



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

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volume 28 issue 2

SUMMER
2018

Brushstrokes

2018 NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION GETS RAVE REVIEWS



Xiao S. Jiang OPAM won the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for "Boat Place"

This year's 2018 National Exhibition and Convention was an outstanding success! Taking place in the picturesque city of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, artists and guests were offered not only a spectacular exhibition but also interesting and informative presentations, all while being surrounded by the most breathtaking scenery.

Activities officially began on Tuesday, May 29 with the "Colorado Rocky Mountain High" Wet Paint Sale and Competition. On Wednesday, many artists elected to paint at

the prestigious Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp, the country's oldest continuously operating performing arts camp in the country. Here models posed both inside and out, with beautiful mountains, an abundance of aspens, colorful wild flowers and horses as their backdrop. Thursday, the final day of the competition featured *Southwest Art Magazine's* annual Pampered Paint Out, held at the historic Steamboat Springs Art Depot situated right along the beautiful Yampa River. Artists were able to paint models and still life arrangements in the depot's luggage room or venture outside to capture the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

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The Gold Medal in the Associate and Signature Division was awarded to Casey Childs for "Take These Broken Wings"

Thanks to *SW Art Magazine*, artists were treated to a delicious breakfast featuring homemade cinnamon rolls followed by a "knock your socks" off lunch with a wide variety of wraps and salad options, not to mention a terrific guitarist who played great tunes throughout lunch.

2018 Natl. Exhibition con't.

Exhibitors were up bright and early on Friday morning to welcome participants before they attended a painting demonstration by Master Signature artist Daud Akhriev. Born in the former Soviet Union, Akhriev graduated with honors from the famous Repin Institute before immigrating to the United States in 1991. Many of the attendees raved about his demonstration and thought it was one of the best they had ever attended.

Following Akhriev's demo, participants had the opportunity to visit the exhibitors who had invited some of today's best artists to demonstrate their products. Participating artists and the company's they represented included: Aimee Erickson OPA for Gamblin; James Tennison OPAM for Savoir-Faire; Howard Friedland OPAM for Bella Muse Productions; Kathy Anderson OPAM for Rosemary & Co.; Mark Shasha for Michael Harding Oil Colours; Nancy S. Crookston OPAM for Maimeri

Puro; John P. Lasater IV OPA for Rembrandt Oils; Kelli Folsom OPA for Artwork Archive; Susan Blackwood OPA for Guerilla Painter and Heather Burton for Bryan Smith Frames.

Afterwards, Jill Carver presented a lecture on famous British artists, and some not so famous, who have influenced her progression as a fine artist.

The opening reception took place Friday evening at the newly renovated Steamboat Art Museum (SAM). The stunning and spacious museum offered each of the 250+ paintings displayed a prime spot with great lighting.

Conveniently, the Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held next door to the museum at the historic Chief Theater. OPA President John Michael Carter OPAM welcomed everyone to Steamboat Springs and thanked the museums tremendous Board and staff for making it such an incredible week for attendees! OPA was honored to have Rod Hanna, president of the Steamboat Art Museum and Gary Suiter, Mayor of Steamboat Springs, welcome attendees to their fine city. One of the most moving moments of the evening came

during a special tribute to OPA Master Signature artist William Whitaker who recently passed away. Initiated and organized by Sherrie McGraw OPAM and Jim Bruce OPA, the heartfelt tribute was presented by Casey Childs who had been one of Bill's students and who clearly thought the world of his mentor and friend.

Next on the agenda was the announcement of the newly elevated Signature and Master Signature members. Those in attendance were asked to come up on stage to accept their pins in recognition of his/her outstanding achievement. Congratulations to all!

Finally, the awards portion of the program was at hand beginning with the winners of the "Colorado Rocky Mountain High" Wet Paint Competition. With a total of \$28,000 in cash and merchandise awards, this year's competition included many of the best plein air and studio artists painting today, which was exciting and, to say the



The Bronze Medal in the Master Signature Division was given to Christopher Zhang OPAM for "A Couple in Front of the Holly Temple"



Jan Peng Wang OPAM won the Silver Medal in the Master Signature Division for "Composition of the Oriental"



Member's Choice Award for Master Signature Members was won by Quang Ho OPAM for "Harmony in Black and Gold"

2018 National Exhibition con't.

least, a little intimidating at the same time! As expected, the paintings produced over the three day event were stunning and the Juror of Awards, Richard Galusha OPA, had a real challenge ahead of him. Needless to say, Richard did a tremendous job selecting the winners. See a complete list of the winners on pages 10 and 11.

OPA was pleased to have Dorothy Mellin present to announce this year's winner of the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists, a \$20,000 award presented to one talented midwestern artist exhibiting in the National Show who resides in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio or Wisconsin. For the past ten years, Dorothy has been a staunch supporter of OPA and its mission, providing generous financial support every year including the prestigious Fellowship Award, as well as \$15,000 for OPA's popular Online Show-



John Pototschnik OPA won the Silver Medal in the Associate and Signature Division for "Be Still My Soul"

case. Congratulations to MaryBeth Karaus OPA, this year's winner for her stunning painting "Orange Romance".

