurt Anderson OPA

An informative seminar entitled “Breaking into the field of Portraiture” was presented at this year’s national exhibition at the Bennington Center for the Arts. The panel featured the Executive Partners of Portraits, Inc., Julia G. Baughman and Ruth Reeves, and three portrait artists that they represent, Ming Qin, William Chambers OPAM, and John Michael Carter OPAM. Questions for the panel were fielded by OPA vice president Ken Cadwalader OPA.

Most questions for the panel centered on practical business issues such as pricing portraits. For each artist that they represent Portraits, Inc. likes to utilize a simple structured price list. Price is determined by the size of the painting and how much of the sitter is included, and all other factors are disregarded.

“Artists should accept the fact that some portraits will be a little more time consuming than others,” Baughman said. “The extra time you spend on an elaborate background for one commission you will save on another that has a simple background.”

For practical reasons most of their artists utilize photographs in painting portraits. Chambers said that he schedules a photo session with his clients and takes a large quantity of photographs, but only shows the client four or five. “After so many years of experience, I feel I have a better idea of what will make a good portrait, so I only show the client those I think I can do a good job with.”

One of the most important aspects of painting portraits is to keep clients involved in the process and aware of

how the final portrait will appear. Carter presents a color oil sketch for approval that shows on a small scale the appearance of the final portrait. He then emails images of the portrait to the client as it progresses. Because of the professionalism of their artists Baughman and Reeves said that they rarely have dissatisfied clients. Nonetheless, clients are sometimes unhappy with the results. They cited a recent example of a portrait one of their artists had made of a retiring CEO. The artist had regularly sent images to the man, however when the wife saw the painting she said, “It’s a wonderful painting, but it just doesn’t look like him.” They had to work with the artist to correct the problems, and the refinished painting was warmly received. “The artist’s attitude to make the client happy really impressed me,” Baughman said.



Portraiture Panel members Ming Qin, William T. Chambers OPAM and John Michael Carter OPAM discuss “Breaking Into The Field of Portraiture”



Neil Patterson OPAM presents Past President Betty Schmidt with the prestigious Golden Brush Award



Tranquil background music accompanied the Saturday morning painting demos



Tina' Garrett's "Gaze" won First Place in the Spring, 2014 On-Line Showcase

SPRING 2014 ASSOCIATE ON-LINE SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Once again the entries in OPA's On-Line Showcase were amazing and plentiful, covering a wide variety of subject matter and style. Judging the over 600 entries proved to be an interesting and thought provoking exercise for Juror of Awards Tim Deibler OPA. We appreciate the time and effort Tim took to jury the Spring On-Line Showcase and thank him for all of his work.

Also, thank you to Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation for their continued support of this competition without whose support the competition would not be possible.

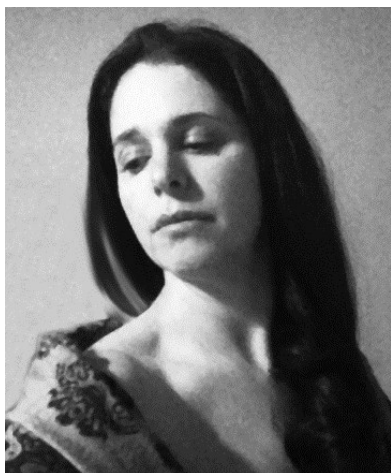
Submission for the current Associate On-Line Showcase must be received by August 15. The cost is only \$14 per entry and you may enter as many paintings as you would like. Visit the OPA website for entry info and to view the rest of the award winning entries.

First Place: Tina Garrett for "Gaze"

Second Place: Robert Christian Hemme for "Global 1200"

Third Place: Nancy Boren for "Stepping Out"

Honorable Mentions: George Bodine for "Alley Chef - Paris, Artist's Copy", Sergio Roffo for "Spring Covering", Vicki Walker for "Similarities", Scott Johnston for "Peter Devine", Karen Blackwood for "After the Storm", Michael DeVore for "Pueblo Pot", Loretta Fasan for "Costume", Doohong Min for "Brunch", Christina Grace Mastrangelo for "America's Cup" and Zimou Tan for "Relief".



MEET ON-LINE SHOWCASE WINNER TINA GARRETT

Born in 1974 in California, Tina and her Marine Corps family transferred many times throughout her turbulent youth, observing all kinds of people and places. Through the many and sometimes frightening transitions, drawing was and remains Tina's constant companion and window into her own world — one that is safer and more beautiful than reality can sometimes be.

With an Associates of Applied Science in Visual Communications from the Colorado Institute of Art in 1994, Tina made drawing her livelihood. Tina was able to sustain a healthy career freelance illustrating for many years but the work never satisfied the long smoldering desire to make the art, the windows if you will, that invite the viewer to never look away.

In 2012, based on her pastel portraiture, the Scottsdale Artist's School awarded Tina the first of two merit scholarships and she began working in oil - immediately falling in love. In the two short years since Tina's introduction to oil she has studied intently the Selective Start Method described in "Alla Prima" by Living Master Artist Richard Schmid.

