



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

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volume 26 issue 2

SUMMER
2016

Brushstrokes

OPA CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY IN DALLAS, TEXAS

Texas lived up to the saying that it doesn't do things in a small way by hosting Oil Painters of America's Silver Anniversary in a grand manner. The activities started on Wednesday afternoon and continued into Thursday with the "Best Little Plein Air Competition in Texas". Artists were offered the opportunity to plein air paint throughout the City of Dallas on Wednesday with many taking the bus to Winfrey Point at White Rock Lake Park and the Dallas Arboretum for painting on Thursday. As in past years, *Southwest Art Magazine* sponsored their awesome "Pampered Paint Out" as part of this event. Good food, a fantastic masseuse and musical entertainment made for an enjoyable day of painting. A number of spectacular works were created during these two days, many of which were entered in the plein air competition. The day wound down with a poolside welcome reception where members and guests mingled.

On Friday morning Signature Member Qiang Huang presented a still life painting demonstration at the Crowne Plaza Dallas, offering artists the opportunity to visit vendors during a break from his demo. In the afternoon Distinguished Artist Jeff Legg OPAM was interviewed by Signature member John Pototschnik. Attendees got to know



The Gold Medal Award in the Associate and Signature Division was awarded to Derek W. Penix for "Spade Fish"

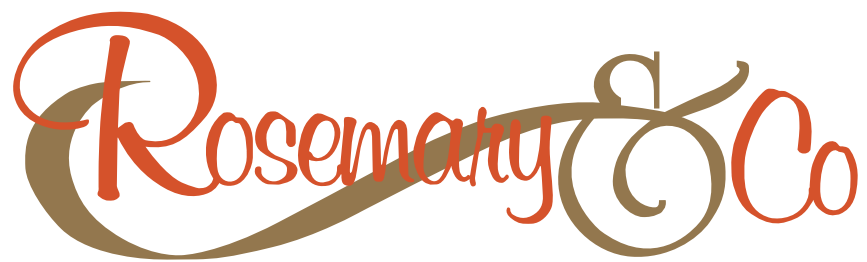
Jeff "Up Close and Personal" and learned what lead to his successful career. The afternoon was rounded out with a panel discussion on "The Art of Collecting", also moderated

by John Pototschnik OPA. Collectors from all walks of life gathered and discussed their insights into collecting works in this ever changing economy.

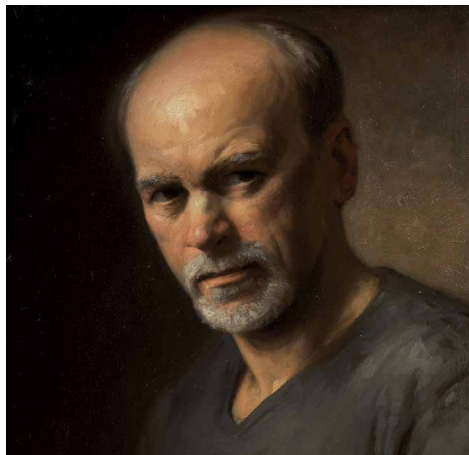
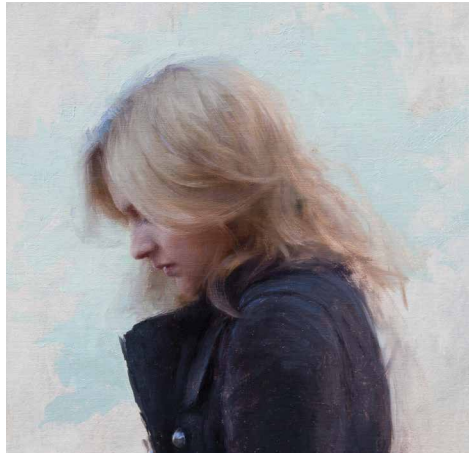
Southwest Gallery was packed, with standing room only, during the opening reception, held Friday evening. Members and guests walked throughout the gallery to view almost 250 Associate, Signature and Master Signature painters' works while enjoying wine and appetizers. This was followed by the Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Dallas Galleria. At this event new Signature and Master Signature members were recognized and Past OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM was presented the Golden Brush Award for his many years of hard work and meritorious service to OPA. The raffle basket winners were also chosen at this time, all of which was leading up to the most important part of the evening, the announcement of the award winners by Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM. The Gold Medal Award in the Master Signature Division went to Huihan Liu OPAM for "At Mt. Tangulla Pass, Northern Tibet" and the Gold Medal Award in the Associate and Signature Division was given to Derek W. Penix for "Spade Fish". These two amazing works well deserved high awards, as did so

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Nancy Boren OPA won both the Bronze Medal in the Associate and Signature Division and the Members' Choice Award for "Thunder on the Brazos"

National Exhibition can't.

many others. The serving of the tasty 25th anniversary cake at the dessert gathering which followed was a pleasant surprise that all enjoyed.

