



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 30 issue 3

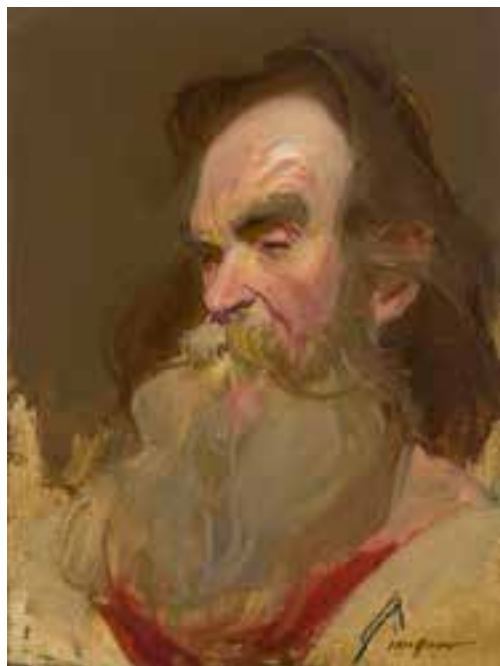
FALL
2020

Brushstrokes

SOME ADVERSITY OPENS NEW DOORS

Two thousand twenty has definitely been a challenging year and an eye-opening experience for all us. Like other organizations, OPA has had to change dates, venues, programs, move from in-person to virtual and then some!

In spite of all these difficulties, OPA has discovered that this new virtual way of doing business has provided new opportunities to engage and connect with our members.



Sherrie McGraw OPAM won the Gold Medal in the Salon Show Master Signature Division for *Mountain Man*

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One of our proudest accomplishments this year was our first virtual International Wet Paint Competition & Convention. This event was open to artists from around the world and we were excited to see participation from many countries including Angola, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Spain, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and of course the United States and Canada. Both the wet paint competition and convention offered members a chance to connect and be inspired by their fellow artists.

Similarly, all of OPA's award ceremonies have been virtual this year. By doing so, members were able to

hear the Juror of Awards talk about the award winning paintings and the top award winners shared valuable insights into their creative process.

Another introduction this year was the presentation of the exhibition paintings not only on the OPA website, but also on ArtCloud and the American Art Collector's new online gallery.



Patrick Saunders OPA won the Gold Medal in the Salon Show Associate & Signature Division for *Dama De Rojo*

2020 In Review con't.

Our Lunch & Learn webinars have been extremely popular and offer members a wonderful chance to learn from some of the country's top representational oil painters.

With all the adversity we have experienced in 2020, we are happy to have successfully navigated through this year and look forward to all of the good things to come in 2021.

2020 VIRTUAL SALON EXHIBITION AWARD WINNERS

SALON SHOW MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

**Gold Medal: Sherrie McGraw
OPAM for *Mountain Man* -
\$2,650 funded by OPA**

**Silver Medal: Daud Akhriev
OPAM for *Fortune Teller* - \$500
funded by OPA**

**Bronze Medal: Marc Hanson
OPAM for *Shedding Light* - \$250
funded by OPA**

ASSOCIATE & SIGNATURE DIVISION

**Gold Medal: Patrick Saunders
OPA for *Dama De Rojo* - artist
Focus Feature in *American Art Col-
lector* magazine valued at \$3,400
and \$1,000 funded by OPA**

**Silver Medal: Susan F. Hotard
OPA for *Asian Preciousness* - full-
page advertisement in *Southwest
Art* magazine valued at \$3,380 and
\$750 cash funded by OPA**

**Bronze Medal: Nancy A. Haley
for *Very French* - Artwork Ar-
chive Lifetime Master Account val-
ued at \$1,250 and \$500 funded by
OPA**

**Realism Award of Excellence: Pe-
ter J. Bucks for *Bugtap* - Mer-
chandise certificate funded by JFM
Enterprises valued at \$500 and \$500
funded by OPA**

**Impressionist Award of Excel-
lence: Dan Beck OPA for *The
Story Told* - Merchandise certifi-
cate funded by Savoir-Faire valued
at \$500 and \$500 funded by OPA**

**Cityscape Award of Excellence:
Jennifer A. McChristian OPA for
Ferris Wheel - Merchandise certifi-
cate funded by Blue Ridge Oil
Colors valued at \$250 and \$250
funded by OPA**

**Cityscape Honorable Mention:
Katriel Srebnik OPA for *Win-
ter's Drive to Winchester, VA* -
\$250 funded by OPA**

**Figurative Award of Excellence:
Ardith Starostka for *The Keeper*
- merchandise certificate funded
by Blue Ridge Oil Colors valued at
\$250 and \$250 funded by OPA**

