



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 26 issue 3

FALL
2016

Brushstrokes

EASTERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION AN IMPRESSIVE EVENT

This year's Eastern Regional Show was held at Eisele Gallery of Fine Art located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Housed in a stately brick home dating back to the early 19th Century, Eisele Gallery continues to exude the charm and old world elegance of yesteryear. Needless to say, the exhibit was impressive and beautifully complemented the building's architectural and historic significance.

Artists in attendance were in for a terrific weekend of events including two highly anticipated painting demonstrations by well-known and respected artists Stephanie Birdsall and David Mueller. Ms. Birdsall started the weekend off on Friday afternoon with a still life demonstration. Birdsall received her formal training at London's prestigious City and Guilds of London Art School in England but she credits her association with the Putney painters, led by the incomparable Richard Schmid for much of her recent success.

A large number of artists attended the opening reception and awards ceremony on Friday evening where Juror of Awards and Master Signature artist Charles Cox announced the prize winners. The ever so talented Marci Oleszkiewicz OPA was



Marci Oleszkiewicz OPA won the Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division for her painting "Looking Back"

awarded the Gold Medal in the Associate/Signature Division for her painting "Looking Back" and artist Marc Hanson OPAM won the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for his alluring painting "Silence".

Immediately following, OPA artists and their guests met for dinner at the historic National Exemplar, a local favorite in the quaint Village of Mariemont, just east of downtown Cincinnati. It was a great opportunity to network and a perfect way to end the day.

Saturday morning got off to a great start with an inspiring presentation by David Mueller on "The Building of a Great Design". Mueller, a talented artist and natural born teacher began with a slide show of history's most famous works of art that illustrated exceptional design elements. Later, he demonstrated how to go about creating a good design every time you paint.

The afternoon wrapped up with a visit to Cincinnati's Taft Museum. This is one of the finest small art museums in the country and is home to a wonderful collection of representational art, including works by Rembrandt, Reynolds, Turner, Whistler and Sargent.

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Eastern Regional show con't.

Thanks to Doug Eisele, Marie Rigney, and the entire staff at Eisele Gallery of Fine Art for their hard work. OPA members and guests had a fantastic weekend and we can't wait to return to Cincinnati for our 2017 National Exhibition.

Congratulations to all of the artists in this year's Eastern Regional Exhibition. The following is a complete list of this year's award winners!

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Marc Hanson
OPAM for "Silence" - \$3,500
funded by OPA



The Silver Medal was awarded to
Mary Qian for "Blue Kimono"

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Xiao S. Jiang OPAM for
"Gondola" - full page advertisement valued at \$1,200 funded by
Sophisticated Living Magazine

ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE

Marci Oleszkiewicz OPA for
"Looking Back" - \$4,000 funded
by OPA

Silver Medal: Mary Qian for
"Blue Kimono" - featured in Artist
Focus section of *American Art
Collector Magazine* - valued at
\$3,400

Bronze Medal: Abigail F.
McBride for "Summer Sun" -
full page advertisement funded by
Southwest Art Magazine valued at
\$3,380



Abigail F. McBride won the Bronze
Medal for "Summer Sun"

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Katie Dobson Cundiff for
"Darien Reflections" - half page
advertisement funded by *Plein Air
Magazine* valued at \$2,000

Jeff Morrow for "The Designer"
- \$1,500 funded by OPA

Dan Beck OPA for "Isabella" -
\$1,000 funded by OPA

**Ann Larsen for "The Working
Class"** - \$500 funded by OPA

**Patricia Rohrbacher for "Rose
& Silver Pitcher"** - \$500 funded
by Larson-Juhl

Sharon Smith Hughes for
"Planning Meals" - merchandise
certificate for \$500 funded by
Robin Imaging Services

**Barbara Schilling for "Red
Stripe Tablecloth"** - merchandise
certificate for \$250 funded by
Plaza Artist Materials & Picture
Framing



"Darien Reflections" by Katie Dobson
Cundiff won an Award of Excellence

DONT' BE LEFT OUT

It's time to renew your membership in OPA, for the 2017 calendar year. You may pay anytime from now through 2017. However, to ensure that you are included in the 2017 national exhibition catalog, your payment **MUST** be received no later than January 31, 2017. Please note that payments received after that date will be accepted, but your name will not appear in the catalog as a current member.



JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT By Charles Cox OPAM

The 2016 OPA Eastern Regional was held at Eisele Gallery in Cincinnati. Lodging was at the charming and beautiful Premier Best Western in the Village of Mariemont and a wonderful time was had by the attendees!

