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wayne art center 2025

17th  
Annual

# PleinAir Festival

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May 11 – June 21, 2025





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*Boat House Row*, Thomas Adkins

Silver Brush Limited Award



# Thomas Adkins

## Connecticut

Thomas Adkins divides his time between his Southbury, Connecticut, and Bristol, Maine studios. He is a graduate of Paier College of Art of New Haven along with graduate classes at the School of Visual Arts in New York. He has also worked as art director and creative director for some of Connecticut and New York's most prestigious advertising agencies, simultaneous exhibiting in galleries and museums throughout the United States. Currently he sits on the board of The Hudson Valley Art Association, is an elected member of The Connecticut Plein Air Painters, elected member of The Lyme Art Association, and an elected member of The Rockport Art Association. He has received numerous awards including First Place Lyme Art Association's New England Landscape Invitational, People's Choice Award – New Britain Museum of American Art, and a finalist in the Artist Magazine Landscape competition. He has exhibited in the Mystic Museum International Marine Exhibition, The Butler Institute of American Art, the Mattatuck Museum and The New Britain Museum of American Art, The Maritime Gallery at Mystic Seaport, Bayview Gallery, Gregory James Gallery, and the Bryan Memorial Gallery.

*My paintings spring from a lifelong fascination with the outdoors. This fascination, present even in my earliest memories, has greatly influenced my personal, academic and professional pursuits, and most significantly, my artwork. The moods, mystery, and atmosphere along with inherent design of nature intrigue me, and I seek to unveil and express those qualities in my paintings, trying to document a specific place and time. What I am looking for is very elusive, that play of light and form along with design, a frozen moment in time. My goal is to share that special time and place, hoping that the viewer will feel the same emotions that I do. It is self-evident that the single-family farms and working harbors are threatened and rapidly vanishing. Still, there is a physical, emotional, and spiritual element that remains evident. I choose to capture the inspiration of what still remains, rather than what has been lost. I am a Contemporary Realist, and my paintings are characterized by the thoughtful process of composition using natures and man-made elements to evoke a true sense of place. They are subtle in color and strong in mood.*





*Echoes of the Valley*, Natalia Andreeva

2nd Place

# Natalia Andreeva

Florida

The artistic talents of Natalia Andreeva stem from the hand of a woman born and bred on the harsh yet beautiful landscapes of Siberia, in Novosibirsk, Russia. Emerging from that chilly land comes a delicate sensitivity for both watercolors and traditional oils that stem from a warm heart and a fertile mind. Andreeva's studies in traditional art forms have led her in pursuit of mastery over portraits, landscapes, and still life paintings. In each work, her concentration on form and composition are reminiscent of realist works, while her daring use of color and simulated light shows a deep love of modern techniques. The combination of traditional genres with skill in a variety of techniques allows Andreeva an endless playground to develop her ideas. Educated at the prestigious Novosibirsk State Pedagogical Institute, she received a superb education in art and art history and found unrivaled studio experience, which she continued with her education in Moscow. Her work continues to evolve, and her reputation precedes her as her art receives new praise across the United States. Andreeva holds Signature Membership Status in the American Impressionist Society, and she is past president of the Tallahassee Watercolor Society.

*From my early childhood I was intrigued and fascinated by the enigma of art, this magical process that turns "nothing" into the harmonic tune of chaos. I adore this something that gives birth to new feelings and associations. Learning art techniques did not diminish my interest and surprise; on the contrary, it has deepened my passion for art. In fact, all this may be the reason why the actual process of creation gives me the most pleasure. Each work is a continuation of the quest, and each new step develops my feelings and intensifies my exploration of the magic of art. I prefer a personal experience of my subjects, painting landscapes, portraits, still life on location; and I follow my mood in choosing the motive. I love color. I believe it is power, it burns, it cools, it speaks, and I think it is part of the spell.*







*White Dog Café*, Olena Babak

Plein Air Magazine [outdoorpainter.com](http://outdoorpainter.com) Award

# Olena Babak

## Maine

Olena Babak is a nationally recognized artist who has received awards from *Plein Air Magazine*, Oil Painters of America, National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, Art Renewal Center and numerous plein air competitions across the country. Her work has been featured in *Plein Air Magazine* and *Fine Art Connoisseur*. Babak's studio is in Maine, and she enjoys traveling all over the country participating in plein air/gallery competitions/events, and teaching workshops. Her selected awards include First Place, People's Choice and Artist's Choice Forgotten Coast 2023; Best Use of Light, Plein Air Easton, 2023; and Second Place, Door County Plein Air, 2023.