**Figurative Honorable Mention:
Diane N. Eugster for *Passing
Time* - \$250 funded by OPA**

**Landscape Award of Excellence:
Bill Cramer OPA for *Breaking
Through* - merchandise certificate
funded by Liliedahl Video Produc-
tions valued at \$250 and \$250
funded by OPA**

**Landscape Honorable Mention:
Neil J. Hughes for *Mim's Truck* -
\$250 funded by OPA**

**Portraiture Award of Excellence:
Craig A. Pursley for *The Wild-
ling* - merchandise certificate
funded by Maimeri Puro valued at
\$250 and \$250 funded by OPA**

**Portraiture Honorable Mention:
Pavel Sokov for *She Glows* -
\$250 funded by OPA**

**Still Life Award of Excellence:
Mike J. Beeman for *Rocky
Mountain Breakfast* - merchan-
dise certificate funded by Michael
Harding Handmade Oil Colours
valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by
OPA**

**Still Life Honorable Mention:
Laurie Kersey OPA for *Sun-
shine and Roses* - \$250 funded by
OPA**

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

**Richard M. Prather OPA for
Persistence - \$200 funded by
OPA**

**Durre Waseem for *The Rocky
Beach in Florida* - \$200 funded
by OPA**

**Angela Burns for *Deidra with
Natural Hair* - merchandise certifi-
cate funded by Blick Art Materi-
als valued at \$100 and \$100 fund-
ed by OPA**

**Trey Finney for *Curbside Living*
- merchandise certificate funded
by Blick Art Materials valued at
\$100 and \$100 funded by OPA**

**Mostafa Keyhani OPA for *Red
Lobster* - merchandise certificate
funded by Guerilla Painters valued
at \$100 and \$100 funded by OPA.**

MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER OF THE SALON SHOW SHERRIE McGRAW OPAM

Sherrie McGraw has been at the forefront of the American Art scene for over thirty years. As a young woman in Oklahoma City in 1978, she was urged by her teachers Richard and Edith Goetz to move to New York to study at the famed Art Students League where they had studied within the lineage of Robert Brackman and George Bridgeman. In her initial years at the League she studied primarily with legendary artist, David Leffel OPAM, but also learned anatomy through Robert Beverly Hale and Jon Zahourek at the New York Academy.

After just a few years in New York, she was already proceeding to make her own way as an exceptional artist and began exhibiting and winning awards in shows at the Salmagundi Club, the National Arts Club, the Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit, the Pastel Society, the Hudson Valley Art Association, and more. By the time she was thirty, she was teaching classes at the Art Students League, having been asked to take over those of Thomas Fogarty and Gustav Rehberger, as well as conduct her own. Currently, McGraw teaches workshops throughout the country.



She gives lectures and demonstrations for art institutions such as the Portrait Society of America, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Brigham Young University, the Art Students League of New York, the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art, and the Studio Incamminati in Philadelphia. Her work has been shown in major institutions including the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Gilcrease Museum, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, and the Tucson Museum, as well as numerous prestigious collections, such as those of Senator John Warner, the Mellon family, the Forbes family, John Geraghty, Forest Fenn, Howard Terpning, John Mellencamp, George Carlson, Scott Christensen, and musicians Ida Kavafian, Steve Tenenbom, and Peter Wiley. She was the Vice-President of American Women Artists.

McGraw is the author of the highly acclaimed book “The Language of Drawing” which has been drawing worldwide attention and can be found at the Metropolitan Museum of Art bookstore in New York City. She edited and wrote a foreword to “The Drawings of Nicolai Fechin” by Russia’s famed author Galina Tuluzakova, and worked on an initial edit of Tuluzakova’s new book on Fechin’s paintings, coming out later this year. Her work will be included in a book on drawing by Juliette Aristides, also to be published this year. She is presently writing a book on painting.

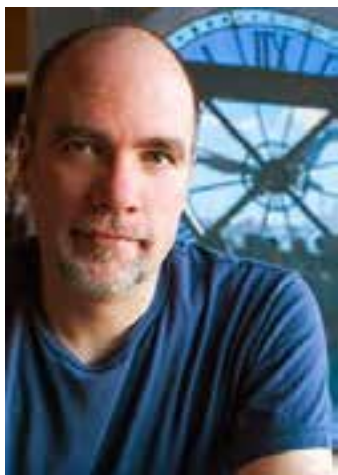


The Silver Medal in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Daud Akhriev OPAM for *Fortune Teller*

Asian Preciousness
painted by Susan F.
Hotard OPA was
awarded the Silver
Medal in the
Associate & Signa-
ture Division



MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER OF THE SALON SHOW PATRICK SAUNDERS OPA