My job as judge was to select winners from the hundred or so excellent works of art which were picked by the online judges from more than 1000 entries. This was a very difficult job which I worked at for some 4-5 hours before settling on my picks. These prize winners represent diverse types of representational art from loose and spontaneous to more carefully worked out and they ran the gamut of subject matter. In the end I was very pleased with my selections and was glad to hear that others thought I had done a good job.

My first encounter with each winning piece produced a positive reaction which I then analyzed as to color, composition, drawing, brushwork, edges, etc. Some paintings I thought had a certain mystique or mood. Some were unique. Others were more conventional and perhaps contained more academic skills, but at a high level. Some were bright in chroma but still harmonious, others were more subdued, but might have contained beautiful tonal relationships. Still others had economy of execution. I remember one selection that was charged with vapor, atmosphere and light. One had translucent color, invented as much as observed. Some showed a great eye for pattern. Several had luscious color and painterliness. All had many subtle nuances of color and tone.



"Camogli Rose" by Charles Cox OPAM

So I toured the room for hours, actually working up a sweat in this air-conditioned gallery, making an intense effort to "get it right", knowing that in the end a certain amount of subjectivity was unavoidable, but satisfied that I had done my job with absolute integrity. I very much enjoyed my experience, from meeting interesting and lively people from different parts of the country to seeing the excitement and joy on the faces of some of the award recipients. So I thank you for allowing me to be your judge and I hope your experience was as good as mine.



Dan Beck, OPA won an Award of Excellence for "Isabella"



"The Designer" painted by
Jeff Morrow won an
Award of Excellence



An Award of Excellence in the Master
Signature Division was given to
Xiao S. Jiang OPAM for "Gondola"



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*To me, every day and every
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- Michael Harding



MEET THE ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER MARCI OLESZKIEWICZ OPA

Marci Oleszkiewicz, grew up in the city of Chicago in a family of four. Her mother home-schooled all four children where each child's gifts were nurtured and encouraged. Marci's father was a carpenter and there wasn't a moment in childhood that he was not renovating or working on some project for their home. Looking back Marci attributes much of her creativity to seeing her father always working on something, creating something out of nothing. "My dad would say 'see Marci if you work at something little by little you will see your idea come about.' Seeing my Dad's work ethic and learning from my Mom the value of self discipline as a home schooler, I believe gave me some of the foundational tools I would need later in life to succeed as an artist."



Marci's passion for art was inspired at a young age. As a child, she remembers sitting at her little desk making pictures. "It seemed I often communicated visually. I remember imagining my little creations coming alive as I made final touches."

Although she has been studying art and painting for some time, it was in 2007 when things started to move forward and she began to see what the future might hold for her. Upon entering several art competitions Marci was not only accepted into two of the top shows, but also received very substantial awards from both. Not long after, she was included in Southwest Art Magazine's "21 Under 31" and had her first two man show at Gallery Russia in Scottsdale, AZ. "Receiving so many incredible honors really encouraged and pushed me into becoming a full time painter." Since then Marci has continued to paint full time. "I am always so encouraged to hear the response from my collectors every year, how they connect and are so touched by what I paint. It is my goal as an artist to create works that resonate with the hearts of others, to speak clearly and deeply to the innermost being. To capture moments of life on canvas that convey all of life's beauty and wonder, joy and sorrow, love and truth. I've heard it said if you paint from your heart you will speak to the hearts of your viewers, and that is my desire. "The Lord has blessed me with this passion for art and I am delighted to be able to share what I see with my students and collectors to show them the beauty and love that surrounds them."

MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE GOLD MEDAL WINNER MARC HANSON OPAM



Marc Hanson OPAM began college as a biology major, but soon applied to and was accepted into Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, majoring in illustration. After Art Center and a brief stint as a staff illustrator in Sacramento, CA, he moved to Minnesota where he lived for 33 years while raising a family and pursuing his art. Marc recently relocated to the hills, woods and swamps of northern Mississippi where he is pursuing his subject in earnest.

A naturalist at heart, the landscape is the perfect vehicle for expressing the joy he has for the surrounding world.



"Silence" painted by Marc Hanson OPAM
won the Gold Medal
in the Master Signature Division

Hanson teaches workshops in many locations nationally. He has shown his work in galleries and museums around the world since the early 1980's. Among his many awards, he's placed four times in *The Pastel Journal's* "Pastel 100" competition, has won "Awards of Excellence" at the OPA national Exhibitions in 2000, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011. He was selected as a Finalist in the *International Artist's Magazine's* Art Prize Challenge and in 2011 was awarded the Bronze Medal for his entry in the OPA National Exhibition.