Coincidentally, MaryBeth's painting also garnered her the Members Choice Honorable Mention award in the Associate and Signature Division. The ever-talented Bryce C. Liston OPA walked away with Members' Choice top honors for his painting "Deep in the Night". In the Master Signature Division Jeff Legg OPAM won Members Choice Honorable Mention for his painting "Red Aria" and Quang Ho OPAM won the Members' Choice top award for his painting "Harmony in Black and Gold".

Following these presentations, Juror of Awards Craig Tennant, along with OPA Executive Director, Kathryn Beligratis, announced the National winners representing a number of various categories.

The evening was not over yet, as an awards ceremony after party took place at the Steamboat Springs Art Depot, giving everyone the opportunity to view the paintings that had been entered in the Wet Paint competition and those that had been chosen for awards by Juror of Awards Richard Galusha OPA.

Saturday morning, Joe Gyurcsak, Resident Artist for Blick/Utrecht Art Supplies, began the morning with a breakfast

presentation entitled "Color Theory: Unlocking the Mysteries". For the past four years, Dick Blick, an avid supporter of OPA has generously sponsored a wonderful breakfast presentation for attendees. OPA is thrilled to have their support and always looks forward to Joe's presentations, which are always interesting and informative. This year's topic centered around understanding color topics such as value, tint strength and color temperatures in a way that was understandable to all who attended.

Saturday's lunch accompanied a Roundtable Discussion which examined topics suggested by the participants. After lunch, Juror of Awards Craig Tennant OPAM talked candidly about his long and successful career. The final presentation of the afternoon was "The Thoughtful Art Critique", with Jill Carver and John Michael Carter OPAM. Prior to the critique, works painted by attending artists, were chosen for a critique/review session by Carver and Carter. Interesting insights were given concerning some of the



"Beholding to None" painted by Nathaniel Skousen won the Bronze Medal in the Associate and Signature Division



Bryce C. Liston OPA was voted the winner of the Members' Choice Award in the Associate and Signature Division for "Deep in the Night"

2018 National Exhibition con't.

paintings, which surely proved helpful to both budding and well established artists.

As always, *American Art Collector's* closing party was a big hit! This year's event was held under the big tent at the Steamboat Grand Resort where guests could enjoy the beautiful mountains in the distance. After dinner, attendees danced the night away and/or joined the fun playing Baggo.

On Sunday morning, five of OPA's very talented artists participated in a group demonstration, painting still life's, models and landscapes. It was fun to be able to walk throughout the room and watch the progress of paintings by noted artists: Nancy Boren OPA, Mostafa Keyhani OPA, Roy Rey OPA, Jason Sacran and David Santillanes OPA.

There is no doubt that each year the National Exhibition and Convention is an exciting event. This year was no exception and it appears it was an occasion to be well remembered for a long time.

OPA thanks Juror of Awards Craig Tennant OPAM for his time and expertise in jurying this event. Much thought and consideration must be given when presented with such a wide array of subject matter, style and presentation.

Tennant said of his jurying experience "It was enjoyable being on the other side of things for a change and also seeing first-hand how the process of judging takes place.

As artists, we tend to rave or complain about the judging depending on how our friends and we fared at a particular show. I

know the judging can be unpredictable sometimes, especially when politics are involved. I assure you there were no politics involved in the OPA judging. In fact, I was surprised how much freedom I had to give out awards to whomever I chose."

The following is a list of the award recipients for the 2018 National Exhibition.

ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Casey Childs for "Take These Broken Wings" - funded by OPA

Silver Medal: John Pototschnik OPA for "Be Still My Soul" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal: Nathaniel Skousen for "Beholding to None" - funded by *Plein Air Magazine*

Best Signature Award of Excellence: John W. Taft OPA for "A Little Saturation" - funded by FASO and Cheap Joe's Art Stuff

Best Signature Honorable Mention: Tom L. Nachreiner OPA for "No One Home" - funded by Revelite

Best Associate Award of Excellence: Phil Boatwright for "Along the Mohawk" - funded by FASO and Cheap Joe's Art Stuff



The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists was awarded to MaryBeth Karaus OPA for "Orange Romance"

Best Associate Honorable Mention: Donald Darst for "The Bird Scoop" - funded by Revelite

Outstanding Composition and Technique Award of Excellence: TJ Cunningham for "Where the Trout Live" - funded by Artwork Archive

Presidents' Award of Excellence: Jane Hunt for "West of Town" - funded by past presidents Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

Most Original Award of Excellence: Jan Zhang for "Cherry Flowers" - funded by Blick Art Materials

Most Original Honorable Mention: Susan Lindsey for "Shadow Dancer" - funded by Trekell Art Supply and Rosemary & Company

Art Renewal Center Realism Award of Excellence: Mark A. Boedges for "Vermont Winter" - funded by Art Renewal Center

Realism Honorable Mention: Jeremy Goodding for "Autumn Reflections" - funded by Trekell Art Supply and MasterPak Inc.