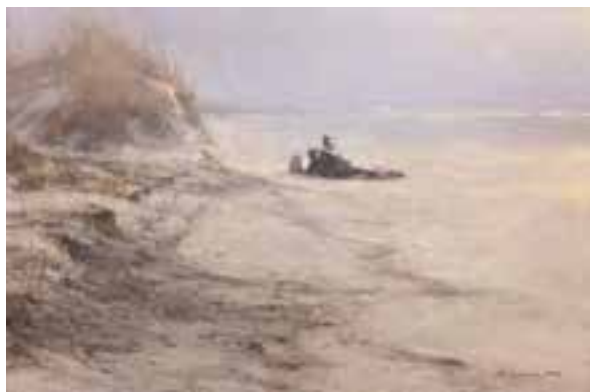
Patrick Saunders OPA is a painter creating fine art while traveling North America in an Airstream with his photographer wife, Kimberly. He has studied with many renowned painters, including Mark English, Malcolm Liepke, Wilbur Niewald, Richard Schmid, Carolyn Anderson, and Burton Silverman. Patrick paints a variety of subjects, including portraits, landscapes, cityscapes, and florals, and is a highly sought after art instructor and judge.

A Kansas City Art Institute graduate, Patrick spent a decade as an artist at Hallmark Cards before returning to the KCAI to teach illustration, painting, animation, and web design. Teaching led to a job offer in advertising, where, as a Group Creative Director, Patrick led teams of marketing professionals in New York, San Francisco, and globally, producing advertising for clients such as Colgate-Palmolive, Whole Foods, Hill's Pet Food, FedEx, Revlon, Southwest Airlines, Tom's of Maine, Nextel, Skyy, Kashi, and Kellogg's.

Throughout his career, Patrick has been recognized for outstanding work, earning awards from the Oil Painters of America, the Portrait Society of America, the American Advertising Federation, the International Academy of the Visual Arts, the Web Marketing Association, the Society of Illustrators, and Communication Arts. He was featured by *Southwest Art* magazine as one of their '21 Under 31' Young Artists to Watch in 2001. His KCAI students voted to honor Patrick with an Educator of the Year award.

In 2013, Patrick began plein air painting, and has won awards from numerous nationally recognized events and organizations, including Plein Air Easton, the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, Plein Air Texas, Plein Air Richmond, Maui Plein Air, Telluride Plein Air, Lighthouse Plein Air and Sedona Plein Air. In September 2018, Patrick was the cover artist and featured in *Southwest Art* magazine, and he has also been featured in *Plein Air Magazine*.

Currently at Signature status, Patrick has been a member of the Oil Painters of America for almost 20 years. He is also a member of the Portrait Society of America.



Shedding Light, by Marc Hanson OPAM
won the Bronze Medal
in the Master Signature Division



The Bronze Medal in the Associate & Signature
Division was given to
Nancy A. Haley for *Very French*

OPA sponsors extend special offers to our members. If you are not aware of this OPA benefit or have not taken advantage of it, we suggest you visit the OPA website. Scroll to the bottom of the first page to see who is this month's sponsor and what they have for you.

FRESH IDEAS ON PAINTING

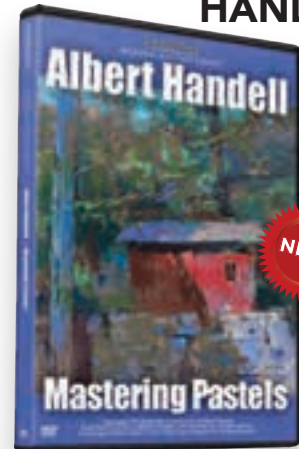
Tim
REES



William A.
SCHNEIDER



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LASHLEY



Cheri
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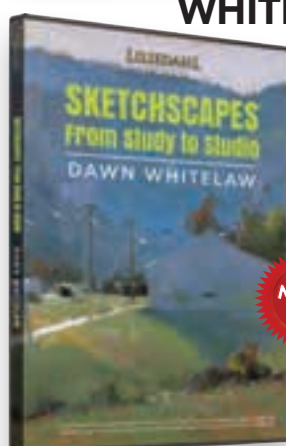
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2020 VIRTUAL WESTERN EXHIBITION AWARD WINNERS

OPA was pleased that Illume Gallery of Fine Art owner Jane Bell Meyer was willing to take on this year's Western Virtual Exhibition from her St. George, Utah location. David Dibble OPA was the Juror of Awards for this exhibition and bestowed the awards as follows.