*Painting plein air for me is a journey in pursuit of natural beauty created by the effects of light, shadow and color. With a cup of coffee in hand, often before sunrise, I will find myself in the fresh crisp air of the morning grabbing my art gear and heading out to look for a spot that will provide inspiration for the day. Often, I will find myself by the water where the sparkles, reflections, and beautifully silhouetted shapes evoke a happiness inside that tells me that I'm in the right place for my next painting. It is a true joy to find and to share beauty through my work.*



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**Plein** *Air* **Festival**

17th  
Annual





*The Geometry of Farm Life*, Beth Bathe

Royal Talens Award



## Beth Bathe

*Pennsylvania*

Hailing from Strasburg, PA, Beth Bathe's award-winning representational paintings have been described by art critics as "evoking nostalgia, like that of an old sepia toned photograph, often with just touches of color." Curiosity about the medium Bathe works is often the first question of many viewers. Is it watercolor, is it oil? She responds that it is somewhat both. She works with water mixable oil colors in a limited palette, using brushes and unconventional tools. Bathe crisscrosses the country, painting en plein air and participating in up to 10 high-profile juried and invitation national competitions a year.

*My representational paintings have been described by art critics as "evoking nostalgia, like that of an old sepia toned photograph, often with just touches of color." My subject matter includes finding beauty in buildings that are often beyond their prime. They might be abandoned, or derelict, or soon to become part of the vanishing landscape. Painting primarily on location en plein air allows me to catch my subject at a specific time, ideally when the light and shadows play on the surface creating drama and emotion.*





*In Lilac Shadows*, Barbara Berry

Royal Talens Award

# Barbara Berry

*Pennsylvania*

Barbara Berry's artistic journey has led her along a winding road, reigniting her passion for painting. Growing up she was surrounded by nature and works of art. The artistry of her mother, her earliest mentor, influenced her creative spirit. Berry would watch as her mother sketched portraits of the neighbor's children. Their home was filled with realist and impressionist drawings and paintings of rare falcons, landscapes and portraits. Inspired by her mother, Berry believed she could draw and paint. At 10 years old, she sold her first artwork to her school principal, a moment that confirmed her desire to keep painting. However, she found herself studying classical voice during her university years, resulting in a successful career captivating audiences with her operatic roles in Germany. Eventually she returned to her American roots, where she cherished the responsibility of raising her children. As her children embarked on their own educational journeys, Berry pursued a self-guided art education, taking courses at the Wayne Art Center and private workshops with artists throughout the country. Her artistic experiences are a tapestry that combines the natural world, music, and a dedication to honing her craft, and she has been working in earnest to capture rhythm and light and her response on canvas, inviting viewers into a realm where brushstrokes illuminate the wonders that surround us.

*In my paintings I strive to capture daylight's dance across grass and creeks, animals and faces, and with these impressions I aim to inspire an appreciation for the sublime in nature and humanity.*







*It's Just a Chicken*, Lon Brauer

Plein Air Magazine Quarter-Page Award

# Lon Brauer

*Illinois*

Lon Brauer is an American artist known for his painting of figure and plein air landscape. Born in 1955 and coming of age in the early seventies, he has roots in the Abstract Expressionist movement. His work is a mixture of the abstract and the representational, bringing an impressionistic use of paint and materials to create images that challenge the viewer with new perspectives.

*There is a performance that takes place between the blank canvas on one end and the finished result on the other. This is where art makes itself known. One can have a goal in mind, but the excitement comes with not really knowing what outcome will present. Painting is about painting. It is a journey. If a picture is the result ... all the better.*







*Dead Quiet*, Thomas Bucci

Best Architecture Award

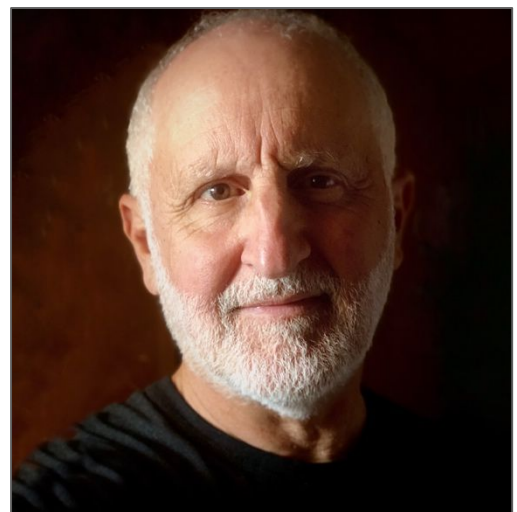


# Thomas Bucci

*Maine*

Thomas Bucci's journey from graphic designer to architect to full-time artist has been an evolving creative path. A background in design and architecture influences his artistic style, adding depth and structure to his work. Bucci lives in Maine, and paints on location and directly from life at every opportunity.