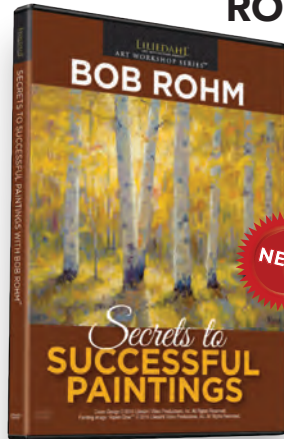
Ted Goerschner OPAM Memorial Impressionist Award of Excellence: Rusty G. Jones for "Evening Glow" - funded by the Friends of Ted Goerschner OPAM

Impressionist Honorable Mention: Brent Jensen for "Drying the Sails in Kennebunkport" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors and Airfloat Systems

Animal Award of Excellence: Derek W. Penix for "Swirling Koi" - funded by Artwork Archive

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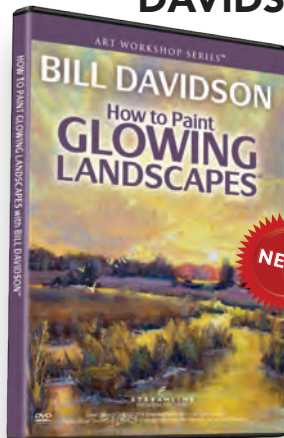
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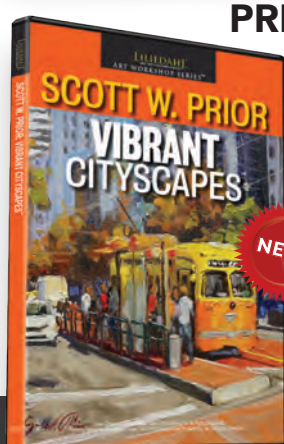
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Animal Honorable Mention: Diane Frossard for "Afternoon Solace" - funded by JFM Enterprises and Liliedahl Video Productions

John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence: Bryce C. Liston OPA for "Deep in the Night" - funded by RayMar Art
Figurative Honorable Mention: William L. Angresano for "My Daughter Gabrielle and Her Dog Boo" - funded M. Graham & Company and ArtFrames

Alden Bryan Memorial Landscape Award of Excellence: Christine Lashley for "Blues and Gold" - funded by Alden and Mary Bryan Arts Fund and the Vermont Community Foundation

Landscape Honorable Mention: David R. Dibble for "Five More Minutes" - funded by Wild Horse Gallery and Masterpak Inc.

Portraiture Award of Excellence: Patrick M. Meehan OPA for "A Moment Alone" - funded by Michael Harding Handmade Oil Colors

Portraiture Honorable Mention: William A. Schneider OPA for "Reckless" - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Colors and Rosemary & Company

Seascape Award of Excellence: Michael Situ OPA for "Evening in Laguna Beach" - funded by Savior-Faire

Seascape Honorable Mention: Rebecca Leer for "Turbulence" - funded by Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors and Ampersand Art Supply

Still Life Award of Excellence: Ann Kraft Walker OPA for "Of Sand and Sea" - funded by Blick Art Materials

Still Life Honorable Mention: Kyle Ma for "White Roses" - funded by Rembrandt Oils and SourceTek Art Supply

Neil Patterson OPAM Award of Excellence: Tsultrim Tenzin for "Distant" - funded by Past President Neil Patterson OPAM

The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists: MaryBeth Karaus OPA for "Orange Romance" - funded by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

Members' Choice Award of Excellence: Bryce C. Liston OPA for "Deep in the Night" - funded by Maimeri Puro Oils

Members' Choice Honorable Mention: MaryBeth Karaus OPA for "Orange Romance" - funded by Schmincke Mussini and Grumbacher

MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal - Master Signature Division: Xiao S. Jiang OPAM for "Boat Place" - funded by OPA and Friends of OPA

Silver Medal - Master Signature Division: Jan Peng Wang OPAM for "Composition of the Oriental" - funded by *American Art Collector Magazine*

Bronze Medal - Master Signature Division: Christopher Zhang OPAM for "A Couple in Front of the Holly Temple" - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*

Most Original Award of Excellence: Daud Akhriev OPAM for "Gossip" - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine*

Donors Award of Excellence: Kathy Anderson OPAM for "Red Nasturtiums with Mixed Pottery" - funded by Bella Muse and Friends of OPA

Realism Award of Excellence: Nancy Howe OPAM for "Kintsugi" - funded by FASO and Blue Ridge Oil Colors



Steamboat Art Museum offered open space and great lighting for those attending the opening reception



Entries in the Wet Paint Competition were viewed at the awards after party, held at the Steamboat Art Depot

2018 National Exhibition con't.

Impressionist Award of Excellence:
Nikolo Balkanski OPAM for "Blue September - Grand Mesa" - funded by FASO and Michael Harding Handmade Artists Oil Colours

Shirl Smithson Founders' Award for Master Signature Members:
Jeff Legg OPAM for "Red Aria" - funded by the Shirl Smithson Family

Members' Choice Award for Master Signature Members: Quang Ho OPAM for "Harmony in Black and Gold" - funded by Savoie-Faire

Members' Choice Honorable Mention Award for Master Signature Members: Jeff Legg OPAM for "Red Aria" - funded by Gamblin Artists Colors.

A REMINDER ABOUT EXHIBITION ENTRIES

With the ever constant changes and upgrades in technology, the Jurying Committee wants to remind members that guidelines have been established concerning exhibition entries. Please keep these in mind when submitting a painting for jurying.