WESTERN SHOW MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Nikolo Balkanski OPAM for *Sunset Trees* - \$3,500 funded by OPA

Silver Medal: Daud Akhriev OPAM for *After the Catch* - featured in "Artist Focus" section of *American Art Collector* magazine valued at \$3,400

Bronze Medal: Calvin Liang OPAM for *Navajo Life* - \$250 funded by OPA

ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION

Gold Medal: Diane N. Eugster for *Season of Hope* - \$4,000 funded by OPA

Silver Medal: John P. Richardson OPA for *Hayloft* - one full page advertisement funded by *Southwest Art* magazine - valued at \$3,380



Nikolo Balkanski OPAM was awarded the Gold Medal in the Master Signature Division for *Sunset Trees*

Bronze Medal: Mary Sauer for *Scarlett with Dishes* - half page advertisement in *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine* valued at \$2,150

Most Original Award of Excellence: Rob Rey OPA for *Cassini Spacecraft* - Artwork Archive Lifetime Account - valued at \$1,250

Realism Award of Excellence: Mary K. Watkins for *Growth* - One year membership to Bright Light Fine Art's Master Level online art classes - valued at \$1,164



Season of Hope, painted by Diane N. Eugster, won the Gold Medal in the Associate & Signature Division

Impressionist Award of Excellence: Brian K. Astle for *Madelyn* - One year membership to Bright Light Fine Art's Master Level online art classes - valued at \$1,164

Animal Award of Excellence: Albin Veselka OPA for *Team Pull* - merchandise certificate funded by Liliedahl Video Productions valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by OPA

Figurative Award of Excellence: Robin G. Williamson for *The Audition* - merchandise certificate funded by Savior Faire valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by OPA

Landscape Award of Excellence: Allen Brockbank for *Peaking Through the Clouds* - merchandise certificate funded by Blue Ridge Oil Colors valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by OPA

Portraiture Award of Excellence: Eric Fei Guan for *Young Girl* - merchandise certificate funded by Savior Faire valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by OPA

Still Life Award of Excellence: Jeremy Goodding OPA for *Spanish Memories* - merchandise certificate funded by Maimero Puro valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by OPA



The Silver Medal in the Master Signature Division was awarded to Daud Akhriev OPAM for *After the Catch*



Calvin Liang OPAM's painting *Navajo Life* won the Bronze Medal in the Master Signature Division



Hayloft, by John P. Richardson OPA won the Silver Medal in the Associate & Signature Division

Western Show can't.

Cityscape Award of Excellence:
Dianne L. Massey Dunbar OPA for
Rain on Windshield: Red Light - merchandise certificate funded by Michael Harding Oil Colours valued at \$250 and \$250 funded by OPA

WESTERN SHOW AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Melanie Thompson for *Shadow of the Earth* - merchandise certificate

funded by Blick Art Materials valued at \$100 and \$250 funded by OPA

Howard V. Lyon for *Cassandra's Lament* - merchandise certificate funded by Blick Art Materials valued at \$100 and \$250 funded by OPA

Naomi Shachar OPA for *Water Lilies* - merchandise certificate funded by Blick Art Materials valued at \$100 and \$250 funded by OPA

Lyn Boyer OPA for *Coffee. .Black* - merchandise certificate funded by Jack Richeson & Company valued at \$150

Richard M. Prather OPA for *Rio Grande Gorge* - merchandise certificate funded by Jack Richeson & Company valued at \$125

Lisa Fricker OPA for *This Changes Everything* - merchandise certificate funded by Jack Richeson & Company valued at \$100



The Bronze Medal in the Associate & Signature Division went to Mary Sauer for *Scarlett with Dishes*

Robin Cole for *Desire Guides Imagination* - \$100 funded by OPA

Durre Waseem for *Afternoon Delivery* - \$100 funded by OPA



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OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA
Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

Oil Painters of America has established the following guidelines for paintings entered in National, Regional, Salon and Virtuosos exhibitions. Please refer to these criteria if you have any question(s) concerning the acceptability of your painting.

Oil Painters of America Show/Competition Submission Rules:

When submitting to Oil Painters of America shows and/or competitions, please strictly adhere to our rules outlined below. OPA strives to maintain the highest ethical practices and levels of integrity in oil painting. Our intent is to be true to the history of oil painting and the traditions that have been upheld for centuries.