Saturday morning started off with a breakfast sponsored by Dick Blick/Utrecht and a very interesting presentation by Joe Gyurcsak on the "Successful Elements of Design in Painting". Many essentials of design were discussed which lead members to comment that this was one of the most insightful presentations they had heard in years. Later in the morning Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM demonstrated his artistic skills while sharing his expertise in transforming a blank canvas into a work of art. After lunch attendees watched 5 talented artists paint and offer evidence that even having only 2 hours to paint can be enough to create something to be appreciated. For interest, 3 artists painted the same model, showing different interpretations of the same subject.

American Art Collector Magazine once again hosted a stupendous dinner event, this year at the Iron Cactus



The Silver Medal in the Associate and Signature Division was awarded to Daud M. Akhriev OPA for "Harbor Conversations"

Restaurant in downtown Dallas on Saturday evening. The food was plentiful and entertainment enjoyable with a number of attendees showing off their dancing skills before the night was over.

Sunday morning began with a painting demonstration by Distinguished Artist Jeff Legg OPAM. The still life he created portrayed the jug so well that you felt as if it were real, not only a painting.

Sunday events ended with art critiques being offered to those who brought examples of their work, either in the form of real paintings,



Timur D. Akhriev won the Best Associate Award of Excellence for "Youth"



"Sunny Disposition" by Anne Blair Brown OPA won the Silver Anniversary Award of Excellence

photos or via computer. These free critiques offered artists an opportunity to have their work reviewed by some of OPA's Master Signature and Signature members.

The following is a list of the award recipients for the 2016 National Exhibition and Competition.

ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Derek W. Penix for "Spade Fish" - funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Daud M. Akhriev OPA for "Harbor Conversations" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal: Nancy Boren OPA for "Thunder on the Brazos" - funded by *Plein Air Magazine*

Silver Anniversary Award of Excellence: Anne Blair Brown OPA for "Sunny Disposition" - funded by *Art of the West Magazine*

National Exhibition con't.

Best Signature Award of Excellence: Bryce C. Liston OPA for "May You Find Solace" - funded by FASO

Best Signature Honorable Mention: Dan Beck OPA for "Arrangement in Red" - funded by Artwork Archive, Natural Pigments and New Wave Fine Art Products

Best Associate Award of Excellence: Timur D. Akhriev for "Youth" - funded by FASO

Best Associate Honorable Mention: Ron Rencher for "Angle of Repose" - funded by Artwork Archive, Natural Pigments and New Wave Fine Art Products

Outstanding Composition and Technique Award of Excellence: Karen W. Offutt for "Fading" - funded by Holbein Artist Materials and Revelite

Most Original Award of Excellence: Rob Rey OPA for "At Rest" - funded by Jack Richeson & Company



Karen W. Offutt won the Outstanding Composition and Technique Award of Excellence for "Fading"



"May You Find Solace"
by Bryce C. Liston OPA won the Best Signature Award of Excellence

Most Original Honorable Mention: Dianne L. Massey Dunbar OPA for "The Fallen" - funded by SourceTek Art Supply, Natural Pigments and MasterPak

Presidents' Award of Excellence: Bo Zhang for "Contemporary Girl" - funded by past presidents Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

Art Renewal Center Realism Award of Excellence: Casey Childs for "Nocturne on the Reservoir" - funded by Art Renewal Center

Realism Honorable Mention: Keewon Hong for "Huntress" - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors and The Italian Art Store

Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence: John F. Budicin OPA for "Working Late" - funded by the Friends of Ted Goerschner OPAM



"At Rest" by Rob Rey OPA won the Most Original Award of Excellence

Impressionist Honorable Mention: Dan Schultz for "Cool Water" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors and SourceTek

Animal Award of Excellence: William A. Suys OPA for "Morning Mist" - funded by OPA, Jack Richeson & Company and Natural Pigments

Animal Honorable Mention: Kyle Ma for "Chicken Coop" - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours and Airfloat Systems

John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence: David Gray for "Portrait of Paris" - funded by RayMar Art

Figurative Honorable Mention: Kelly M. Folsom for "At Her Dressing Table" - funded by Grumbacher Art and ArtFrames, Inc.

Landscape Award of Excellence: Dave A. Santillanes OPA for "Winter on the San Miguel" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors, Blick Art Materials and Liliedahl Video Productions



The Landscape Award of Excellence was given to Dave A. Santillanes OPA for "Winter on the San Miguel"

National Exhibition con't.