- Digital apps and programs may be used for cropping your reference photos, etc., but no digital, mechanical, photo, or other transferring to the substrate of any kind is acceptable. You must draw and/or paint the image on your substrate yourself.

- Your submission must be originally conceived: your own reference, your own drawing, your own

concept and must have been self-painted.

- No direct copies of stock images, historic photos, or of any reference to which you do not hold total copyright are allowed. You must be able to provide signed documentation of total copyright should OPA request.

- Paintings created in an instructional setting, including but not limited to workshops and art classes are not considered original artwork. A painting created from a group photo shoot set-up by another artist is not considered original artwork. Paintings created in an open studio where artists share the model are acceptable provided there was no instruction being given of any kind.

INSPIRING AND INSIGHTFUL DEMONSTRATION AND TALKS WERE PRESENTED THROUGHOUT THE 2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION



Daud Akhriev OPAM



Juror of Awards Craig Tennant OPAM



Renowned artist Jill Carver

START PLANNING NOW FOR THE 2019 NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION

The 2019 OPA National Exhibition and Convention will take place in Saint George, Utah and will be hosted by Illume Gallery of Fine Art. Mark your calendar for this annual event, taking place May 6 through 11.

Canvas size not to exceed 1,200 square inches. More details will follow as they become available.

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 Xiao S. Jiang OPAM
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 Jeff Legg OPAM
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MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER XIAO S. JIANG OPAM

Xiao Song Jiang was born in 1955, in Wuhan, China. In 1978 he studied fine arts at the China Academy of Art, formerly the Zhejiang Art Academy, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1982, then began teaching watercolor at the City of Wuhan Construction College. Four years after, Song was selected to further develop his skill at the provincial Hubei Art Academy. During his time there, he accumulated years of experience, painting, sketching, and working for a refined grasp of color and technique.



Throughout his early career, Song has received numerous awards as one of the representatives of Chinese paintings with works displayed at international art exhibitions in the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Turkey, and Singapore. He also had the honor of having four representative works collected and preserved at the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) and three works at the Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum.

In 1988, Song immigrated to Canada and realized his passion for its vivid scenes of the broad North American landscape. While there, he travelled widely from coast to coast and gained some 20 years of experience forming his unique style of a mixture of brush and knife with attention to the unique natural detail, richer handling of light, shadow and depth in each piece, which has won him numerous awards in North American exhibitions and art festivals. He now lives by the lake in Toronto, Canada with his wife and son.

He is influenced by the beautiful land and friendly people. Through his paintings, he wishes to express his love to the North American landscape and all its people.

As well as winning the Gold Medal Award in this year's National Exhibition, Xiao Song Jiang, won the 2012 Gold Medal Award in the Associate and Signature Division at the OPA National Exhibition in Evergreen, Colorado and has won numerous other OPA Regional and Salon Shows awards.

MEET THE ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER CASEY CHILDS



Casey Childs is an American born artist currently based in Utah. He is a full time painter and Wyoming native who first studied art formally at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. He continued his art education at Brigham Young University, receiving a BA in Painting, followed by studying with renowned portraitist and figurative artist William Whitaker OPAM.

After many years of study, Casey has created a highly skillful body of figurative and portrait work which has been featured in galleries across the U.S. He has received numerous awards, including many from the Portrait Society of America for their International Portrait Competition - First Place Drawing in 2015 for his drawing "Natalie", Second Place in 2018 for his oil painting "Sliver", Second Place in 2016 for his oil portrait, "Phylis VanderNaald", and Third Place in 2017 for his oil painting "Take These Broken Wings". He was most recently honored with the Art Renewal Center Realism Award of Excellence from the Oil Painters of America's 25th National Juried Exhibition, the MEAM museum Purchase Award and Springville Museum of Art Exhibition Award in the 13th International Art Renewal Center Salon Competition. Casey's work has been featured in many publications including *American Art Collector Magazine*, *International Artist Magazine*, and *Southwest Art Magazine*.



“COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH” WET PAINT JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT By Richard Galusha OPA

Judging the wet paint competition for the Oil Painters of America National Show in Steamboat Springs was an honor. One of my greatest joys is painting in plein air. The spontaneity of brushwork, changing light, and seeing the variety of colors cannot be achieved without painting from life. I find it to be one of the biggest challenges facing an artist. The many decisions of alla prima painting require intense concentration. The educational experience is invaluable to every artist, no matter if they are a beginner or a master, and is essential to artistic growth.

The participants quality of work and the range of subject matter provided for an interesting exhibit. The award winners were very strong in their execution, composition, color, brushwork and capturing light. I enjoyed meeting and getting to know many of these artists, as well as seeing many old friends, during the convention, and I look forward to next year.