*I've chosen watercolor for its gestural quality, capriciousness, and spontaneity. Watercolor allows me to quickly suggest the main shapes with loose washes. Then a few well-placed marks with a flicker of a brush tip conjure the illusion of detail, without actually painting all those details and leads the eye to recognize familiar objects. The viewer "sees" things that aren't really there. It allows them to participate in the painting as they decipher the marks and interpret the scene. This approach requires me to work quickly which has its risks; risks I'm willing to take to realize watercolor's potential.*





*The Village Market*, John Caggiano

Silver Brush Limited Award

# John Caggiano

Massachusetts

John Caggiano is a Signature Member of nine national organizations, including American Impressionist Society, American Society of Marine Artists, National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, and the Salmagundi Club. He travels extensively in the United States and Europe, painting in his Impressionistic-Realism style. Additionally, he participates in many major plein air events annually. Some recent awards are the Texas Ranchland and Best Architecture Awards — En Plein Air Texas, Best in Show — Outdoor Painters Society, Best Artist Over 65 — Plein Air Salon, *Plein Air Magazine*, Life on the Farm Award — Plein Air Easton, and Stobart Foundation Award — Mystic International. He has been featured in 24 editorial features and an artist profile in *Plein Air Magazine* and *Fine Art Connoisseur*. Caggiano maintains a gallery in Rockport, Massachusetts.

*I have been painting for 60 years, 45 of them as a professional. My travels take me across the United States and Europe. My subjects emphasize color, light, and shadow, which I interpret in an Impressionistic-Realism style. Painting, for me, is the bold and dynamic use of color that infuses life into the subject of the painting. Color is the lifeblood of a painting. Nothing stimulates me more than its pleasing harmony, whether strongly applied or toned and tranquil. The use of a palette knife enhances my brushwork. Painting outdoors satisfies both the eye and the soul. It trains one to see and feel more aesthetically and clearly. I admire many artists for these qualities. Willard Metcalf, Daniel Garber, Childe Hassam, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and Joaquin Sorolla are some of my role models. Plein air events enrich my painting experience. However, my greatest joy is painting with friends and colleagues who live and breathe art.*