Landscape Honorable Mention:
David R. Dibble for "Hinckley Farm" - funded by Daytripper Easel and Ampersand

Portraiture Award of Excellence:
Marc Chatov OPA for "Goldfinch" - funded by Blue Ridge Oil Colors, Trekell Art Supply and Rosemary & Co. Artist Brushes

Portraiture Honorable Mention:
Jan P. Wan OPA for "Flower Season" - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours and MasterPak

Seascape Award of Excellence:
Jason Sacran for "Eventide" - funded by Daytripper Easel and Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours

Seascape Honorable Mention:
Jesse Hitchens for "Cypress Sun" - funded by M. Graham & Company and MasterPak

Still Life Award of Excellence:
Weizhen Liang for "Morning Peony" - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors, Trekell Art Supply and Bella Muse Productions

Still Life Honorable Mention:
Aimee Erickson for "Still Life with Cider Jug and Lemons" - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Artists Colours and MasterPak

Neil Patterson OPAM Award of Excellence: **Susan F. Hotard OPA** for "Texas Tim" - funded by Past President Neil Patterson OPAM

Members' Choice Award of Excellence: **Nancy Boren OPA** for "Thunder on the Brazos" - funded by Cheap Joe's Art Stuff

The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists:
Elizabeth Pollie OPA for "Halfway Home" - funded by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal - Master Signature Division: **Huihan Liu OPAM** for "At Mt. Tangulla Pass, Northern Tibet" - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

Silver Medal - Master Signature Division: **Sherrie McGraw OPAM** for "Aspen Leaves" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*



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- Michael Harding

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National Exhibition con't.

Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division: Calvin Liang OPAM for "Monument Valley" - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*



The Art Renewal Center
Realism Award of
Excellence was given to
Casey Childs for
"Nocturne on the Reservoir"



David Gray's "Portrait of Paris" won the John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence

Most Original Award of Excellence - Master Signature Division: John Michael Carter OPAM for "Chalice" - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Realism Award of Excellence - Master Signature Division: Jeff Legg OPAM for "Lady in Waiting" - funded by Savoir-Faire, Guerrilla Painter and Friends of OPA



"Working Late" by John F. Budicin OPA won the Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence



"Morning Mist" by William A. Suys OPA won the Animal Award of Excellence



"Eventide" by Jason Sacran won the Seascape Award of Excellence

Impressionist Award of Excellence - Master Signature Division: Shizhong Yan OPAM for "The Centenarian" - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours

Shirl Smithson Founders' Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members: Albert Handell OPAM for "At the Coast" - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family.



Bo Zhang won the President's Award of Excellence for "contemporary Girl"



The Portraiture Award of Excellence was given to Marc Chatov OPA for "Goldfinch"

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT

By Kevin Macpherson OPAM

I have had the honor to be a juror for many art exhibitions and competitions. I take this responsibility seriously. I know from my own experience that artists work hard to the best of our ability and we are very attached emotionally to our product. As a judge, it is important to take ample time, so that respect is given to each piece being displayed for review.

The vast variety of subjects and styles makes the job of jurying all that more challenging. It is not easy to compare boats to children, flowers to cathedrals. There may be subjects that I just don't like but I need to put my prejudices aside. Again, this is not easy but that is my job as a respected juror.

Some artworks, bold and colorful, can grab our attention quickly but the connection also quickly fades. Other works subtle, delicate or quiet may grow on us in time. While viewing the art in the exhibition gallery there is a lot of visual distraction looking at hundreds of works stacked floor to ceiling. It is not easy to give each their due. It is best to visit the work over many hours and break during the day. I like to clear my head from the visual overload to see it all fresh again. My particular mood of the moment can slant my perspective. The location of a work displayed can give it an advantage or disadvantage. I often rearrange the work as I make my decisions. The gallery was very cooperative to help me see many paintings in a new light, so to speak. This is my reputation and my stamp of approval, so I do what is necessary for the fairest assessment.

I look at the work wearing two hats. The first is the objective hat. Here we can compare work on relatively equal footing. The second phase of my examination I wear the subjective hat. Both are so important but when it gets down to the wire the subjective response examines the intangible ingredient that gives one the unexplainable goose bumps when in the presence of a masterpiece.

There are fundamentals: line, focal point, color, shapes, value, edges, perspective, composition, light, balance and harmony that underlie any subject. This technical expertise is the more objective consideration. I pay particular attention to how the work is made technically. Does the work feel personal or expected or have I seen this so many times before? Do I see too much influence from past artists or instructors? All these, and many more, questions go through my mind for each painting.

