



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

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Brushstrokes

volume 24 issue 4

WINTER
2014

WESTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION - FACING A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE

As many of you know, this year's Western Regional Show, held at the former Mountainsong Galleries in Carmel, California, was interesting to say the least. One week before the exhibition was scheduled to open the Board of Directors and staff were notified, like many of you, by a general e-mail announcing the gallery was closing its doors immediately at the conclusion of our OPA show. Having just wrapped up the Master Signature Exhibition at the same gallery, the Board was shocked to hear the news, particularly since there had been no indication or discussions that the gallery was in any sort of financial trouble.

OPA's new incoming president, Ken Cadwallader OPA was faced with his first challenging situation - and it was a big one! Understanding the sensitive position OPA was facing, Ken comprehended the need to continue a cordial relationship with the gallery while mapping out a course of action that would ensure the best possible outcome for our members.

With the start of the exhibition just days away, it was important for OPA to be aware of the galleries



Jeffrey B. Merrill won the Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division for his painting "Crossing Stockton"

exit strategy and put in place a plan of our own. First, an e-mail went out to participating artists to let them know of the closing and to assure them that we were going to work closely with the gallery to ensure their paintings were safe and that commissions

would be paid. It was critical that an accelerated payment schedule be put in place and the gallery agreed, sending out commission payments within 24 to 48 hours of each sale. Concerns about the shipping and packing of the artwork were discussed with the gallery. A few local OPA artists volunteered to periodically check with the gallery and to help, if needed, with the packing and shipping, as well as picking-up any paintings that might have inadvertently been left behind the last day.

Initially the gallery indicated that the exhibition would run until the end of the month, but during the later part of the month we were alerted by one of the artists that the gallery had already begun shipping work back to the artists. While this was not welcome news at first, in hindsight it worked out for the best. It turned out that the gallery space had been leased to a new tenant who took possession of the space just a few days after the close of our exhibition. It became clear that if the gallery had left the packing and shipping to the end, the likelihood paintings would become lost or damaged in the process was almost certain.

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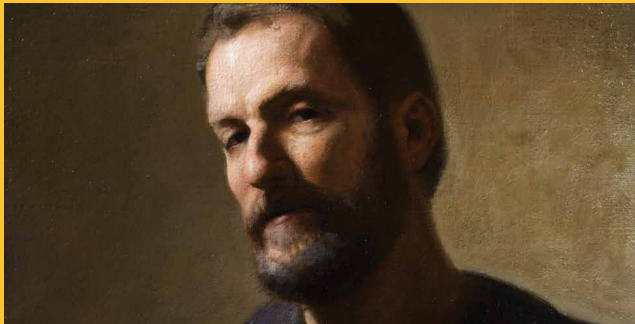
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Kathy Anderson "How to Paint Flowers in the Studio"

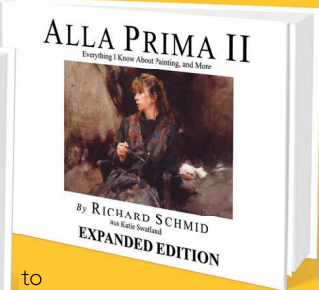


Daniel Graves "Old World Portraiture"



Lori Putnam "Bold Brushstrokes & Confident Color"

"Alla Prima II Companion"



to
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"Alla Prima II"



Randall Sexton

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Western Regional Show con't.

Fortunately for OPA, the gallery owners followed through on their word that all artists would be paid promptly. With help from OPA, the gallery staff also managed to successfully return any unsold paintings to the artists.

Despite the obvious, the exhibition itself proved to be of the same high-caliber that OPA has come to expect from its Western Regional members. Many OPA members traveled to Carmel for the opening weekend and made the most of a very unusual situation! The opening reception was exciting as always, and it was a pleasure to see Jeffrey Merrill receive his well-deserved Gold Medal award for his painting, "Crossing Stockton."

Of course, the weekend was made extra special by having Juror of Awards and Master Signature artist Marilyn Simandle on hand. Ever gra-

cious, Ms. Simandle OPAM spent the entire weekend painting and/or socializing with OPA members. It was a welcome opportunity for everyone to get to know her better and we all agreed, we would see each other in St. Augustine in 2015.