*May Shadows*, Henry Coe

JFM Enterprises Award and General Pencil Company Awards

# Henry Coe

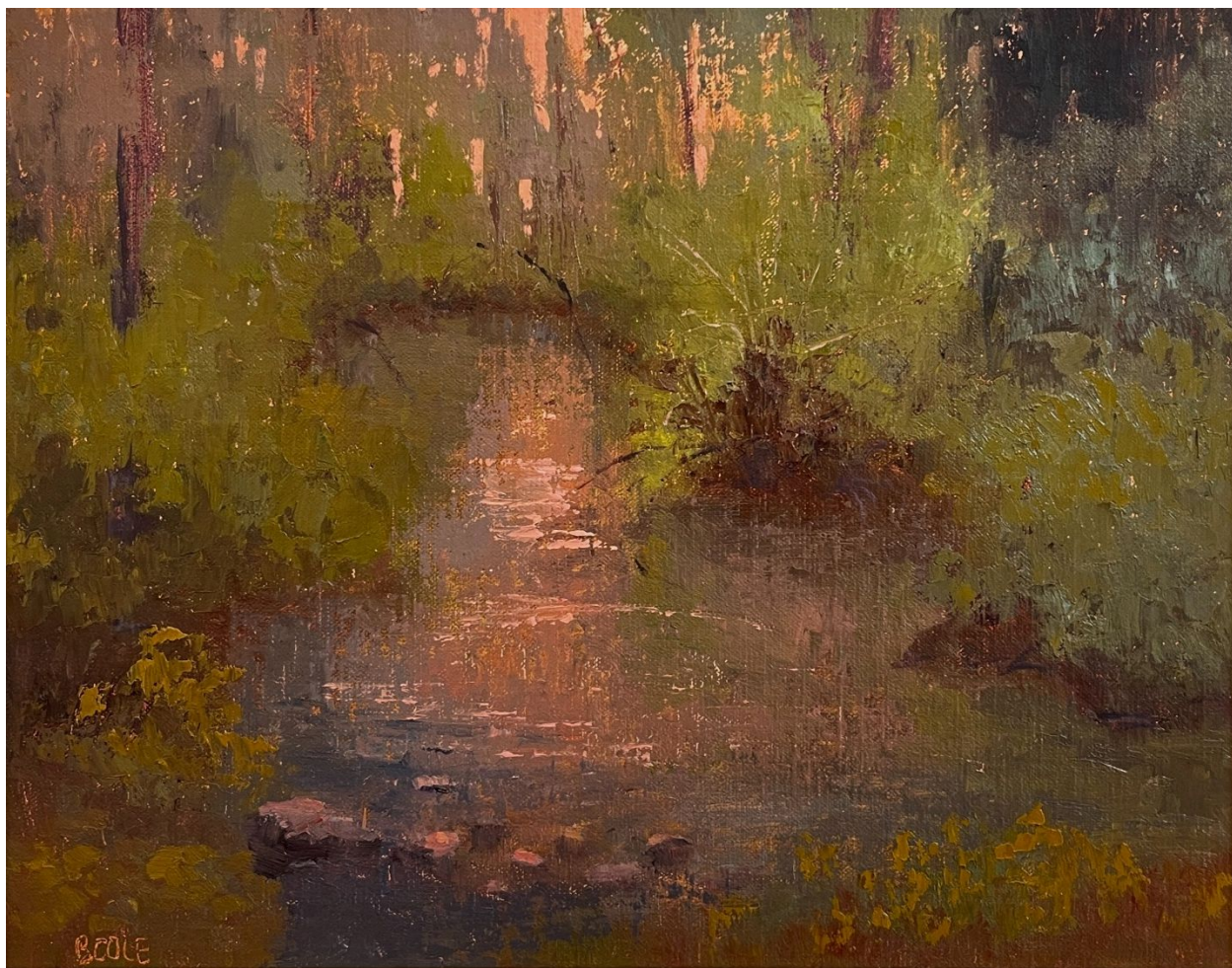
## Maryland

Henry Coe earned an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art. He prefers to paint outside, in front of the subject matter, en plein air. While working as a teacher and curator, He began painting seriously on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Coe did an artist residency in China and three residencies in France and made many other painting visits to France. His work has been featured in *American Artist Magazine* and the book *100 Plein Air Painters of the Mid-Atlantic*. Coe did his first Plein air event in 2016 and has done many similar events since then. While participating in Plein Air Easton 2022, his painting *Hay Bales* won the Life on The Farm Award. Recently, in May 2023, his painting *Old Ridge Road* won Best in Show at the Wayne Art Center Plein Air Festival in Wayne, PA. His work is represented by the C. Grimaldis Gallery in Baltimore and the Trippe Gallery in Easton, MD.

*I paint the lengthening shadows and lowering light that occur toward the end of day or the soft diffused light of early morning. I want my work to have a sense of light traveling through air in space. The changing effects of the sky on the land are often essential to me in painting. I also look for the light and shadow of a landscape I see as disappearing, including small family farms or the rural industrial look that once was representative of many small towns.*







*Waiting*, Beth Cole

Silver Brush Limited Award

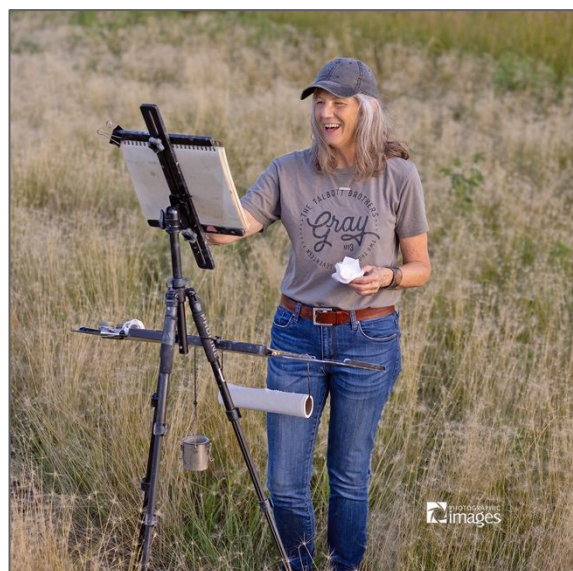


# Beth Cole

## Nebraska

Nebraska-based artist Beth Cole creates contemporary landscape paintings in oil. Her work centers on fields, trees, streams and buildings, and the effects of the atmosphere and light upon them. Piano was her first art form as it taught her a way of expressing emotion through touch, tempo and interpretation. Her love for "speaking" in this way is what inspired her exploration into painting in 2012. She has studied with many generous and accomplished painters including Jay Moore, Dave Santillanes, and Scott Christensen. Her award-winning work has been shown widely in Nebraska and the surrounding states. She lives with her husband Gary, and their beloved pup dog, Willow, in a small rural community near the Nebraska Sandhills. They have two grown children and three grandsons with whom they enjoy spending as much time as possible.

*When I step into the landscape as a painter, I see before me the chaos of nature. My approach is to simplify what I see, transform chaos into order if you will, and create a peaceful and calming piece of art. My background in piano from a young age is what led me to painting, and it continues to inform all my work. Like "touch" in piano, my painting marks communicate energy, calmness, mood and atmosphere. Small studies of value and color help me to organize what I see. I am friends with many of the painting mediums, but oil is my best friend and what I use most often. My pencil has also become a trusted advisor. I hope my work conveys the peacefulness of my heart which I try to share with paint, brushes, and canvas.*



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*Grant School*, Joshua Cunningham  
Silver Brush Limited Award

# Joshua Cunningham

## Minnesota

Joshua Cunningham lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with his wife, Shannon, and their children, Greta and William. His path to becoming a professional artist was as winding as the country roads and nameless creeks from his youth in rural Minnesota. For Cunningham, plein air painting brought him back to his rural roots and his imagination at the same time. He has been a professional artist for 20 years. He is a member of the Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, Oil Painters of America, and a signature member of the American Impressionist Society. His work has been on the cover of *Plein Air Magazine*. He has exhibited at Sotheby's, the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Bell Museum of Natural History, and the Minnesota Marine Art Museum. In 2024, his work was archived as part of a cultural time capsule on the moon, in the Lunar Codex, aboard the Odysseus Lander.