Judging the technical, the objective hat, I need to examine and decide if the artist is deliberately distorting or exaggerating drawing or color to add drama to enhance the idea or emotion, or is it lack of skill? I appreciate the craft, the knowledge of the fundamentals, tools and techniques to communicate the idea at the highest level.

So many submissions are mere pictures, not compositions, and if technically flawless often without feeling. Some paintings have the power to uplift, offering a deeper visual experience beyond a mere picture. The painter's visual language, technical expertise, uniqueness and qualities that set a painting apart from the pack will rise to the top.

I spend time with each artwork to find their deeper meaning. Change hats for the subjective considerations. How did the artist interpret the subject? Great paintings are challenging for the artists and should challenge the viewer to be engaged emotionally beyond the mere academics. This is the "X" factor that separates the good from the great.

I try to be open to all subjects, techniques, styles, representational or abstract, impressionist, expressionistic or highly realistic. I try to be honest and fair but I am human so there are always flaws in the system. Celebrate your successes and forgive your failings. In the hands of another juror there would be a very different outcome.

Thank you Oil Painters of America for your trust in my judgment,

Kevin Macpherson OPAM
2016 Juror of Awards





MEET THE ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER DEREK W. PENIX

Derek Penix was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and grew up watching members of his family paint but didn't pursue painting himself until after high school. After trying his hand at painting and selling his first piece he knew this was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

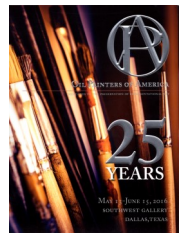
Over the years Penix's work has changed greatly and continues to evolve with each painting. "I never want to be stuck painting only one way or only one subject matter. Variety is the spice of life and is especially that way for me with painting."

Penix has had the opportunity to work under Quang Ho OPAM and later with C.W. Mundy OPAM. "They have helped me immensely as an artist. I am so thankful that they have been willing to feed into my life as they have."

Penix has been recognized in many national competitions and publications. Even at a young age Penix was recognized in *South West Art* Magazine's "21 Under 31" in 2010 and *Oklahoma Magazine's* "40 Under 40" in 2014. In the Jan/Feb, 2016 he was noted in *Fine Art Connoisseur* in the article "Three to Watch".

2016 NATIONAL CATALOG AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Copies of this year's national exhibition catalog are now available for purchase at a cost of \$25.00 each (three or more for \$21.00 each). These may be purchased online by visiting the OPA website or by sending a check to: Oil Painters of America at P. O. Box 2488, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488.



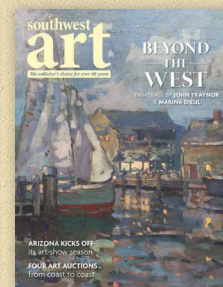
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MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER HUIHAN LIU OPAM

Huihan Liu OPAM was born in 1952 in Guangzhou, China where he attended school and graduated from Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art in 1975. He then taught in the Art School of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art after which he was accepted into their Graduate School. Huihan came to the United States to further his studies and graduated from the Academy of Art College in San Francisco with an M.F.A. followed by teaching at the Academy. He is a Graduate School Adviser at the Academy of Art University.

When in China, he participated in many exhibitions both on a regional and national level. Since moving to the United States, he has continued to participate in many national painting shows and invitational exhibitions. His paintings have won many awards and have been collected by both private collectors and museums. In 2012, Huihan's painting "Spring of Miao Village" was selected by the Organization committee for the



Huihan Liu OPAM's Gold Medal winning painting in the Master Signature Division "At Mt. Tangulla Pass, Northern Tibet"

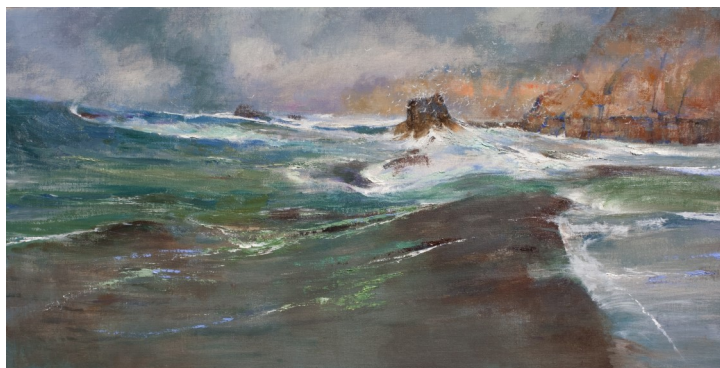
Olympic Fine Arts and was exhibited during the 30th Olympic Games in London. Huihan's work has been featured in articles by many leading national artist/collector magazines such as *Art of The West*, *Southwest Art Magazine*, *The International Artists Magazine* and *The Artist's Magazine*. Huihan conducts a few invitational painting workshops both in the United States and abroad.