Following is a list of the 2018 Wet Paint Competition Award Winners:

STUDIO DIVISION

First Place: Eric Johnson for “Silas” - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine* and OPA

Second Place: Jeremy Goodding for “Blue and a Slice of Orange” - funded by *Western Art Collector Magazine* and OPA

Third Place: Fei Eric Guan for “Woman with Necklace” - funded by *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine* and OPA

Fourth Place: Mostafa Keyhani OPA for “Mixed Pansies” - funded by Guerilla Painter and OPA



EN PLEIN AIR DIVISION

First Place: Dave Santillanes OPA for “Fish Creek Falls” - funded by *Southwest Art Magazine* and OPA

Second Place: Stacey Peterson OPA for “Spring Color” - funded by *Western Art Collector Magazine* and OPA

Third Place: Greg Scheibel OPA for “Morning at the Falls” - funded by *Plein Air Magazine* and OPA



Fourth Place: Kathy Anderson OPAM for “Aspens” - funded by Guerilla Painter and OPA

WET PAINT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Kathy Marsh Riedinger for “7 O’Clock Shadows” - funded by New Wave Fine Art Products and OPA

Nancy Hall for “Rabbit Ears Pass” - funded by New Wave Fine Art Products and OPA

Shelby Keefe OPA for “Rabbit Ears Motel” - funded by Bryan Smith Frames



The Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp offered painting of models, both indoor and out, as well as still life compositions, to open the first full day of the “Colorado Rocky Mountain High” Wet Paint portion of this year’s convention

2018 Nat'l. Wet Paint Winners con't.

Nancy Boren OPA for "Lilac on Laurel Street" - funded by Bryan Smith Frames

Aimee Erickson OPA for "La Rousse" - funded by Holbein Artist Material

Louis Escobedo OPA for "Hillside" - funded by SourceTek Art Supply and New Wave Fine Art Products

Lyn Boyer for "Young Win" - funded by Jack Richeson & Co. and Guerilla Painter

Lynne Fearman for "Old Men at the Depot" - funded by Holbein Artist Materials

Susiehyer OPA for "Entropy and Evolution" - funded by Artisan and New Wave Fine Art Products

Richard Alexander for "Polky" - funded by Artisan and New Wave Fine Art Products

Mark Shasha for "Sun Splash" - funded by Jack Richeson & Co. and New Wave Fine Art Products

Joe Gyurcsak for "Hwy - 24" - funded by Jack Richeson & Co.



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MEET THE "COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH" WET PAINT, STUDIO DIVISION WINNER ERIC JOHNSON



Eric Johnson and his wife Becky live in Versailles, Kentucky. Eric has his own gallery and studio in Versailles, and is also represented by Open Range Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona. Along with his landscape and figure work, Eric has also painted many portraits on commission. His portraits hang in private and public collections, including seven portraits of Deans for the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Eric trained in illustration at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and has completed illustrations, through his representative in Atlanta, for such clients as Coca-Cola, McDonald's, and Turner Broadcasting. He has also been the official poster artist for the three U.S. Opens played at the famous Pinehurst No. 2 golf course in Pinehurst, NC, first in 1999 and again in 2005 and 2014.

As a watercolorist, Eric has studied extensively with Tony Couch, and has earned Signature member status with the Kentucky Watercolor Society.

As an oil painter (oils are his primary medium these days), he's been juried three times into Oil Painters of America's National Exhibition of Traditional Oils, making him a candidate for OPA Signature status. He was awarded Best Associate Honorable Mention in the 2017 OPA Nationals, and also won third place in that year's Wet Paint Plein Air competition.

He invites you to come visit him at his gallery (good to call ahead, first, 859-351-3650), or check out his portfolio at ericjohnson.faso.com.



MEET THE “COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH” WET PAINT, PLEIN AIR DIVISION WINNER DAVE SANTILLANES OPA

A self taught artist, Dave Santillanes OPA began painting shortly after graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in Graphic Design. But he points to his first plein air painting excursion as the true beginnings of his development as a painter, where direct observation allowed for a more precise rendering of color, light and atmosphere. And although studying the physical aspects of nature is important, it isn't the only reason Dave paints outdoors. He says, “the sensory experience of *being* there is equally important. There's no better way to get to *really* know a place than to sit for a couple of hours and contemplate it while painting. This intense observation brings a spiritual intimacy with the scene that can't be achieved in mere passing and allows me to ‘speak’ with complete sincerity in each painting.”

Dave's passion for painting has led to a number of recent awards including The Gold Medal at the 2016 Oil Painters of America Salon Show, First Place in the Landscape Category at the 12th annual International ARC Salon, the William Schultz Memorial Award in Oils at the 18th National American Impressionist Society Show and the Landscape Award of Excellence at the 25th National Oil Painters of America Show. He has also won numerous awards for his plein air work and has been featured in both *Plein Air* and *Southwest Art* Magazines.

Some of the proud award winners of the 2018 “Rocky Mountain High” Wet Paint Competition

Top Row: Fei Eric Guan, Mostafa Keyhani OPA, Nancy Boren, Jeremy Goodding, Shelby Keefe, Susiehyer, Greg Scheibel OPA, Lyn Boyer, Nancy Hall, Stacey Peterson OPA

Bottom Row: Lynne Fearman, Rich Alexander, Eric Johnson, Joe Gyuresak, Mark Shasah, Dave Santillanes OPA



The second full day of wet painting gave artists the opportunity to paint indoors at the Steamboat Springs Art Depot, as well as other places, such as along the beautiful Yampa River, and to enjoy *Southwest Art* Magazine's Pampered Paint Out

INTRODUCING THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN ARTISTS WINNER MARYBETH KARAUS OPA

MaryBeth Karaus OPA is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP), but her artistic training began years before any formal study. Her mother was a passionate artist, and she was raised with an intrinsic appreciation and understanding of art. Karaus first began her career as an artist in watercolors, a form she was drawn to from the



MaryBeth Karaus and family

teaching of Robert James Foose of the University of Kentucky. As a watercolor artist she was juried into many art shows and also became a Signature member of the Cincinnati Art Club.