Tina blogs and posts about her travels and the subjects that she paints, sharing her adventures and what pulled her toward her subject but stops there. Preferring each of her works be whatever they are to the viewer without commentary about what her art is supposed to convey - intending instead that through the merit of the composition, value, color and edges Tina's works will hold value long after any description of the work's intentions has faded. In the course of her serious pursuit of fine art mastery, Tina has created a small family of private collectors and commissioned clients in Kansas City, Florida, Chicago, Colorado, New York, New Orleans and London.

OPA WELCOMES DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR BOB WULFF

Welcome to our newest OPA staff member: Bob Wulff, Development Specialist. Bob has been enlisted by OPA to help garner additional funding so OPA can continue to expand its educational programming, strengthen existing ones, and continue to raise awareness of traditional, representational art.

Bob has over 25 years of fundraising experience at a national level employ-

ing all sorts of fundraising formats: foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, membership giving, major gifts, planned giving, special events, etc.

A native of the Chicago area, Bob lives only five minutes from the OPA headquarters in Barrington, Illinois and is devoting two days per week to OPA. What an easy commute! From early years on, taking “drawing and painting lessons” after school, to studying “oil painting” at the local community college, Bob has been interested in art; he and his wife, Marion, have a small collection of traditional oil paintings in their home. They are now “empty-nesters” with two of the their children living in the city of Chicago and one in New York and one studying in Minnesota.

After attending his first national show in Bennington, Vermont, Bob says “I was so inspired watching the demonstrations presented at the meeting that I want to work on strengthening my own abilities.” Bob welcomes your ideas on fundraising. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to call Bob at 847-302-4720 or email him at: bwulff@oilpaintersofamerica.com.

An advertisement for Fine Art Connoisseur magazine. The background is a painting of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a thick white fur coat, looking out over a vast, hilly landscape under a soft, hazy sky. In the bottom left corner, two covers of the magazine are shown. The text "Join the world's leading art collectors." is overlaid in white on the right side. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "Fuel your passion. Subscribe today. 800-610-5771 | fineartconnoisseur.com" and a small caption "Silence and Sagebrush, Jeremy Lipking (detail)".

Join the world's leading art collectors.

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Silence and Sagebrush, Jeremy Lipking (detail)

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Fond Farewell to Outgoing President Neil Patterson OPAM

This year's National Show at the Bennington Center for the Arts was bitter sweet as we bid farewell to Neil Patterson OPAM, who served as OPA's president for the past 6 years. Neil became an OPA Master Signature member in 2000 and served on the board for over a decade. His devotion to OPA has allowed the organization to flourish under his guidance and we are forever grateful for his strong leadership.

We are pleased to announce that the 2015 National Exhibition and Convention will be held at the Brilliance in Color Gallery in St. Augustine, Florida, April 29 through May 25, 2015.

It will soon be time to start thinking about your entry in the national competition. Please remember the following: photos should be of unframed paintings and painting measurements should be height X width. Also, please review the information you submit concerning title, size and price one last time before submitting your entry.

Members are reminded to review the calendar at the back of the *Brushstrokes* for important dates and exhibition information.

OPA can always use your help. If you would like to apply to become a Board member, please contact Executive Director Kathryn Beligratis at the office for more information.

A General Business meeting is held annually during the National Exhibition and Convention. At this year's meeting the following Board members were elected for two year terms:

Kurt Anderson OPA
Suzie Baker
James Bruce OPA
William T. Chambers OPAM
Konrad Hack OPA

OPA dues haven't increased in 10 years. However, nothing is forever and that holds true for the membership fee in OPA. Starting in 2015 the annual dues will increase from \$60 to \$70 per year.

SIGNATURE AND MASTER SIGNATURE RECOGNITION

A part of the OPA Awards Presentation ceremony was the recognition of those Signature and Master Signature members who were in attendance. Master Signature members present were: John Michael Carter, William T. Chambers, Nancy Howe, Charles Movalli, Neil Patterson, Zhiwei Tu and Alan Wolton. Signature Members present were: Lee Alban, Cathy Anderson, Kurt Anderson, Cindy Baron, Roger Dale Brown, Ken Cadwallader, James Coe, Sara Jane Doberstein, Howard Friedland, Xiao S. Jiang, Monique Sakellarios, James Tennison and Christopher Zhang. Each was presented with an OPA lapel pin, signifying their status as a Signature or Master Signature member.



Signature member pin recipients: Lee Alban, Kurt Anderson, Cathy Anderson, Roger Dale Brown, Cindy Baron, Howard Friedland, Ken Cadwallader, James Coe, Sara Jane Doberstein, Monique Sakellarios, James Tennison, Christopher Zhang and Xiao S. Jiang



Master Signature member pin recipients: John Michael Carter, William T. Chambers, Charles Movalli, Alan Wolton, Zhiwei Tu, Nancy Howe And Neil Patterson.

SW Art Magazine's Wonderful "Pampered Paint Out"



SW Art Magazine's "Pampered Paint Out", held at the Taraden Bed & Breakfast in North Bennington, Vermont, offered music, as well as spectacular sites to paint



Demo by Juror of Awards Charles Movalli
OPAM was well attended and enjoyed



Art collector John VanMeter viewing Alan
Wolton OPAM's painting



President Neil Patterson OPAM, John
August Dietrich Memorial Figurative
Award of Excellence winner Christopher
Zhang OPA and Juror of Awards
Charles Movalli OPAM

OPA Members EXCLUSIVE!