Huihan and his wife Liang Weizhen are both full time painters who live in the Bay Area of San Francisco. They both love to travel and have made many trips to Tibet, France, Italy, and Taiwan for their painting subjects.

Huihan is an Artist Member of Guangdong Artists' Association China, Master Signature Member of Oil Painters of America, Master Member of American Impressionist Society, an Artist Signature Member of California Art Club, School of Art & Design Guangzhou University Professor in China.



The Impressionist Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Shizhong Yan OPAM for "The Centenarian"



The Shirl Smithson Founders' Award for Master Signature Members went to Albert Handell OPAM for "At the Coast"

OPA THANKS THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS OF THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Our 2016 National Exhibition and Convention was one of the best shows ever. It would not have been this great had it not been for our award sponsors, vendors, raffle contributors and Master Signature members who donated to the silent auction. Thank you to all!

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"Monument Valley" by Calvin Liang OPAM
 won the Bronze Medal in the Master
 Signature Division



"Texas Tim" by Susan F. Hotard
 won the Neil Patterson OPAM
 Award of Excellence



The Silver Medal in the Master Signature
 Division went to Sherrie McGraw OPAM
 for "Aspen Leaves"



Weizhen Liang won the Still Life Award
 of Excellence for "Morning Peony"

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John Michael Carter OPAM won the Award of Excellence for Most Original in the Master Signature Division for "Chalice"



"Lady In Waiting" painted by Jeff Legg OPAM won the Realism Award of Excellence in the Master Signature Division



Opening reception at Southwest Art Gallery



"The Art of Collecting" panel discussion



“BEST LITTLE PLEIN AIR COMPETITION IN TEXAS” A FUN EVENT



Rusty Jones was awarded first place in the plein air competition for “House on the Point”

lengthy consideration, Carter made his final decisions and announced the award recipients on Saturday evening:

First Place: Rusty Jones for “House on the Point” - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Second Place: Suzie Baker OPA for “The Air Up There” - funded by *Plein Air Magazine*

Third Place: Michael Holter for “Catch of the Day” - funded by *Western Art Collector Magazine*

Fourth Place: Nancy Boren OPA for “White Peonies” - funded by Cheap Joe’s Art Stuff

Fifth Place: Aimee Erickson for “Turning” - funded by Blick Art Materials

Sixth Place: Louis Escobedo OPA for “The Field” – funded by Trekell Art Supply

Seventh Place: Suzette Gertsch for “Pond Lily” - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors and Guerilla Painters

Eighth Place: Kurt Anderson OPA for “Winn Park Pond” - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors and Guerilla Painters



Ninth Place: Howard Friedland OPA for “Shady Spot” - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors

Tenth Place: Dennis Farris for “Sublime Day” - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors.

Many of the artists attending the 2016 national exhibition participated in the plein air painting held on Wednesday and Thursday. Artists could paint any location they chose and many travelled to White Rock Lake Park to paint at Winfrey Point, overlooking the lake. Thursday’s “Pampered Paint Out”, sponsored by *Southwest Art Magazine*, began with breakfast at the park before artists hit the trails to find the perfect location to set up their easels. Some artists decided to bus to the Dallas Arboretum, next door. Lunch was served with the melodious voice of country singer Byron Hagne singing in the background, accompanied by his guitar. A number of individuals took full advantage of being pampered by enjoying the skilled masseuse who was available throughout the afternoon.

Many registered to participate in the plein air competition. Once completed, artists turned in their framed entries for John Michael Carter OPAM to judge. After



The “Pampered Paint Out” offered the best of everything, food, entertainment and relaxation.

MEET THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN ARTISTS WINNER ELIZABETH POLLIE OPA

"A successful representational painting transcends technique and gimmickry, eliciting from the viewer a sense of connection with the truer nature of the subject. In the best of these works we are taken, almost unwittingly, into the heart of the painting. Here we feel, down to the bone, the more intrinsic qualities of a scene—be they lovely or disturbing, either way we are mesmerized. If we are very lucky our own hearts are broken open".

Elizabeth grew up visiting museums, studying and drawing alongside her father. She earned her BFA from The College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI, where she later taught. Her interests led her into the field of editorial illustration. The 1980's were rich with greatly imaginative artists who honed both their conceptual and representational skills in the world of illustration. Ms. Pollie's work was nationally published and awarded.

As illustration began to fade from magazines and book jackets her focus upon representational painting became central. Pollie's work has received a very strong reception in

the art world, collecting numerous awards as well as extensive media coverage.