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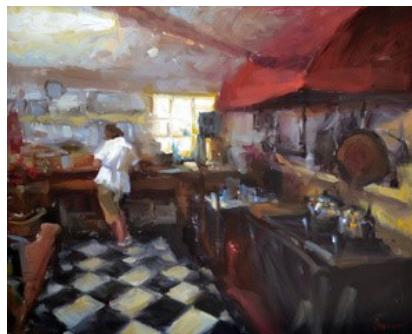
Patricia Rohrbacher won an Award of Excellence for "Rose & Silver Pitcher"



An Award of Excellence was given to Ann Larsen for "The Working Class"



"Red Stripe Tablecloth" by Barbara Schilling won an Award of Excellence



Shannon Smith Hughes won an Award of Excellence for "Planning Meals"



Nyle Gordon won the First Place award in the summer Online Showcase for "Breaktime at Café Du Monde"

SUMMER 2016 ONLINE SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Summer, 2016 Online Showcase contained many outstanding works or varying style and subject, making jurying this competition no easy feat for Juror of Awards Frank LaLumia OPA.

First Place: Nyle Gordon for "Breaktime at Café Du Monde"

Second Place: Eileen Eder for "Meig's Point Rock Star"

Third Place: Damien M. Gonzales for "Storm on the Manzano"

Honorable Mentions: Joseph Daily for "Maria in Red", Derek Penix for "New York City", Patrick Meehan for "Pit Boss", Deborah Tilby for "White Boats on a Beach", Randy Gallegos for "The Trattore Farms, Zinfandel Harvest", Shana Levenson for "Just the Beginning", Nancy

Foster for "Waiting for the Big One", Danielle Day Damson for "Market Mandrians", Sabina Turner for "With Hands of Love" and Elizabeth Wiltzen for "Lily's First Portrait".

The Online Showcase monetary awards are due to the generosity of long-time sponsors Dorothy Drieaus Mellin and the Richard H. Drieaus Foundation. OPA thanks these sponsors for their continued support.

The fall Online Showcase is currently accepting entries from both Associate and Signature members, with separate honors being awarded in each division. Entries will be accepted through December 15. The cost remains \$14 per entry with no limit to the number of entries you may submit. Visit the OPA website for entry info and to view the other award winning entries.

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MEET THE ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER NYLE GORDON

Nyle Gordon was born in Independence, MO. Having several painters, designers and writers in the family, creating was always encouraged. When he was a boy, his father resigned from his job in the city and moved the family to a farm in the small, rural community of Ethel, MO. It was there that Nyle was most profoundly influenced by the people and environment of America's Heartland.

After graduating, with a BFA from the University of Central Missouri, in 1984, Nyle embarked on a career in art that would introduce him to many disciplines. In 2004 he left the corporate art arena to pursue his first love, painting. Returning with his wife to live in the small town of Ethel, MO his time is divided between studio and plein air painting. This Midwestern artist often finds himself far from home paying attention to inspiration and seeking out stories to paint. Nyle continues to study and admire the works of many artists, past and contemporary.



Nyle Gordon is gaining more collectors every year and has garnered awards in both national and regional competitions throughout the country. "For me, creating a painting is immensely satisfying. I am truly grateful to be doing something I love."

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board welcomes its newest member, Joyce Hester, of Tyler, Texas. Joyce recently retired from a 30+ year career as a CPA and will be devoting much more of her time to painting and to OPA.

Mark your calendar for the 2017 National Exhibition and Convention, hosted by Eisele Gallery of Fine Art, Cincinnati, Ohio. The exhibition is May 12 - June 10, 2017 with convention activities beginning May 10.

Juror of Awards will be William Whitaker OPAM and the Distinguished Artist will be Ned Mueller OPAM.

As a reminder, Oil Painters of America is a 501 (C) 3 organization. Any contribution you make not only benefits OPA but may also be included on your tax return as a donation. Contributions of money or stocks are accepted. If you have questions concerning a stock contri-

bution, please contact board member James Bruce OPA at (405) 751-5124.

Entries are being accepted through December 15 for the Fall, 2016 Online Showcase. For those who have never entered before, you must create a new account on the Online Showcase site before entering an image. Each image must be entered and paid for separately, at a cost of \$14 each.