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Set of 12 Oil Paints
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PAINTING OUR FUTURE

NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Berry Fritz OPA was invited to have five paintings included in American Still Lives, curated by David Wagner, L.L.C. and on view at the Norton Gallery in Shreveport, Louisiana. She also has one painting touring to three museums with America's Parks II. And lastly, one painting was accepted into Salon International 2014 at Greenhouse Fine Art in San Antonio.

Robert Grogan has had his book *Kalahari Summer in Photographs and Oils* published. It features Grogan's landscape paintings and wildlife photos from the past five summers of living in the Kalahari in southern Africa. Paintings from the book will be exhibited at the William Humphreys National Art Museum in Kimberley, South Africa from November through January. In October, Grogan will be honored by Texas State University with a Distinguished Alumni Award for his lifetime achievements in his professions.

Tricia Kaman's oil painting "Anita in Black" was awarded first place at the 2014 Hoyt Regional Juried Exhibit, in New Castle, PA. Her painting "Back Meditation" was awarded second place at the Space and Form National Exhibit at Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts, in Fredericksburg, VA. Also, "Gracie's Gaze" received 3rd place at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center's 2014 Members Show in Cuyahoga Falls, OH.

Steven Lang OPAM is pleased to announce that at the 40th Phippen Western Art Show in Prescott AZ, his painting "Walking Your Saddle, Hoss?" received 3 awards - The Phippen Family Award, The Phippen Foundation Award and The Phippen Museum Purchase Award. George Phippen was one of the founders of Cowboy Artists of America and Steven said "I feel honored to have my work displayed along side his and others' masterpieces."

Tom Nachreiner's painting "Three Landmarks" won the "Best of City" award at this year's Cedarburg Artist Guild Plein Air event.

Zbigniew Nyczak won the Second Place Award in the "Anything Goes Exhibit" held at the Ventura County Government Center, Ventura, California for "Canyon de Chelly 3".

Rob Rey's painting "Ukulele Daydream" received the Best of Show award at the National Oil & Acrylic Painter's Society 2013 Annual Best of America Exhibition.

Kimberly Reed-Deemer's oil painting, "Eagle Dance" was accepted for the 10th Annual Gala and Auction "A Russia Night In Taos" to benefit the Taos Art Museum at Fechin House. The Gala and auction will be held on August 30, at the Taos Art Museum located in Taos, New Mexico.

Ken Salaz's work is displayed on the cover of *Plein Air Magazine* for

the April/May issue. The accompanying article reviews his work and his inspiration for painting.

William Schneider OPA was awarded Best of Show at the 18th annual National Juried Show held at the Tim Murphy Gallery of the Irene B. French Community Center for "Practice Makes Perfect". This is the second time within five years that William's work has received the top award in this competition. In addition his painting "Cool Gaze" was awarded "Honorable Mention" in the same exhibition.

David Tanner is pleased that a painting of his was showcased in *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine's "Classic Moments" feature. The section usually features an archival photo of an historical artist at work...standing at the easel, sculpting, whatever their discipline, as a way to remind readers of the "moments" of creating that go on behind the scenes. Editor Peter Trippi felt David's 2013 painting "Painting Phillip Skaggs of Richmond Ballet" would illustrate the concept, only using a contemporary painter and a painting depicting the creative process.

June Ward currently has a one-artist exhibit at The Ohr O'Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi, MS. It will be there until Dec. 6. Also, the MS Chapter of the National Museum For Women in the Arts, Washington DC, named June MS Honored Artist.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2014 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

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

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2014 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Twenty-fourth Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention - Cutter & Cutter Fine Art DBA Brilliance in Color Gallery, St. Augustine, Florida - Exhibition: April 29 - May 25, 2015
Canvas size not to exceed 1200 square inches

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2014 Western Regional – Mountainsong Galleries, Carmel, CA - August 28-September 30 - Juror of Awards: Marilyn Simandle OPAM

2014 Eastern Regional - Eisele Gallery, Cincinnati, OH - September 12-October 9 - Juror of Awards: Carolyn Lewis OPA

ON-LINE SHOWCASES

June 1 - August 15 - open to Associate members only

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

MASTER SIGNATURE MEMBER EXHIBITION

2014 First Master Signature Only Exhibition - Mountainsong Galleries, Carmel, CA - July 25 - August 24

REGIONAL PAINT OUTS

August 30 – Stevensville, MD
September 6 – Marceline, MO
September 6 – Grand Lake, CO
September 10 – East Boothbay, Maine
September 13 – Woodstock, IL
September 21 – Gloucester, MA
September 27 – Brooklyn, NY
September 27 – Cincinnati, OH

October 4 – Mesa, AZ
October 4 – Ringwood, NJ
October 4 – Denmark, WI
October 10 – Boulder, CO
October 11 – Salisbury, NC
October 15 – Boerne, TX
October 25 – Catawba, SC

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