Her emphasis is based on finding and teasing out a sense of poetry, mood and depth. From capturing the authentic nature of animals to broad expanses of water and land, Pollie's work has a quality of sincerity woven into it. Mystery, solitude and intimacy come together to create a palpable experience. "The intrigue and intimacy found in observing the surrounding world provides me with ceaseless inspiration. There is a great sense of freedom as well as a spirit of discovery that is derived through the act of painting," says Pollie.



(L to R) Sponsor Dorothy Drieaus Mellin, Fellowship recipient Elizabeth Pollie OPA and President Ken Cadwallader OPA

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SPRING 2016 ASSOCIATE ONLINE SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Spring, 2016 Online Showcase was not an easy competition for Juror of Awards Lori Putnam OPA to jury. To quote Lori:

Judging other artists' works is always challenging, but it was especially difficult given the quality of entries in this Showcase. In trying to uphold the high standards of the OPA, the first sorting of works helped me measure those that had exemplary drawing skills, design, and color harmony. Next, I examined each painting even more closely comparing brushwork, edges, and overall confidence. Still, so many pieces bubbled to the surface. Examining, comparing, sorting, and assessing, over and over again, I chose the final list of award recipients by gradually moving those pieces with the clearest visual statements to the top. These excellent paintings are truly deserving of distinction. It is always a privilege to work with the Oil Painters of America, and a great honor to present the winners to you.

First Place: Charles Iarrobino for “Master Class”

Second Place: Cheryl Magellan for “As My”

Third Place: Patrick McClellan for “Cottonwood & Bales”

Honorable Mentions: Deborah Tilby for “The Bicycle and the Boat”, A. Westerberg for “Hair Tie”, Heather Arenas for “The Belizcan Chef”, Larry DeGraff for “The Sounds of Silence”, Michael Buddin for “The Lunch Crowd”, Ming Qin for “A Lady from Hong Kong”, Sara Linda Poly for “Luminosity”, Troy Kilgore for “Winter Stream, Brown County State Park”, George Bodine for “Sycamore Before the Bachert Farm and Cody Wheelock for “Dad Life”.

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

Submissions for the 2016 summer Associate On-Line Showcase are currently being accepted. Entries for the summer competition are due by August 15. The fall Online Showcase is open to both Associate and Signature members, with separate honors being awarded in each division. Fall entries will be accepted October 1 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 rest of the award winning entries.



Charles Iarrobino's painting within a painting, titled “Master Class” won the first place award in the spring Online Showcase

SOCIALIZING AT THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION



The opening reception by the Crowne Plaza Dallas Galleria pool



Dancing the night away at the dinner, hosted by *American Art Collector Magazine* at the Iron Cactus Restaurant



Members and guests prepare for a fantastic meal on Saturday evening

MEET THE SPRING, 2016 ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER CHARLES IARROBINO

Born in Annapolis, Maryland in 1952, Charles studied painting and printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University and Syracuse University, graduating with a BFA in Painting and Printmaking in 1974. A member of Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society, he has had numerous one-man shows on the East Coast as well as in his adopted state of New Mexico.



A lifelong fascination with color expressed itself initially in abstract painting, but since moving to northern New Mexico the brilliant high desert light dictated a change in the direction of his painting. Years of attempting to capture aspects of that light resulted in an artistic output dominated by landscapes, street scenes and gardens. In the past two decades numerous visits to France and his ancestral home, Italy, have opened the door to a growing range of subject matter, from the small harbors of the south of France to the Calli E Canali of Venice. Numerous paintings of cafes and open-air markets are evidence of a growing fascination with human interaction, personal space and body language as well as a continuing appreciation of interior space and exterior architecture.

Living in New Mexico has provided something of a “continuing education experience” owing to the lessons taught daily not only by the radiant light but through the cross-pollinating conversations regarding technique and aesthetics that are inevitable in an area teeming with painters. Influenced early on by the Impressionists, Iarrobino was later to find inspiration (as have so many others) in the masterworks of John Singer Sargent, Joaquin Sorolla and Anders Zorn. He owes an additional debt of gratitude to 20th century masters Henri Matisse and Richard Diebenkorn as well as contemporary luminaries such as Quang Ho OPAM, Dan McCaw, Jon Redmond, Terry Miura and Ben Aronson - and others too numerous to list.

Santa Fe has been his home since 1981. He lives there, very happily, with the light of his life, Melissa.

5 ARTISTS GIVE THE AUDIENCE LOTS TO ABSORB ON SATURDAY



Model who sat for 3 of the painters



Anna Rose Bain OPA



Joe Gyurcsak



Suzie Baker OPA



Aimee Erickson



Mitch Baird OPA

NOTES FROM THE 2016 GENERAL MEETING

At the 2016 General Meeting the following board members were re-elected for two year terms:

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

Outgoing President Ken Cadwalader OPA introduced incoming president John Michael Carter OPAM. Kurt Anderson OPA will serve as OPA's vice president, and continue as the treasurer until a new member is added to the board to fill the position of treasurer.