*We are here for a time. Barns are here for a time. Cities are here for a time. Few experiences are as challenging or enriching as painting on location. It isn't long before I find myself defending my work against mercurial skies and the constant march of the sun. Shadows move, and colors change, leaving me to paint from memory. The field studies are finished works in their own right. They hold in them the intense experience of their creation. In the studio, these paintings return me to the scene, bringing back not only what I saw but also the sounds, smells, and stories shared by the passing stranger. It is all in the paint — along with dust from the fields and grit from the road. The work reflects the visual and visceral experiences of a vibrant and spontaneous exploration of our shared connection to the natural world.*







*Path of the Paddles*, John Eiseman

Best Water Feature Award

# John Eiseman

Maryland

John Eiseman has been painting since he was a teenager. He attended the Maryland Institute College of Art and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1981. His paintings have won numerous awards and have been accepted into many national exhibitions, including the Oil Painters of America, American Impressionist Society and the National Oil and Acrylic Painter's Society. Recently, in June 2022 and July 2024 *Plein Air Salon Magazine*, Eiseman was awarded the "Best Plein Air Landscape." *Modern Impressionist Magazine* awarded him 3rd place overall national for January 2025. He is a member of the prestigious Washington Society of Landscape Painters. Eiseman also writes narratives of his plein air adventures and has been published in *Plein Air Magazine*. His work is represented by The Troika Gallery in Easton, MD, and The Main Street Gallery in Annapolis, MD.

*My work encompasses several genres: plein air and studio landscapes, still life interiors, and figures. I use acrylics, oils, and watercolors. My paintings are surely representational and narrative at times, but the imagery is not about the pictorial. I use subject matter (whether it be a farmhouse, tree, cloud, or figure) as design elements to capture natural phenomena, moments in space and time, and mood of events. I believe that painting is not just the celebration of vision, but rather a quest for experience. In this sense, my paintings are not a recording of facts seen. It is the process of interpreting a fleeting muse. I consider myself to be an "American Impressionist" with "caveats."*







*Rainy, Willows Park, Tracy Everly*

Best Local Treasure Award



# Tracy Everly

*Pennsylvania*

Tracy Everly is an award-winning painter based in Bucks County. Mostly self-taught, she has occasionally studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts but built her artistic path through what a fellow artist described as “dogged determination and love of art.” Her work has earned numerous awards and been exhibited nationwide. In addition to painting for over 30 years, she also teaches workshops across the country. Everly's work is represented by Morpeth Contemporary in Hopewell, NJ, and Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury, VT.

*I paint to interpret, to explore and to share. Most of my paintings are about the passage of time and the fleeting experience of being human. I don't aim to capture one static moment or every detail. I observe and paint and distill different moments into a simplified form that is ultimately meant to capture the remains of an experience.*





*Ripka, 1-3pm*, Martin Geiger

Best in Show 2025

# Martin Geiger

Virginia

Martin Geiger is a figurative painter and draftsman who works and lives in Staunton, VA. He was trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and graduated in 2019. He has received two Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grants, one in 2018 and one in 2022. He currently teaches at the Beverly Street Studio School and works as a part-time apprentice at Bronze Craft Foundry in Waynesboro, VA.

*To Geiger, the world itself seems almost like an immense playground of a kind. Everything in his surroundings feels and looks intensely interesting at all times. It seems always to be right on the cusp of revealing itself, somewhat like a piece of music leading up to a crescendo. It's clear that there is something very important just beneath the surface for the artist and making art is his best attempt at excavating these ever-present patterns and showing them to the world. This nonstop sense of being called by reality means that the subject of his works varies widely from figure compositions to complex architecture to landscape, but the work itself generally gravitates towards light, space and design. These formal adjectives seem to most closely correlate with what Geiger wishes to communicate about the playground of life.*







*Shopping for Fresh, Hai-Ou Hou*

Blick, PanelPak and Dixon Ticonderoga Awards

# Hai-Ou Hou

*Maryland*

Hai-Ou Hou was born in Beijing, China where she received her B.F.A. from the Central Institute of Fine Art and Design. She earned her M.F.A. from Towson State University. She taught at the Hubei Fine Art Institute in China. Hai-Ou is a Signature Member of the American Impressionist Society, the California Art Club, and the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Association. She is also a member of the Portrait Society of America and the Washington Society of Landscape Painters. Her work is widely represented in commercial galleries and is included in many public and private collections throughout the United States and abroad. She has received numerous awards and honors through participation in art events and exhibitions.