- Paintings must be created on one singular flat substrate and framed and wired for hanging. Multiples are unacceptable – i.e., diptychs, triptychs.
- The substrate must not exceed the maximum size set forth in the prospectus. Be sure to read each prospectus carefully, as the acceptable size of the substrate changes depending on the gallery/museum.
- Copyright infringement of any kind is unacceptable. It is unethical and against OPA policy for artists to submit work created from another person's drawing/painting/photo or other artwork that is not solely the artist's copyright.
- 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.
- Paintings must have been created within the last 3 years.
- An artist may submit a painting for a National Exhibition that has previously been accepted into an OPA Regional Exhibition, Salon Show or entered in OPA's Online Showcase.
- An artist may not submit a painting for a National Exhibition if it has previously been accepted into another OPA National Exhibition.
- An artist may not submit a painting for a Regional Exhibition that has previously been accepted into a Regional Exhibition, Salon Show or an OPA National Exhibition.
- The artist retains copyright to his/her image(s). However, accepted images do become part of OPA archives and may be used for future OPA event promotion.
- All work must be for sale. No NFS. Paintings that do not reflect the artist's current pricing structure may be disqualified from the competition.
- An artist who withdraws an entry after acceptance into the exhibition shall not be eligible to enter any OPA exhibitions for the next two years.



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE:

SUBSTRATES:

ACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATES: Any primed, smooth, flat substrates including: primed canvas or linen, stretched or on a panel, wood, gesso board, acrylic gessoed dibond, aluminum, aluminum composite panel. Acrylic primer is acceptable. Oil primed paper is acceptable if adhered with archival adhesive to a proper archival substrate. Paintings should NOT require being placed under glass.

UNACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATES: Any textured surface including decorative copper, tooled aluminum, natural stone, barn wood or three-dimensional objects. A substrate containing any printed image or photograph is prohibited regardless of whether it is your own or someone else's image/photograph. Paintings should NOT require being placed under glass.

MEDIUMS:

ACCEPTABLE MEDIUMS: Oil paints, alkyd resin, water soluble oils, oil sticks/bars. Metal leaf (i.e.: gold, silver, etc.) is acceptable if it doesn't comprise more than **20** percent of the visible surface.

UNACCEPTABLE MEDIUMS: Watercolor, acrylics, mixed media, Genesis paints, oil pastels.

FRAMING:

ACCEPTABLE FRAMING: All paintings must be framed and wired for hanging. When framing deep-edged paintings (museum/gallery wrap canvas or deep board), the frame must be of adequate depth that the substrate does not extend more than half an inch beyond the back of the frame. Floater frames are acceptable for paintings on museum/gallery wrap canvas or deep board panels.

DEFINITION OF RESIDENCY

Artists eligible to compete are citizens – both natural born or otherwise - of the United States, Canada, or Mexico who are current OPA members. Nonresident aliens who currently live in the United States, Canada, or Mexico are eligible to participate if they have been physically present at the address provided to OPA for eight of the last twelve months and that the residency is their permanent domicile.

A domicile is a fixed, permanent home to which an individual intends to return whenever absent. Nonresident aliens whose North American residency is in question will be asked to provide proof of residency including, but not limited to, employment history, references, and utility bills in the individual's name. Nonresident aliens falsifying claims of residency by providing an address in which they do not reside will be asked to resign from the organization. The decision of the Board is final.

WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?

OPA Associate & Signature members may submit an entry into one of two regional shows held each year. Artists should submit an entry into either the Western Region or Eastern Region that corresponds with where they reside.

Western Regional Exhibition: Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Manitoba, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Oklahoma, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Yukon Territories, and all of Mexico.

Eastern Regional Exhibition: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Newfoundland, North Carolina, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

If for any reason you are in doubt as to whether your painting, reference, substrate, etc. is acceptable please call (815) 356-5987, or email to: mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com to determine acceptability in advance of submitting your work.



Juror of Awards David Dibble OPA

WESTERN REGIONAL JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT DAVID DIBBLE OPA

This year's submissions for the Western Region OPA Show were a very strong collection and it was extremely difficult to narrow it down to a select group.

The textural and chromatic quality of original oil paintings in particular make it challenging to judge a show entirely online, but fortunately artists had photographed their work well and I was able to make informed decisions. Artistic judging is, by its very nature, a non-objective endeavor, but I tried to focus on work that was both technically competent and thematically rich.

It was an honor to spend some time with this wonderful group of paintings and I applaud all of those whose work was selected for the show.

MEET THE MASTER SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL SHOW NIKOLO BALKANSKI OPAM

Balkanski began painting at a very early age and graduated from the Medium Special Arts School in Sofia, Bulgaria, when he was 18. At just 21, he held his first solo exhibition, featuring portraits of some of the country's leading actors, poets and politicians, organized by his father, who is an attorney, writer and poet. This unique show garnered a lot of attention for the young artist, and he continued his studies at the art academy in Sofia, specializing in paintings. After moving to Finland with his parents, he studied at the University of Helsinki.