After concentrating for some time in the medium of watercolor, she began studying oil painting, beginning with a workshop with respected artist Dan Gerhartz OPAM in 2004. In 2006 she won the Top Award of Excellence from the juried exhibition of the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati. In 2012 she took an intensive study of classical drawing and painting with fellow artist David Mueller. In the last ten years, her work was accepted into the Oil Painters of America National Juried Exhibition seven times, and she was awarded status of Signature Member of OPA in 2015.

The year 2017 also included the Impressionist Honorable Mention at the National Show for her "Fragile Morning" piece. She was very honored to be asked to be a demo artist for the 2017 National Convention. She also was a Finalist in the Art Renewal Center's 13th International ARC Salon Competition in 2017.

Karaus is an active member of the Greenacres Artist Guild in Cincinnati, a group dedicated to encouraging the highest standards of classical art in Cincinnati. This February she will hold her first workshop at the Woman's Art



Executive Director Kathryn Beligratis, OPA President John Michael Carter OPAM and Dorothy Driehaus Mellin, sponsor of the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists



National award winners pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony on Friday night

Top Row: Phil Boatwright Donald Darst, Jane Hunt, Christine Lashley, John Taft OPA, Tsultrim Tenzin

Bottom Row: Jan Peng Wang, OPAM, Jeremy Goodding, Bryce Liston



Casey Childs gives a warm reminiscence of friend and mentor Bill Whitaker OPAM



SPRING 2018 ASSOCIATE ONLINE SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

With over 515 entries in the Spring, 2018 Online Showcase, Juror Mary Qian had a wide array of images to review, proving to be difficult to choose only 3 to receive monetary awards and 10 to receive honorable mentions.

This competition continuously draws a number of entries, for which we are pleased, as it shows that artists are taking advantage of one of the many opportunities offered to members of OPA. However, this benefit would not be available if it were not for the continued support of Dorothy Drieaus Mellin and the Richard H. Drieaus Foundation, who provide the financial support for these awards. We appreciate their continued backing of Oil Painters of America.

The following is a list of the award winners:

First Place: Stephanie Paige Thomson for “Are You Sure?”

Second Place: Nathaniel Skousen for “Beholden to None”

Third Place: Jane Hunt for “Autumn Aspens”

Honorable Mentions: Mathew J. Cutter for “A Winter’s Night”, Abigail McBride for “Sunshine”, Robert Scudder for “Rusty”, Michael Gillespie for “Self Portrait”, Derek Penix for “Weaving Koi”, Sara Linda Poly for “Iridescence”, Jeremy Goodding for “Crimson and Cobalt”, Carlos Brusciannelli for “Kerr II”, Christine Lashley for “View To The Valley” and Bill Cramer for “Boundary Cliffs”.

Submissions for the 2018 Summer On-Line Showcase are being accepted now through August 15. This competition is open only to Associate members, with the Fall Online Showcase open to both Associate and Signature members, with separate honors being awarded in each division. 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.

MEET THE SPRING ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER STEPHANIE PAIGE THOMSON

Stephanie (b. 1997) grew up in central Indiana and, from a very young age, exhibited a great interest in drawing, a love she never outgrew. As she reached the end of her high school years, she realized her greatest desire was to foster and fulfill her goals as an artist.

Rather than entering a traditional art program, Stephanie has sought out the world's leading artists and studied under them personally. She believes in the dignity of a solid work ethic and perseverance, pursuing her goals in art through constant application. It is her greatest pleasure and desire to draw attention to the beauty of the world surrounding mankind.

Stephanie currently lives in Indiana, painting and practicing the sport of falconry with a red-tailed hawk named after Swedish artist Anders Zorn.



STILL TIME TO SIGN UP TO HOST A GREAT PAINT OUT

If you missed the sign up deadline for hosting an OPA Great Paint Out, don't fear. We've extended the deadline through August 31, for anyone wishing to host an event in October or November. For more information, or to sign up, please visit:

<http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/events/paintouts/paintouts.cfm>

MEMBERS OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

One of the benefits of being a member of OPA is the opportunity to read about upcoming workshops offered by other OPA members. The following is a list of workshops currently listed.