A list of the winners follows:

Gold Medal: Jeffrey B. Merrill for "Crossing Stockton"- \$4,000 funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Bushi Luo for "Setting Sail" - award valued at \$3,100 funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal: Stan Rogers for "Sewing Basket" - award valued at \$2,000 funded by *Plein Air Magazine*

Award of Excellence: Camille Przewodek for "The Feathered Hat" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: David B. Riedel for "New Peonies" - \$1,000 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: Jeremy E. Manyik for "Acacia" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: Kim Casebeer OPA for "A Bright Spot" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: Suzie G. Baker for "Fisherman's Wharf" - \$500 funded by OPA

Award of Excellence: James Crandall OPA for "Pizza di Felice, No. 2"- \$500 funded by OPA

Gold Medal – Master Signature Division: Michael Mao OPAM for "Lady in the Shower" - \$3,500 funded by OPA.



Suzie G. Baker won an Award of Excellence for "Fisherman's Wharf"



An Award of Excellence was awarded to Jeremy E. Manyik For "Acacia"



CRITIQUES AVAILABLE

OPA's critiquing service is always available to both members and non-members.

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

MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER JEFFREY B. MERRILL

Jeff Merrill comes from the quiet solitude of Idaho and has always been sensitive to the beauty around him. After living in Spain for two years as a missionary he returned to study illustration at Brigham Young University. He worked as an illustrator for more than a decade before marrying and starting a family. In 2011, he completed an M.F.A in figure painting at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. There he was able to study with many inspirational teachers including Zhaoming Wu, Baoping Chen, and Huihan Liu OPAM, among others. Although, his primary passion is the human figure, he loves plein air painting and its implicit challenges. "I paint outside to hone my skills, of simplifying shapes, perceiving color, and visual expression. It helps me focus in the studio and keep my eyes fresh." Jeff is currently a Professor of drawing and painting at BYU-Hawaii, where he lives with his wife and three children.



Of his process he states, "My primary focus in painting is founded in the principles and elements of design. I paint things because they move me but I strive to present them in a compelling and balanced way. Much of my motivation to paint comes from the inherent duality of the painting process. On one hand, it's incredibly abstract and disorganized, but on the other hand it has beautiful purpose and strength when it maintains its representational integrity. Working within these two forces creates a sort of reconciliation of opposites. It moves me to find solutions that satisfy my desire to balance these disparate elements. Beyond the technical processes of painting my ultimate goal is to express in visual terms something that isn't readily definable in words. This involves beauty and truth, introspection and observation, as well as our own mortality and eternal purpose."

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MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER MICHAEL MAO OPAM

Michael Mao started drawing and painting at the age of 7. He learned from many masters through various workshops. After graduating from Tongji University, one of the most prestigious architecture schools in China, Michael worked as a teacher for many years in the School of Architecture and Urban Design at Tongji University. Michael finished his Master of Science in Visualization at Texas A&M University in 1997. Because of his traditional painting skill and computer graphics knowledge, he was hired as a Matte Painting Technical Director for the Oscar winning film "Shrek" at DreamWorks Animation. Michael is currently working as a Digital Artist at DreamWorks Animation. Michael's paintings display an artistic mastery of color, lighting, perspective, technique, and vision. Michael's paintings have been exhibited in many national and international juried exhibitions, and he has won many awards. Michael was awarded Master Signature status in OPA in 2009.



The Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Michael Mao OPAM for "Lady in the Shower"



"Setting Sail" by Bushi Luo won the Silver Medal



James Crandall OPA won an Award of Excellence for "Pizza de Felice, No. 2"



Stan Rogers won the Bronze Medal for "Sewing Basket"





OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION

COME TO THE 2015 CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA!

Mark your calendar to attend OPA's 24th National Exhibition & Convention May 1 through May 25 at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art at their Brilliance in Color Gallery, St. Augustine, Florida, with convention activities beginning April 29. Our exciting week is filled with presentations, painting demonstrations and networking opportunities that will motivate you to move to the next level! We are pleased to have Master Signature member Huihan Liu as our Juror of Awards at this amazing event. Advance registration cost for OPA members is *only* \$325.00 for the entire event.