*Love painting; Love painting from life; Love Plein Air.*





*Wisteria Daydream*, Jacob Houghton  
Rosemary & Co. and Gamblin Awards



# Jacob Houghton

Massachusetts

Jacob Houghton (b. 1998) is an oil painter whose creative path bridges the digital and traditional art worlds. His formal education includes studies in Video Game Art at Becker College, online courses with animation industry professionals, and a mentorship in classical painting techniques, during which he learned to mull his own oil paints and work with egg-based mediums. Houghton has displayed his work in solo and group exhibitions, including *Open for Interpretation* at the Franklin Public Library, the juried group show *Faces and Facades* at AHA Gallery in Atlantic Highlands, and other venues throughout New England. His artistic achievements have reached international audiences, with prints shipped worldwide and album covers designed for musicians. Blending the immediacy of plein air painting with the depth of studio work, Houghton's art reflects a profound connection to nature, a respect for tradition, and a dedication to creating works that resonate universally.

*Whether I'm in a blizzard or getting eaten alive by mosquitos on a summer night, I experience the most peace when I am out painting. There's an urgency that accompanies painting in nature — an urgency that breeds mistakes, redemption, and invention. Art has always been integral to me. My grandmother was an accomplished painter, and I have been surrounded by her work my whole life. When she could no longer paint because of health issues, she gifted my mother and I her brushes and her oils. At this time, I was developing digital art for video games and mobile apps. I pivoted and jumped fully into learning traditional painting. Not only is plein air painting now a source of peace for me, but it's also how I study the world. I use the information I learn outside to create paintings from imagination. Art for me is communication, expression, and equilibrium.*





*Storm Front*, Debra Howard

Royal Talens and Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. Awards

# Debra Howard

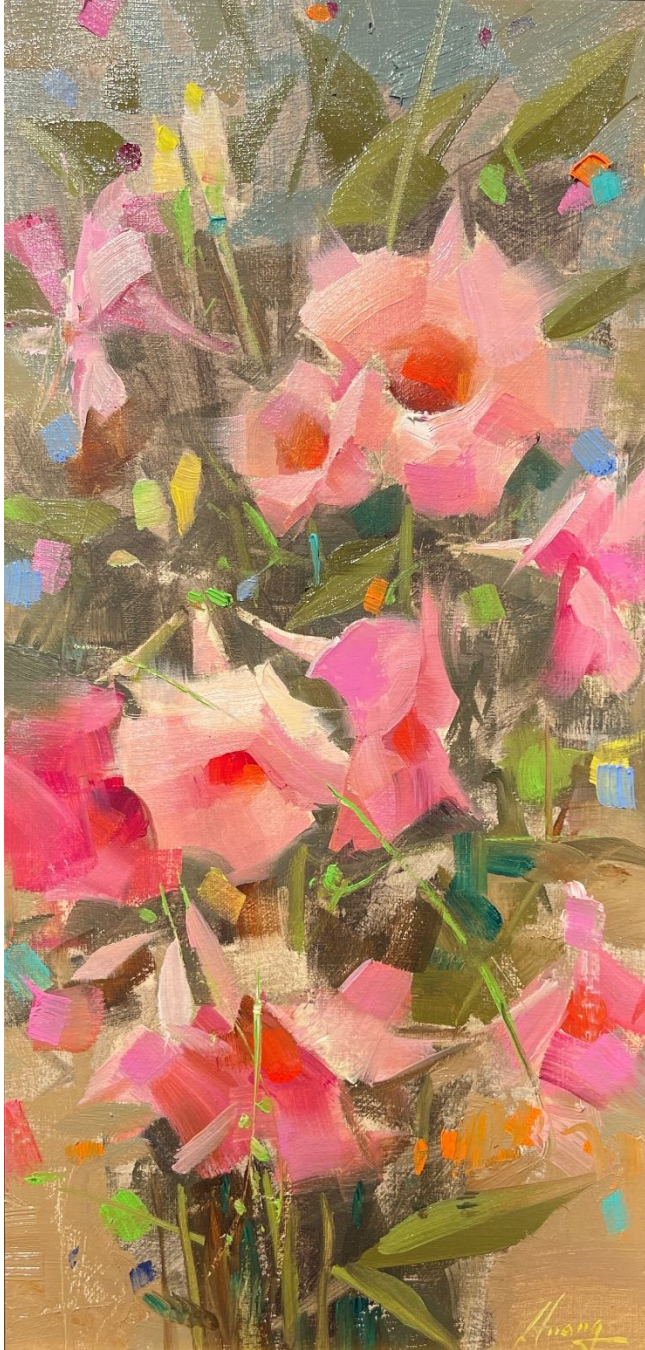
Maryland

Debra Howard is an award-winning plein air painter whose adventurous spirit shapes her art. She has been juried into and won competitions across Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Maine, Georgia, Delaware, New Jersey, Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, Louisiana, and Virginia, including prestigious events like Easton Plein Air, Paint Annapolis, En Plein Air Texas, and Bath County Plein Air. She is a Signature Member of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association and the Glen Arbor Art Association. Howard has served as Artist-in-Residence at Tangier Island, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Big Cypress National Preserve, the Everglades, and South Carolina State Parks. Her work has appeared in *American Scholar*, *Art Connoisseur*, and *Plein Air Magazine*, plus numerous newspapers. As a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine officer with a 100-ton master's license, she spent 27 years sailing before trading her boat for an RV — where she's been known to paint from the roof for a fresh perspective.