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED FOR 2018

Aug 22 -Aug 24 Paso Robles, CA	Derek Penix \$395	Loosen Up! 3-Day Workshop
Sept 10-Sept 14 Florence, Italy	Tina Garrett \$1,038	All levels on portrait painting
Sep 16-Sep 23 Seggiano, Italy	Timothy Allen \$4,700	Create an oil portrait in a landscape
Sept 19-Sept 26 Lake Como, Italy	Victoria Brooks \$3,540	Plein air painting
Sept 20 Escalante, UT	Lyn Boyer \$125	Getting the Most Out of Plein Air Painting
Sept 29-Oct 2 Fredericksburg, TX	Kaye Franklin OPA \$495	Indoor/Outdoor
Oct 1-Oct 4 Fredericksburg, TX	William A. Schneider OPA \$575	Portraits in Pastel and Oil
Oct 1-Oct 5 Houston, TX	Derek Penix \$750	Loosen Up!
Oct 14-Oct 22 Sicily, Italy	Suzanne Dougherty \$2,500	Painting/cooking trip
Nov 2-Nov 4 Putney, VT	Tina Garrett \$385	Starting Methods for Beginning Portraiture

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED FOR 2019

May 25-June 1, 2019 Chianti Province of Siena, Italy	Jennifer McChristian OPA \$3395	Paint 'en plein air' in Tuscany
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For more complete information about, or to sign up for, one of these exciting workshops, visit <http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/events/workshops/workshop.cfm>

If "a picture is worth a thousand words" then you why not consider advertising your upcoming workshop on the OPA website. For the nominal fee of \$25 per listing you may advertise your workshop and include a related photo. To post your workshop (for up to a six month period) visit: <http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/events/workshops/workshop.cfm>

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In an effort to afford members a greater possibility of being accepted into an exhibition, starting 2019 members will be able to submit 3 images for jurying, rather than two. The cost of the additional entry will be \$15. The entry fees will be: one entry for \$30, two entries for \$45 or three entries for \$60. However, as before, only one painting may be accepted into an exhibition.

All contributions to Oil Painters of America are greatly appreciated. In case you have forgotten, or are unaware, purchases made through Amazon.com can benefit OPA. Simply designate Oil Painters of America as the organization to receive a donation through AmazonSmile and a small portion of your purchase price will be sent to us. There is no additional charge for this service and it will not affect the cost of your purchase.

If you have been neglecting to read the Member Notes that are emailed to you monthly, you might resume doing so. Frequently, sponsors of OPA include special offers at the end of the Notes, only for members of our organization. This is not only great advertising for our sponsors but also a benefit to our members.

Applications for Signature status are due October 15th. The Board reminds members that the criteria for applying for Signature status were expanded last year. There are now two options under which you may qualify:

Option 1: Automatic Status

Within an eight year period a member must have exhibited in either 1.) four national OPA shows; OR 2.) three national OPA shows and three regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) If these requirements are met Signature Member status will be conferred with no further evaluation. However, qualified members must still submit an application between June 1 and October 15, for approval at the December board meeting.

Option 2: Committee Review

Over an indefinite period of time members must have exhibited in 1.) three national OPA shows OR 2.) two national OPA shows and three OPA regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) Members who have met these requirements are qualified to submit for Signature status between June 1 and October 15, for consideration at the December board meeting.

For further information go to the OPA website and look under the Member Services menu for "Signature Membership".

All Associate members are eligible to apply for one of the four, \$500 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships. Three of these scholarships are awarded to Associate members and one is awarded to a student. To apply, submit 6 images of current work along with an Artist's Statement and your resume'. These should be received by December 1st for review at the December board meeting. For more information, or to apply, visit the OPA website and look under the Education & Events menu for "Scholarships".

This is a reminder that many informative, and often humorous, insights may be gathered from reading the OPA blogs. Circulated on a weekly basis, a multitude of topics are discussed, relative to painting itself as well as to mental attitude, organizing a plein air outing and many other topics. If you haven't already done so, take a few minutes to read these at: <http://blog.oilpaintersofamerica.com/>

Congratulations to the 5 national raffle basket winners: Eric Johnson, Ladonna Urban, Todd Channer, Diana Shearon and Angela Trotta-Thomas



Ladonna Urban



Angela
Trotta-Thomas



Candid convention photos

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Suzie Baker OPA won First Place in the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association 14th Annual "Best of Plein Air" for her painting "Harvey was Here". Baker also garnered Best in Show and Artist's Choice in the Outdoor Painters Society, Plein Air Southwest and Best in Show at the Shadows on the Teche.

Victoria Castillo OPA's painting "Dappled Light" has been juried into the museum show "Full Sun: American Women Artists Illuminate the Haggin Museum". The show runs Aug 2 - Sept 16, in Stockton, CA.

Ramona Dooley is pleased to announce that her plein air painting "Artist's Cherry Tree & Birdhouse" was juried into the 31st Annual Skyland's Regional Exhibition. The Exhibition was held at SCAHC's Spring Street Gallery in Newton, New Jersey from May 19, 2018 to June 16, 2018.

Joseph Fama had one painting and one drawing displayed in the New Haven Paint & Clay Club's 117th Annual Juried Exhibition Whitneyville, CT, in May. He was pleased to have won the Carl Blenner Prize at that show. In June, Fama displayed his art work in merchants' stores during the 4th Annual Art Around Town in Chappaqua, New York. And last of all, Fama has been selected as one of the participating artists in the 2018 Adirondack Plein Air Festival in August.

Lisa Fricker OPA's painting "Unbridled" won Second Place at

the first National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society's Small Painting Exhibition, held at Richland Fine Art in Nashville, TN.