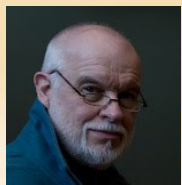
Presentations include:



Joe Gyurcsak

“History of Oil Color” with OPA artist Joe Gyurcsak, sponsored by Blick Art Materials

Begin the day with a hearty breakfast, compliments of Blick Art Materials, and listen to resident artist Joe Gyurcsak as he examines the history of oil color seen through the eyes of chemists, scientists, conservators and manufacturers. Learn about the chemistry and coatings technology behind artists' oil colors and how to evaluate oil color and its properties so that you may make wise decisions in regards to archival art.



William Whitaker OPAM

Distinguished Artist Interview with William Whitaker OPAM and Kimberly Moore of *SW Art Magazine*

Warm, funny, and witty, combined with exceptional artistic talent make William Whitaker OPAM the ideal choice as this year's Distinguished Artist. Growing up the son of a working artist, William had access to the finest art materials and was painting at the age of six. Having always been told that the kind of painting he enjoys is dead, he takes quiet comfort in lovingly attempting to capture something the camera cannot see. Interviewing him will be Kimberly Moore, of *SW Art Magazine*.

SouthwestArt



Huihan Liu OPAM

Painting Demonstration by Master Signature Member Huihan Liu

Born in China, Huihan graduated from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art with a degree in Oil Painting. He taught in the Art School of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art as well as the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California where he continues as a Graduate School Adviser. Since moving to the United States, his paintings have won numerous awards from various organizations. His painting “Spring of Miao Village” was selected by the Organization Committee for the Olympic Fine Arts in 2012 (London).



Scott Gellatly

“Nature of Oil Painting - Environmental Health and Safe Studio Practices” with Scott Gellatly

For 600 years, oil colors have been the preeminent medium of visual expression. No other painting media holds the same raw power of communication, pigment load and artistic possibility. Painters today are interested in knowing where their materials are from and in making the right choices for their work, their own well-being and the environment. This presentation explores the nature of oil painting – from the field to the palette – and examines materials and techniques to make oil painting safer and more permanent for our work, ourselves and our environment.



Zhiwei Tu OPAM

Master Signature Artist Zhiwei Tu: “An Iconic Figure of our Age”

This is a rare opportunity to meet Chinese born artist Zhiwei Tu OPAM, arguably one of the foremost living oil painters of our time. Indeed, last year the Chinese Government honored him by unveiling an iconic museum bearing his name, housing an exquisite collection of his mural-sized masterpieces. Conference attendees will take a visual tour of this stunning museum and get the inside story behind this crowning achievement.

Cutter & Cutter Fine Art

at their Brilliance in Color Gallery

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
APRIL 29 – MAY 3, 2015

Painting Demo by 2014 National Exhibition Gold Medal Winner Louis Escobedo

Born in Sweetwater, Texas, Louis graduated with a BFA in Advertising Art from Sam Houston State University. He eventually moved from illustration to fine art. 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 of all that he sees and feels. Louis is always striving to master his use of color, tone and texture.



Louis Escobedo

Painting Demonstration by Maritime Master Don Demers

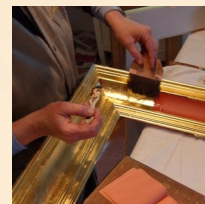
Mr. Demers was born in the small, rural community of Lunenburg, Massachusetts. His interest in painting focused on maritime subjects while spending his summers on the coast of Maine near Boothbay Harbor. After finishing an exemplary high school art program, he furthered his education at the School of the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA, and the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, MA. Don's maritime experience came about as a crewmember aboard traditional sailing vessels. He continues to be an avid sailor. His professional career began as an illustrator and expanded into the field of fine art. His illustrations can be found on many book covers and in national publications such as *Reader's Digest*, *Sail Magazine*, *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Yankee*, and *National Geographic*.



Don Demers

"Basic Techniques for Repairing Damaged Frames" presentation by Barbara Carter

In this workshop Barbara will give a brief introduction to art water gilding and the application of metal leaf with an emphasis on what artists can do to repair frames that have been damaged by galleries or shipping. She will demonstrate some basic techniques for repairing damaged areas and ideas for finishes and coatings to make repairs blend in and match the frames original appearance. Barbara's high-end frames have earned her a strong following among well-known artists across the U.S. Just recently, Barbara sold out her business and now spends much of her time restoring her collection of antique frames and gilding frames for her husband, artist John Michael Carter OPAM.