In 1981, Nikolo's portraits of a variety of Finnish figures were exhibited in a show called "Finland in Portraits", organized by the Finnish-Bulgarian Friendship Society with chairman Pekka Silvola, director of the Finnish radio. The show celebrated 1300 years of Bulgarian statehood. In 1983, Nikolo's portraits were exhibited again at the October Gallery in the United Kingdom. The London exhibition became the subject of a BBC documentary.



Art critics call Balkanski an impressionist - but more complex. Upon seeing Nikolo's exhibition in London, John Allen described his work as "Alert, a moment of being, engaged with a world that could dissolve to chaos but harmonized by attention...moment of meaning the fateful conjunction of type, personality and environment".

In 1984 and again in 1985, Nikolo was invited to Colorado to paint and to exhibit his work, but he returned to his home in Finland. After his relocation to Evergreen, Colorado, in 1986, Nikolo began devoting more time to painting the western US landscape, although he continues to paint portraits, still lifes and figurative works to this day. Since his move to the States, his work has undergone a natural metamorphosis. The subjects he paints are not the only things that have changed, but his techniques as well. "Before I did the Baltic Sea, and now I do the mountain streams of Colorado."

The painter's years of work have produced a good variety of subject matter and color. One sees at a glance that Balkanski is schooled in the techniques of the old masters and possesses the exceptional talent to employ their methods in creating thoroughly modern paintings. It is therefore of no surprise that he is so highly regarded by his peers, museum curators and prominent art collectors.

Nikolo has been involved in countless solo and group exhibitions, including Artists of America, Great American Artists, Artists of the West, The Brinton Invitational, Oil Painters of America, Stampede Western Invitational, Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale, C.M.Russell Auction, Colorado Governor's Invitational, Western Visions and others. His works are represented in private, corporate and museum collections.

MEET THE ASSOCIATE AND SIGNATURE DIVISION GOLD MEDAL WINNER OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL SHOW DIANE N. EUGSTER

Born in San Mateo, California to an artist mother, Diane started manipulating paint at an early age. Her first job at the family art supply store gave her the opportunity to pore through a multitude of books and experiment with a myriad of materials.

Diane's oil paintings are recognized for their contemporary impressionistic style. In her own words "it's all about the focus, the purpose, the one strong statement". Her palette is limited to as few color choices as possible which makes her familiar vivid color harmonies really sing. Spontaneous brush work with broken color passages flow in and out of her paintings, while the figure is the core source of her inspiration. The challenge to capture the surrounding atmosphere as well as the subject is a puzzle that keeps drawing her back to the human form. Her pursuit of capturing the essence of her subjects has rewarded her with accolades from many regional and national art shows.



As a figurative artist it is her goal to create an open ended visual story which will engage the viewer. She orchestrates her reference material in much the same way movie producers plan their work. This begins with selecting the location and lighting conditions to set the overall theme for the painting. This is further refined by creating story boards, quick sketches and selecting props and costumes to set the scene.

Diane is a member of the American Impressionist Society, The Oil Painters of America and a Signature Member of The American Women Artists.

Her work can be found at the Meyer Vogel Gallery, in Charleston, South Carolina, as well as her website online. Diane has participated in numerous shows throughout the years, most recently those hosted by Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society and American Women Artists.

SHIRL SMITHSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

One of the benefits of being a current Associate Member of OPA is that you are eligible to apply for one of four, \$500 scholarships awarded annually. These scholarships are to be used to attend a pre-approved workshop or class in representational oil painting.

To apply for one of these scholarships you must provide a cover letter, one page resume' and six images of your work in oils. Applications are due by December 1 and will be reviewed by the Scholarship Review Committee at the December Board meeting. Candidates will be notified of the Board's decisions by mid-January.

If you are a current OPA Associate member, or a student currently enrolled full or part time in art school or an art related program you may apply. Students need not be members of OPA. To apply online go to:
<https://blog.oilpaintersofamerica.com/shirl-smithson-memorial-scholarship-application/>



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ANNOUNCING THE SUMMER 2020 ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNERS

As we have frequently found to be the case, there were many incredible entries in the most recent Online Showcase, making it challenging for Juror of Awards Michele Usibelli OPA to choose only 13 to receive recognition. We thank Michele for her hard work and time on this competition. This competition has been funded since its beginning by Dorothy Driehaus Mellin and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. A hearty thank you goes out to both Dorothy and the Foundation for their continued support.