Howard Friedland OPA reviewed the process for jurying the exhibi-

tions and said that the committees changed for each show. All committees are made up of 5 jurors, 2 of which are Master Signature and 3 of which are Signature Members.

Jim Bruce OPA told the audience that all OPA members were part of the Fundraising Committee. He said that people contribute to that which they believe in and hoped members who are not contributing will considering doing so. He also noted that Dorothy and Art Mellin contribute a substantial amount to OPA and asked members to thank the Mellins if the opportunity arose.

Zhiwei Tu OPAM thanked Joyce Pike OPAM for all of her hard work

and time devoted to OPA. Joyce has been the chairperson of the Master Signature Review Committee for a number of years. Joyce reviewed the qualifications for becoming a Master Signature member and advised members that they should not give up trying for this status if they have been turned down. The review committee changes from year to year and therefore applicants may be viewed differently from one year to the next.

Program co-chairs Susan Abma and Suzie Baker OPA said that they were open to program suggestions for the 2017 national exhibition.

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board wants to remind members to review the "Dates To Remember" on the back, inside cover of the *Brushstrokes*. Fall is the time of year to submit applications to the Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship, the Signature Review Committee and the Master Signature Review Committee.

Members are also reminded to read the Member Notes thoroughly. At the bottom of the information there is frequently a promotion being offered only to OPA members. Don't miss out on these specials. These are the same sponsors who attend our national shows and contribute to the raffle baskets.

OPA is pleased to announce that you may donate to Oil Painters of America when making a purchase through AmazonSmile. If you buy an item through AmazonSmile you may designate OPA as your preferred charity. By doing so the program will donate .5% of your Amazon purchase to OPA. Shopping through AmazonSmile is the same as through Amazon, with all the same prices and selections. For more information please visit: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/3789172>.



2016 raffle baskets

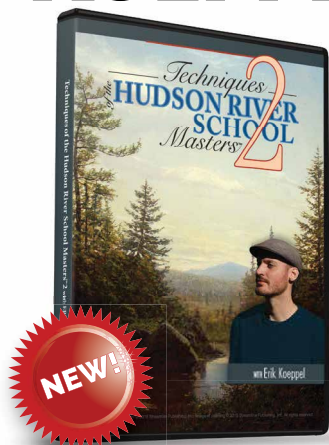


12 vendors displayed their wares at the convention

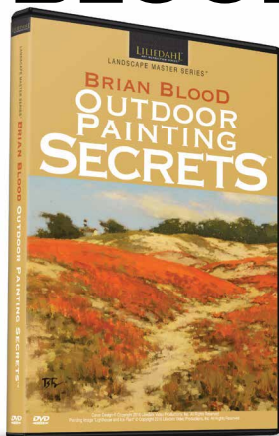
The staff of the OPA *Brushstrokes* wishes to offer our sincere apology to August Burns. In the Spring, 2016 newsletter we made reference to "his" work. Instead, the caption under the picture should have referred to "her" work. We sincerely apologize for this error.