*My work reflects a lifetime shaped by vivid landscapes. Raised in Miami amid intense light, color, and contrast, I later spent 27 years sailing Ling Ling through Hawaii, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Bahamas. Surrounded by turquoise waters, coral hues, and rainforest greens, I began to paint. My unconventional palette — three colors plus white — draws on classical color theory to create harmonious, striking compositions. Influenced by my early career as a designer and illustrator, my paintings emphasize strong design and rhythmic flow. Each piece is a series of deliberate choices, translating the ever-changing 3D world onto a 2D panel. Through expressive brushstrokes, enhanced color, and dynamic patterns, I aim to share the wonder I've witnessed — inviting viewers into a dialogue with nature's beauty.*







*Mandevilla*, Qiang Huang

Vasari and Ampersand Awards

# Qiang Huang

Texas

Qiang Huang is an oil painter and art educator living near Austin, TX. Huang is a Signature member of OPA. His paintings have been juried in many OPA Exhibitions. He has been featured in many art magazines. Huang has participated in many plein air painting competitions and has won many awards. He has been teaching workshops internationally. Huang also has a Ph.D. in physics and has developed computer tools for artists.

*Art is a language. It is a way of communication. I want to see my concepts and ideas understandable so they can be shared and enjoyed by most people. That is why I started doing representational realism. The objects in my painting are commonly experienced by almost everybody, so they can serve as a good foundation for communication between the viewers and me.*







*Rain in Manayunk*, Neal Hughes

3rd Place

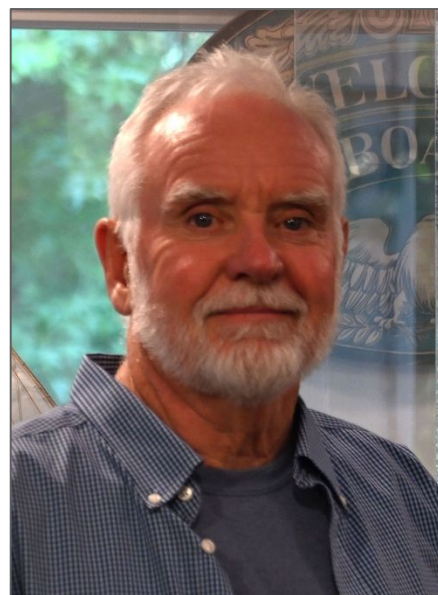


# Neal Hughes

*New Jersey*

Neal Hughes is a Fellow of the American Society of Marine Artists, a signature member of Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society and the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, a member of the Salmagundi Club, Plein Air Painters of America and the Mid Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association. His work is part of the permanent collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art. His recent awards include: Gold Medal — Oil Painters of America Eastern Regional Exhibition Award of Excellence; American Impressionist Society National Juried Exhibition Best of Show; Olmsted Plein Air Invitational Best of Show and Artists Choice Awards; Cape Ann Plein Air Best of Show and Artists Choice Awards; Paint Grand Traverse competition Artists Choice and Life Of The Waterman Awards; Plein Air Easton competition Best Associate Award of Excellence; and the Oil Painters of America National Exhibition.

*My work is about celebrating beauty in creation. Painting outdoors has become a cherished practice for me, a way to connect with the ever-changing landscapes I find so inspiring and with nature itself. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to travel to beautiful places and often do so alongside good friends, whose companionship makes each experience even more meaningful. While I am painting, I strive to push the limits of my craft while remaining mindful of the traditions that have shaped the art of landscape painting throughout history. I hope that those who experience my work can share in this dialogue between nature, tradition and my paintings.*