Susan Hotard OPA has had two of her portrait paintings included in "The Encyclopedia of Oil Techniques" a book describing painting techniques and tools and including a gallery of artists' works.

Jane Hunt is pleased to have been chosen as one of the finalists in the 2018 International ARC Salon Competition, with over 3750 entries from 69 countries as well as having won the Joseph Hartley SCNY Award from the Salmagundi Club.

Jennifer Hunter had a one woman show on exhibit through the month of June with oil paintings and also watercolors and a few drawings at the Museum of Western Art in Kerrville, Texas. Hunter is known for her sensitive storytelling of American history through her art work.

Janie Kent OPA recently won the First Place Figurative Award as well as being the Judges Choice for the Wescott Award for her oil painting "In the Clearing". Janie's award-winning piece, along with one of her other most recent paintings, are on display as part of the Aiken Artist Guild's Annual Juried Show.

Tom Nachreiner OPA had his painting "Bike Basket Planter"

accepted into the American Impressionist Society National Exhibition, being held at the Peninsula School of Art in Fish Creek, WI, September 27 - October 28. Tom was also pleased to have won an award at the Cedarburg Plein Air Competition in Cedarburg, WI, for his painting "Rusty Spokes".

John Pototschnik OPA was recently recognized by the Art Renewal Center as a Living Master.

Jason Sacran won First Place in the Best of America Small Painting Exhibition, sponsored by the National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society, for his painting "Fallen Memories".

William Schneider OPA's painting "Black Widow" was awarded "Best of Show" at the 27th Annual Juried National Art Show and Competition held at Breckenridge Fine Arts Center in Breckenridge, Texas. The shows runs mid-July through August.

William A. Suys Jr. OPA was recently inducted as a Signature Member of the Portrait Society of America. Bill also won two significant awards at this year's Olmsted Plein Air Invitational in Atlanta: Best Body of Work and also the Matisse Award (Second Place overall).

Ann Kraft Walker OPA (better known to her friends as "Annie") is delighted to share that "White on White" was one of the Top Ten Finalists in the Allied Artists of America Online Associates Show.

We always appreciate receiving news of your acceptance into shows and other accomplishments. But we can't include them in the *Brushstrokes* if we don't know about them. Please email announcements to us for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. Email to: cryan@oilpaintersofamerica.com

FALL IS FOR PAINTING AND HAVING FUN

CHECK OUT THE GREAT PAINT OUT EVENTS BEING HELD IN 2018
BY FELLOW OPA MEMBERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>HOST</u>	<u>CONTACT INFORMATION</u>
September 1	Haines, Alaska	Donna Catotti	catotti.alaska@yahoo.com
September 5	East Boothbay, Maine	Corinne McIntyre	opstudio@roadrunner.com
September 22	Winnsboro, South Carolina	Barbara Yongue	Bartoil@aol.com
September 27	Boerne, Texas	Louis Garcia	louisgarcia2003@gmail.com
September 29	Anna Maria, Florida	Cory Wrght	cmurals@verizon.net
October 13	Traverse City, Michigan	Lori Feldpausch	lori_feldpausch@me.com
October 20	Emerald Isle, North Carolina	Irene Bailey	irene@irenebailey.com
October 20	Paonia, Colorado	Cedar Keshet	notjuniper@gmail.com
October 27	Oxford, Mississippi	Linda Peters	nmspleinairpainters@gmail.com

For more details, visit the OPA website:
<http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/events/paintouts/paintouts.cfm>



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Whether attending one of OPA's Great Paint Outs, painting at a workshop or even working in your own studio, why not show your pride in being a member of OPA? There are many items available on our website, such as:



APRON \$25



SWEATSHIRT \$25



CAP
\$20



LICENSE PLATE
FRAME
\$12



TRAVEL MUG
\$25

To order, go to the OPA website and look under the Resource Menu for the "Online Store".

DATES TO REMEMBER

September - November Great Paint Outs, see page 13 for complete listing

September 1 – Deadline for submission for 2018 Master Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is current Signature status.

October 15 – Deadline for submission for Signature membership status. Visit the OPA website for description of 2 sets of criteria under which you may apply.

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2018 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Twenty-eighth Annual National Juried Exhibition & Convention - Illume Gallery of Fine Art, Saint George, Utah.

Exhibition: May 6 - 11, 2019

Canvas size not to exceed 1,200 square inches

SIGNATURE AND MASTER SIGNATURE EXTRAVAGANZA

2019 Master Signature and Signature Exhibition - Cutter & Cutter Fine Art, Saint Augustine, Florida

March 1 - March 31, 2019

Juror of Awards: Daniel Greene OPAM

Canvas size: TBD

REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

2018 Western Regional - Mary Williams Fine Arts, Boulder, Colorado

September 7 - October 6

Juror of Awards: Mike Desatnick OPA

2018 Eastern Regional - McBride Gallery, Annapolis, Maryland

October 28 - November 25

Juror of Awards: Kathy Anderson 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

OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA
Representational, Inc.

Post Office Box 2488
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488
General Office Tel and Fax: 815-356-5987
Web: www.oilpaintersofamerica.com