Accelerate Your Growth As An Artist

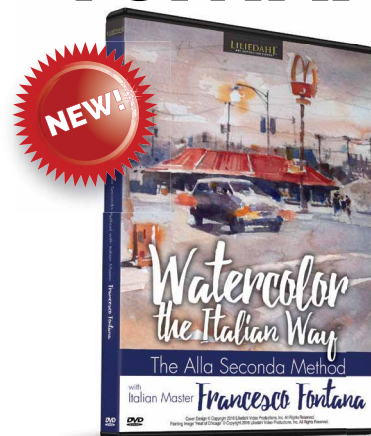
**Erik
KOEPPPEL**



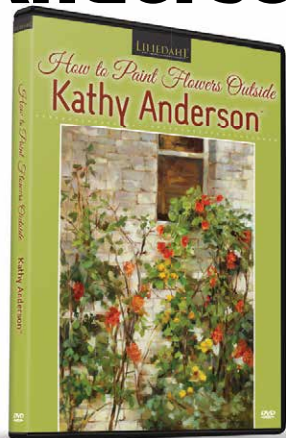
**Brian
BLOOD**



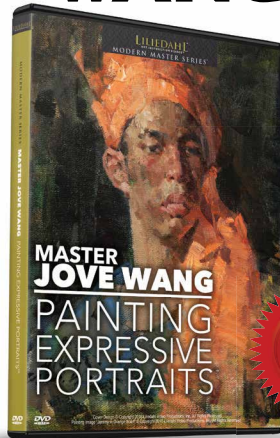
**Francesco
FONTANA**



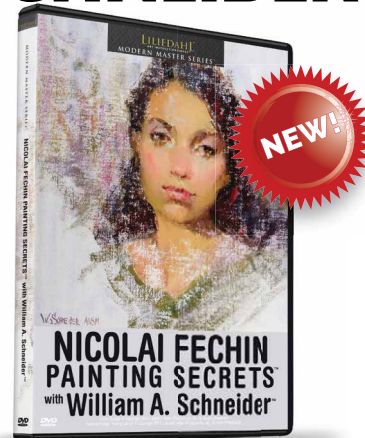
**Kathy
Anderson**



**Jove
WANG**



**William A.
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PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Marc Chatov OPA was pleased to receive the National Award from the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society in the 2016 International Competition for his painting "Goldfinch". Additionally, as the guest speaker at the Culture Club in Atlanta, GA, benefiting the Atlanta Food Bank, Marc spoke on "100 Years of Painting".

Joseph Fama's painting "Evening Snow" was selected to be in the 115th Annual Juried Art Exhibition at the Creative Arts Center in New Haven, CT.

Laura Lewis recently completed a mural depicting the history of oil discovery in the Permian Basin. The mural, commissioned by Chevron Corp. was installed in the new Chevron campus in Midland, Texas. Research, development and painting of the mural took place over a period of two years. Painted on nine canvases, the total dimensions of the mural are 7.5 feet by 51 feet.

Bruce Newman is pleased to announce that he was awarded first place in the inaugural Paint the Past plein air festival at Kings Landing Historical Settlement near Frederic-

ton, NB, Canada. In addition to his \$1000 prize, he was named Artist in Residence for the following year."

Susan Ploughe OPA is honored to have a painting in the American Impressionist Society 17th Annual National Juried Exhibition taking place at the Howard/Mandville Gallery in Kirkland, WA later this year.

Betty Schmidt is one of the artists participating in the upcoming exhibition "Same Choices — Different Voices" illustrating how six different artists perceive the same sight, the Woodstock, IL town square.

2016 GREAT PAINT OUTS

Attending one of OPA's Great Paint Outs offers members a wonderful opportunity to meet other professional artists. Following is a list of scheduled 2016 Paint Outs as of press time. Visit the OPA website for more details, additions and/or changes to this Paint Out information. Should you have questions not answered on the website, please contact the individual hosts listed below.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>HOST'S NAME</u>
August 13	Chicago	IL	Joy Appenzeller Bauer
August 27	La Grange	KY	Beverly Bruntz
August 27	Marceline	MO	Darrell Gardner
September 3	Snohomish	WA	Patricia "PC" Revius
September 7	East Boothbay	ME	Corinne McIntyre
September 10	Evergreen	CO	Richard Cooper
September 12	Key Largo	FL	Claudia Moriarty
September 17	Monterey	CA	Georges Gomez
September 17	San Diego	CA	Kevin Inman
September 23, 24, 25	Emerald Isle	NC	Irene Bailey
October 1	Novato	CA	Julia Homenko
October 1	Cincinnati	OH	Joe Stewart
October 1	Boston	MA	Adam Adkison
October 2	Mena	AR	Barbara Lewis
October 8	Lancaster	PA	Kerry Sacco
October 15	Atlanta	GA	Lisa Gleim-Jones
October 15	Winsboro	SC	Barbara Yongue
October 15	Juno Beach	FL	Manon Sander
October 22	Thomasville	GA	Mary O. Smith
November 5 + 6	Steinhatchee	FL	Mary O. Smith
November 6	Charlotte	TN	Lori Putnam

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Twenty-sixth Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention - Eisele Gallery of Fine Art, in Cincinnati, Ohio
May 12 - June 10, 2017 - Juror of Awards will be an OPA Master Signature member
More details to follow as they become available

REGIONAL & SALON EXHIBITIONS

201 Eastern Regional - Eisele Gallery of Fine Art, Cincinnati, Ohio - September 9 - October 8
Juror of Awards: Charles Cox OPAM

2016 Salon Show - Castle Gallery Fine Art, Ft. Wayne, IN - September 30 - October 29
Juror of Awards: Carolyn Lewis OPA

2016 Western Regional - The Marshall Gallery of Fine Art, Scottsdale, Arizona - November 4 – November 30
Juror of Awards: Marc Hanson OPAM

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

CHECK IT OUT!

The newest item to be added to the merchandise available to OPA members is our black plastic, license plate surround. Show you are a proud member of OPA at a cost of only \$10, including shipping. Visit the OPA website to place your order.



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