First Place: Kathleen Coy for *Walking in Eden*

Second Place: Cristall Harper for *Happy to be Myself*

Third Place: McGarren Flack for *Tension*

Honorable Mentions: D.K. Palecek for *Fast Cars, Slow Monday*, Nicole Moné for *Head Study of Matthew Innis*, Cap Pannell for *Thunderhead #2*, Susan Temple Newmann for *Dreams of the Ancients*, Cheryl St. John for *Natural Beauty*, Shandy Staab for *Everyday Treasures*, Eric Johnson for *The Artist's Daughter*, Jill Stefani Wagner for *Two Up, One on the Rocks*, Abigail McBride for *A Hearty Breakfast* and John Buxton for *1778 Capt. Pipe Receives the Promise*.

The Fall 2020 Online Showcase is accepting entries now through December 15. This competition is open to Associate and Signature members, with separate awards being given in each category as follows: First Place \$3,000, Second Place \$1,500 and Third Place \$500. The fee is \$15 per entry with no limit to the number of paintings you may enter. Entries need not be for sale.

MEET THE ONLINE SHOWCASE WINNER KATHLEEN COY



Walking in Eden
painted by Kathleen Coy

National award-winning artist Kathleen Coy was born in 1967. Growing up on a small farm in Iowa, she developed a real-world appreciation for animals and nature, and was drawing animals from a very young age. Kathleen practices self-directed study and experimentation in her pursuit of artistic growth; her work blends classical realism techniques with impressionism. She has taken workshops with master artists Karin Jurick, Adam Clague OPA, Jill Soukup, and Carolyn Anderson.

Kathleen often paints dogs; her greyhounds are her muse - their physical beauty is staggering; their expressiveness, intensity, and focus are an endless source of inspiration and fascination for her work.



Kathleen, her husband, and their two retired racing Greyhounds, Sephiroth and Train, live in the beautiful Ozarks of Southern Missouri.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

October 23	Michelle Usibelli OPA	Lunch & Learn, Demonstration
November 20	Kathie Odom OPA, Juror of Awards	Eastern Regional Exhibition Awards Ceremony
December 11	Barbara Jaenicke OPA	Lunch & Learn, Demonstration

JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT SUMMER ONLINE SHOWCASE MICHELE USIBELLI OPA

I believe that being asked to jury a show is one of the biggest compliments an artist can receive. Yet no matter how grateful one is, this comes with the gargantuan task of attempting to look at every piece with an unbiased, fair and professional eye. It is a job I take very seriously, made even more difficult while jurying an OPA exhibition, as the entries are always top-notch making it simply impossible for all of the worthy pieces to receive awards. The OPA Summer Online Showcase-Associate Division was no exception. It was a visual treat for my eyes, while at the same time a ton of pressure, as I knew I had to cull the list to only a few award winners.



When jurying an exhibition, I keep a note in front of me which lists the following 11 elements:

1. How does the piece read as a thumbnail
2. High quality photograph of artwork
3. Composition
4. Drafting Acumen/Technical skill
5. Lost/Found Edges
6. Brushwork
7. Value Variations
8. Temperature Shifts
9. Saturated vs Unsaturated Color Relationships and Other Color Theory
10. Quiet vs Active Passages
11. Paint Manipulation; thick vs thin paint application

Throughout the jurying process, this helps remind me of the elements that must be present in a successful painting. These 11 elements are the backbone by which I jury a piece of artwork and they are also the principles I employ when creating my own art. The pieces chosen for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, while all different subject matter and style, hit on each of these 11 elements. All three also showcased the artist's creativity and conveyed a captivating sense of personality and energy.

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OPA's Thirtieth Annual National Exhibition will take place at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, CA, opening in April of 2021. However, the National Convention is being planned as a separate event from the Exhibition. It is anticipated that the Convention will take place in the fall of 2021, in the hope that by then social distancing and precautions will not be as stringent as they are now. If all progresses as planned the Convention will include our wet paint event and competition, demonstrations and lectures, as in the past. More details will follow as plans are made.

If you have a business background that you believe would be an asset to OPA we would like to hear from you. There are currently a few opening on our Board of Directors. We need people with professional experience in marketing, connections to the artist community, and fundraising abilities. If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board please email your resumé and cover letter to Executive Director Kathryn Beligratis at: kbeligratis@oilpaintersofamerica.com

If you have a particular painting related topic on which you are knowledgeable and if you like to write, we invite you to submit your name and topic for consideration for one of our weekly blogs. We are always looking for new authors. If interested, please contact OPA Board Member Bill Suys OPA at: wasuys@wi.rr.com.