Additional Painting Demonstrations by Noted Artists

Other painting demos will be given by Dominic Avant, Marc Hanson OPA, Morgan Samuel Price, and Albin Veselka OPA.

SW Art Magazine's Annual Pampered Paint Out!

Once again, long-time sponsor *Southwest Art Magazine* is pulling out all the stops and treating attendees to a fantastic day of painting & pampering at the beautiful Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. The park is famous for its unique shoreline of coquina rock formations that line the Atlantic beach. The gardens make remarkable use of native and exotic species, from azaleas and camellias to the exquisite bird of paradise, sheltered within a picturesque oak hammock.

American Art Collector Magazine's "Seaside Celebration"

American Art Collector Magazine will again host the ever popular closing party, this year at the Northeast Florida Marlin Association's clubhouse overlooking the peaceful harbor of Camachee Cove with luxury yachts and sailboat masts framing a view of the Intracoastal Waterway. This night is all about the gorgeous views where attendees can enjoy the brightly colored sunsets to the west and often, a romantic Saint Augustine moonrise to the east. Come enjoy the ambiance, entertainment, food and libations at this very special waterfront location.



Opening Reception & Awards Ceremony

Come view the amazing artwork and celebrate with your peers as this year's National Exhibition winners are announced.

For a complete schedule of events, including demos, speaker and seminar details and other registration information, please visit www.oilpaintersofamerica.com.



WESTERN REGIONAL JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT By Marilyn Simandle OPAM

I have to say that I was very impressed with the high level quality of all the art and amazed that there are so many good artists. So it wasn't easy. The top awards were the easiest to see right at the start. I could have given most awards to a dozen others. The Gold Medal winner Jeff Merrill's painting stood out because I like a painting to work about 15 feet away, and as you move closer there are many little pleasant surprises on the way. The viewer is never disappointed then. I look for loose and tight brush work, lost and found edges, and strong composition. Congratulations to OPA for a wonderful show. Thanks to Kathryn and Ken, world class people. (You sure know how to take care of a Juror of Awards.)

2014 SOUTH CAROLINA PAINT-OUT



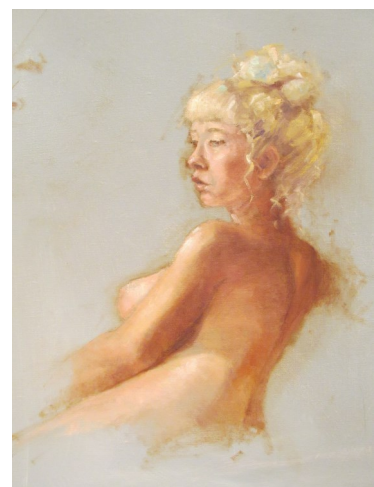
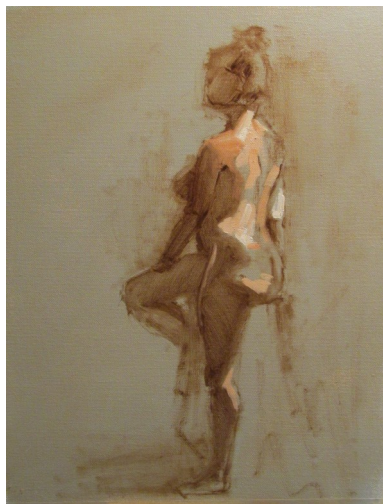
Host Holly Glasscock reported that the South Carolina Paint-Out "was a two day event with about 15 attendees on Saturday and about 6 on Sunday. The weather was a perfect 75-80 degrees and the leaves were not at their peak yet, but showing color. Most of the artists painted the models since they had such great costumes. We had a cowboy and some Catawba Indians (local to this area). Monty, one of the Catawba Indians played the native American flute while he posed. The sound made the experience that much more enjoyable. It was absolutely an incredible experience."



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SHIRL SMITHSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER EXPRESSES APPRECIATION



Workshop paintings

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Konrad Hack OPA and the OPA Board of Directors for selecting me as a recipient of one of the 2014 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships. This scholarship afforded me the opportunity to study with Robert Liberace, one of America's leading portrait and figurative artists. Robert brought Kevin Wueste with him, who is also an incredible artist and teacher at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA. Two amazing teachers for the price of one!