Juror of Awards Charles Cox OPAM with Associate/Signature Gold Medal award winner Marci Oleszkiewicz OPA and president John Michael Carter OPAM



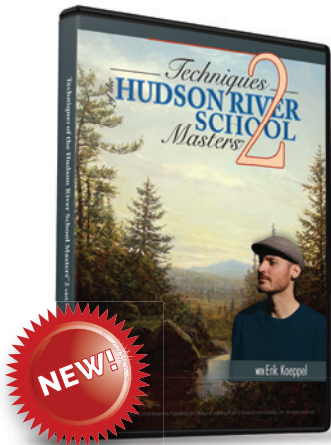
Stephanie Birdsall presents a demo on still life painting



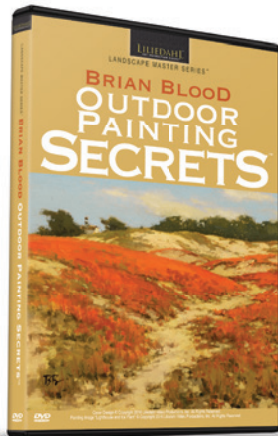
David Mueller poses with the painting he created during his demo on Saturday morning

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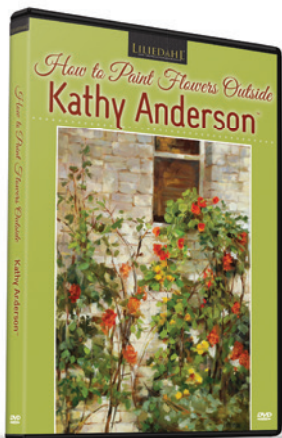
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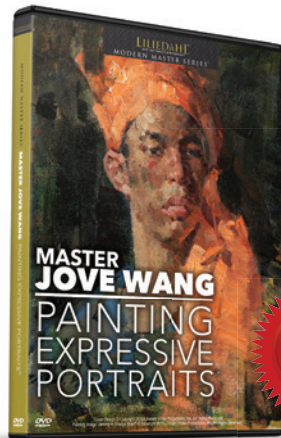
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MAINE GREAT PAINT OUT - Ocean Point in East Boothbay was like an artist's colony on September 7. We were all over the rocks, on the beach and along the shore. What a great time we had at the OPA Paint Out! 41 artists showed up! Some pretty darn good paintings were created. The painters who accomplished all this were. Kathy Baribeau, Brad Betts, Geoff Bladon, Jane Brennan, Ed Buonvecchio, John Butke, Fran Butsavich, Ken Carlson, Ted Charron, Sue Clark, Ken DeWaard, Julia Durgee, Erin McGee Ferrell, Claudette Gamache, Sandra Garrigan, Sara Gray, Stephan Giannini, Roberta Goschke, Bob Grant, Ken Harvey, Hai Ou Hou, Carol Jessen, Ruth Kaldor, Sue Heil Kibbe, Renee Lammers, Suzanne Marinell, Bruce MacDonald, Corinne McIntyre, Bruce McMillan, Roger Milinowski, Gail Morrison, Carole Palmer, Jorge Pena, Hugh Phipps, Diane Randlett, John Seitzer, Kevin Tacka, Tony van Hasselt, George Van Hook, Jean Wyman, Peter Yesis, Susan Zimmerman.



PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Dan Greene OPAM's paintings are being featured in the book "21st Century Figurative Art" And his biography will soon be published "Subways and Studios". His painting "Sophie-Bleeker St." won the Gary Erbe prize in the Allied Artists Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club.

Elayne Kuehler won the Third Place Award in the 47th Annual River Road Show, a National Juried Competition and Exhibition, sponsored by the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild, Baton Rouge, LA.

Wyatt LeGrand was one of two featured artists during the month of October at the Brown County Art Guild in Nashville, IN.

Karen Petrovich was accepted into the 2017 Cowgirl Up! show in Wickenburg, Az. Starting March 24th, 2017.

Krystyna Renata Robbins went to Poland at invitation of the Warsaw Institute of Culture, where she was honored to exhibit 30+ paintings at the Galleria Mazowiecka in the Warsaw Governors Palace featuring scenes of the Southwest "Along the Rio Grande". While there she had the chance to join the plein air painters of the Warsaw Institute of Culture Plein Air Painters at the ancient Camadolese Monastery.

Drew Sarka, nicknamed "The Art Doctor," is trading in his stetho-

scope for paint brushes to host a solo art exhibit at the Historic Dos Chappell Bathhouse in Washington Park in Denver. This year's exhibit theme is "Colorado Through the Seasons" inspired by his accidentally diverted family road trips and adventures across the state.

R. Gregory Summer's painting "Finding a Diversion" won an award in the "Animals in Art" national juried competition at Mills Pond Gallery, NY as well as at the "Heartland Art Exhibition" at the Tim Murphy Gallery, KS. His painting "From Within" won an Honorable Mention at the Outdoor Painter Society exhibition at Southwest Gallery, TX.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2016 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Twenty-sixth Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention - Eisele Gallery of Fine Art, Cincinnati, Ohio
May 12 - June 10, 2017

Juror of Awards: William Whitaker OPAM - Canvas size 1,200 square inches

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2017 Western Regional - details not yet finalized

2017 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

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