If you are social distancing and doing more shopping from home, remember that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to OPA, at no additional charge to you. Visit: smile.amazon.com.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Fine Art Connoisseur magazine presented a pictorial review of inspiring paintings of the sky, in October in "Look Up". Of the 34 paintings included in the review, 19 OPA members were chosen to be included for their magnificent works. Those members were: Jill Banks, Krystal Brown, Bill Cramer OPA, Linda Gloover Gooch OPA, David Harms, Karen Ann Hitt, Paula Holtzclaw, OPA, Ellen Howard, Barbara Jaenicke OPA, Brian Keeler, Christine Lashley OPA, Ober-Rae Starr Livingston, Lori Putnam OPA, Sara Jane Reynolds, Stuart Roper, Hillary Scott, Deborah Tilby OPA, Jill Stefani Wagner, and Jim Wodark.

Liz Abeyta was cited as being one of 11 artists from the west whose work was noteworthy in the October issue of *Southwest Art* magazine's article "Women In Art".

Cliff Barnes OPA received the Publishers Award of Excellence from the *Western Art Collector* magazine at the American Plains Artists 34th National Exhibition held at the Pearce Museum in Corisicana, TX. He also received the Golden Spur Award at the American Plains Artists Signature Exhibition at the Hannah Gallery in Fredericksburg TX.

Nancy Breiman ran the Creative Connections Fall Fine Art Online Auction from September 20-27. This event auctioned off the works of a number of artists who donated a part of their proceeds to the World Central Kitchen (WCK). WCK distributes individually packaged, fresh meals to children, families and seniors, who need support.

Krystal W. Brown was one of the editors' choices for "Artists to Watch" in the September issue of *Southwest Art* magazine.

Shirlee Cunningham was pleased to be accepted (from nearly 12,000 entries) into a major show highlighting Bay Area artists. The exhibition was at the prestigious De Young Museum in San Francisco, CA.

Jan Dale has an oil painting featured in The International Guild of Realism 15th Annual Juried Exhibition at the Principle Gallery in Historic Charleston, SC. From October 2 – 31, 2020.

Carmen Drake was considered one of the "Three to Watch" in *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine's October edition. The article called attention to three gifted artists whose work should not be missed. She was also one of the featured artists in the "Women in Art" article, published in the October edition of *Southwest Art* magazine.

Barbara Summers Edwards OPA was one of 11 western artists noted in *Southwest Art* magazine's October "Women In Art" article.

Gwen Meyer Etherbah was included in *Southwest Art* magazine's article "Women In Art" about artists from the west with varying genres and styles.

Eric Johnson was one of *Southwest Art* magazine's "21 Under 31", included as one of the talented artists under the age of 31 who are worthy of attention.

Stephanie K. Johnson's style of abstract realism was apparent in the images included in *Southwest Art* magazine's article "Women In Art" in the October issue.

Katherine Martinez was one of the artists included in the group of "21 Under 31" artists whose futures should be watched, according to *Southwest Art* magazine.

Jennifer McChristian OPA was featured in the Artist Focus section of the September *American Art Collector* magazine making reference to her love of painting modern everyday scenes and night scenes.

Bonnie McGee said that her style is "painterly representational" in *Southwest Art* magazine's article "Women In Art" in the October issue.

Marsha Hamby Savage's love of the outdoors and the Blue Ridge Mountain area were noted in the article about her work in Art Focus in the August *American Art Collector* magazine.

Zhiwei Tu OPAM was a featured artist in the September/October edition of *Art of the West* magazine. The inspirational article describes how he has attained his current stature of renowned artist whose early years were spent as a peasant child in China.

Kim VanDerHoek was one of the artists featured in the Artist Focus section of the August edition of *American Art Collector* magazine.

Patty Voje was one of the nine artists included in the section on art related to the Animal Kingdom in the September, *Southwest Art* magazine.

Painting Our Future con't.

Bradley Williams was included in the September *Southwest Art* magazine's review of artists to know who create art depicting animals.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

We are always looking for oil painting related news to include in *Brushstrokes*. If you have something to submit to our "Painting Our Future - News Briefs and Special Occasions" section, please submit it to Carelin Ryan at: cryan@oilpaintersofamerica.com.



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 22 - South Carolina Great Paint Out, taking place in Edisto Island, hosted by Christian Stemkowski

November 14 - Florida Great Paint Out, taking place in Steinhatchee, hosted by Mary O. Smith

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2020 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships.

2020 REGIONAL & SALON EXHIBITION

November 20 - December 19 - Eastern Regional Exhibition - Reinert Fine Art Gallery in Charleston, SC
Exhibition Juror of Awards: Kathie Odom OPA Awards Ceremony will be held virtually on Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

2021 NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Thirtieth Annual National Juried Exhibition - California Center for the Arts, Escondido, CA
Exhibition: April 9 - May 16, Juror of Awards: Jeffrey Watts OPAM, Canvas size: not to exceed 1,200 sq. in.
More details to be announced as they become available

ONLINE SHOWCASES

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

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