The 5-day workshop was held at the New Mexico Art League in Albuquerque, N.M. Its focus was on painting the figure with special emphasis on anatomy, for which Robert is known to be exceptionally versed. Monday and Tuesday were spent working on sharpening our drawing skills by sketching live models with red chalk on toned paper, then moving on to alla prima painting for the remaining days of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Each student received ample individual instruction from both Robert and Kevin. The NMAL provided monitors Cynthia Rowland and M J Manford who assisted both instructors and were available to assist students with individual requirements.

I came away from this workshop with a greater sense of confidence when approaching the human figure as a subject, and a deeper appreciation for the study of anatomy as the very foundation for the genre.

Again, please accept my most sincere gratitude to OPA for this scholarship and for its commitment to providing members with an opportunity to advance their skills.

Very Sincerely,
Denise Imke
Alto, New Mexico

MORE WESTERN REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS



"New Peonies" by David B. Riedel
won an Award of Excellence



"A Bright Spot"
painted by Kim Casebeer OPA
won an Award of Excellence



Camille Przewodek won an Award
of Excellence for
"The Feathered Hat"



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**JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT FROM THE
“FIRST IN THE WORLD
OPA MASTER SIGNATURE EXHIBITION”
By Neil Patterson OPAM**

It was my great pleasure and privilege to have had the opportunity to serve as Juror of Awards for the premiere OPA Master Signature Exhibition. Jurying this show was simultaneously one of the easiest and most difficult challenges for me. It was easy because the work was all of such a high caliber that any choice would have merited an award. It was difficult because the work was all of such a high caliber that choosing just a handful was almost impossible.

As president of OPA for the past six years I have seen first hand the dedication, commitment and talent of our Master Signature members. I would like to congratulate all the Masters for their participation in this event. It is my hope that the Master Signature Exhibition will continue to be an important part of OPA for many years to come.



ADVERTISE YOUR WORKSHOP ON THE OPA WEBSITE

One of the benefits of being an OPA member is that you may post your workshop listing on the OPA website, at a cost of \$25.00 for up to 6 months of advertising. For more information, or to list your workshop, visit the OPA website.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Rick J. Delanty's oils and acrylic paintings are featured in the December/January issue of *Plein Air Magazine* in an article entitled "Unifying Expressions in Acrylic and Oil Paintings," by the magazine's editor-in-chief and accomplished artist, Stephen M. Doherty. The article highlights the differences, similarities, and advantages that Delanty finds in using both media outdoors and in the studio.

Elayne Kuehler is please to have 4 of her series of mini paintings of seashells in the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art's 2014 Annual Miniature Exhibition, being held through December 17.

Pat Kuper was juried into the international competition "Paint the

Parks" final 100 as well as having two painting in the final 50 minis.

Nancie King Mertz was recently interviewed for The Masters Secrets Summit in which she talks about her work and business as well as discussing some of her painting techniques. This is a free site with interviews with many other Master Artists such as **Harley Brown OPAM** and **Dan Gerhartz OPAM**.

Betty Schmidt was pleased to participate in "Christmas at the Dole" held at the Dole Mansion in Crystal Lake, IL with her painting "Snow Sparkles". The December 5 festivities included not only an art show but also Christmas tree lighting, entertainment by ballerinas, strings, and madrigals to welcome in the holiday season.

William Schneider OPA announced that his painting "Red Brigade" was awarded "Best of Show" at the 20th Annual Regional Juried Exhibition, sponsored by Artists of Northwest Arkansas and open to artists from a ten-state region. Also, his painting "Tori" was awarded "Best of Show" at the 19th Biennial Juried National Exhibition in Springfield, Oregon.

Jo Sherwood was please to have been awarded an Honorable Mention for her painting "The Elder" in the International Figure Oil Painting Competition sponsored by NTD Chinese Television. The competition, with over 200 entries, focused on promoting shared cultures of East and West.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

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 through - January 23, 2015

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2015 Eastern Regional - Eckert & Ross Fine Art, Indianapolis, Indiana - November 6 - December 5 - Canvas size not to exceed 1080 square inches - more details to follow as they become available

2015 Western Regional - details not yet finalized

ON-LINE SHOWCASES

March 1 - May 15 - open to Associate members only

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