*Great American Pub*, Fred Jackson

Best Street Scene Award

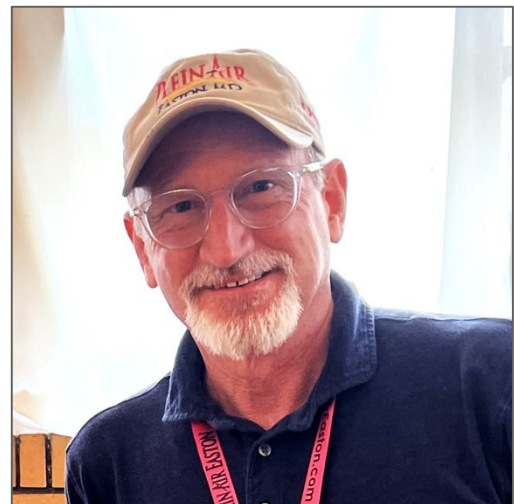


# Fred Jackson

Pennsylvania

Fred Jackson has sketched outdoor landscapes since a young age with his father who is an artist. "Some dads play catch with their sons; my dad took me outdoors to draw," said Jackson. His interest in art and nature guided him to the design field of landscape architecture, where for 30 years he practiced as a landscape architect. Jackson now pursues painting full time. He began oil painting about 10 years ago with a desire to explore a personal appreciation of the landscape and creative process. Jackson participates in many prestigious national plein air events across the country, including Wayne Plein Air, PA; Gloucester Invitational Plein Air, VA; Plein Air Easton, MD; Door County Invitational, WI; Paint Annapolis, MD; the Olmsted Invitational Plein Air, Atlanta, GA; the Adirondack Plein Air, Saranac Lake, NY; and many others. He participates in about eight plein air events a year. He has gallery representations at The Square Pear Gallery, Kennett Square, PA; Bryan Gallery, Jeffersonville, and Stowe, VT; The Gallery at Mad River Valley Arts, Waitsfield, VT; and Church Street Gallery, West Chester, PA.

*As a plein air painter, I am most inspired by the felt moods and patterns found in natural and built landscapes. My painting style is loose, bold, and expressive. I like to start with thin washes of dark or bright transparent colors. As the composition develops, I apply opaque thick paint with large brushes and pallet knives. I like my paintings to have a strong composition inspired by accurate representation of a place, which I loosely describe in abstract painterly marks with expressive color. I am beginning to think that my so-called abstract expressions in painting could be considered more like an accurate perception of the visual moment. My painting process is not formulaic; I prefer to work intuitively and improvisationally. This keeps my creative process challenging and fun, and I like to see that energy come through in my paintings.*







*Center City May — Philly*, Brian Keeler

Sourcetek Award

## Brian Keeler

*New York*

Brian Keeler was born in 1953, and he began his art study early in life as his father was a painter as well. Keeler received his early training at Keystone College near Scranton, PA and then attended The York Academy of Arts in York, PA. His paintings have received numerous awards, and his work is featured in numerous private, business, corporate and museum collections.

Keeler's art instruction book, *Dramatic Color in the Landscape*, was published in 2013. He has also produced several art instructional DVDs with the Artists Network. In 2022 his second book on art instruction, *Light on Figure*, was published.

He primarily devotes his time to painting landscapes, still life, figures and portraits in oil, pastel and watercolor. His teaching has included giving workshops at various schools and art associations as well as courses at Keystone College. He has also been a rostered artist with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts which facilitated art residencies at high schools under the aegis of this state arts organization.

Keeler lives and has a studio-gallery in Ithaca, NY, and a studio-gallery in his hometown of Wyalusing, PA. His work is represented at the West End Gallery in Corning, NY, The Thomas Ferleman Gallery in Cumberland, MD, The Argosy Gallery in Bar Harbor, ME and The North Star Art Gallery in Ithaca, NY.

*Expressing and describing the beauty of light has been the focus of my career in painting, which includes landscape, the figure, portraits, still life and allegorical work. Depicting the "topography of light" is the way I like to describe this process, as this phrase communicates the way light plays across forms and describes its shapes.*

*In a certain sense however, the light becomes the subject for me and the scene or depiction takes on a secondary or supporting role. I often choose the "Golden Hour" as the time for portraying the motifs I select, as this late afternoon or early morning light accentuates the drama of any given scene. My figurative paintings and other genres also incorporate a marvelous appreciation for the way light can reveal the world to us.*



wayne art center 2025

PleinAir Festival

17th Annual





*The Hay Barn*, Farley Lewis

Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. Award



# Farley Lewis

Missouri

Farley Lewis' work reflects his passion for excellence, childlike wonder and a love for the outdoors. He has won top awards in regional and national-level painting events and art organizations, including Best of Show in the only international plein air event he has entered. His over 40 years of experience as a professional artist includes paintings, murals, illustrations, portraits and signs. His mural work can be found all over the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Middle East and Africa. He lives with his wife Kelly in Springfield, Missouri, and loves to paint the beauty of the Ozarks.

*I enjoy capturing the interaction of mankind and nature, the hard edges of architecture against the organic shapes of nature. Like the early Impressionists, I set out not to paint the objects in front of me, but the light illuminating them. When I look down a creek at sunrise, and watch the play of light on the ripples, something comes alive in me, something I try to portray for others. I believe beauty is a gateway to the divine. When I capture in paint that glimpse of glory I see in nature, I'm able to invite others into the experience. This inspires me in my pursuit of excellence as an artist.*



XS



*White Dog Café*, Mick McAndrews

Guerrilla Painter Award

# Mick McAndrews

*Pennsylvania*

Mick McAndrews' award-winning paintings strive to capture the mood and atmosphere of a subject combining the magic of watercolor with reverence for composition and design. He is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society (Sylvan Grouse Guild inductee), the Philadelphia Watercolor Society (Crest Medal Recipient), the Baltimore Watercolor Society, and the Whiskey Painters of America.

*In my work I strive to reduce life's complexity down to only the most important shapes, values and colors to achieve what I refer to as sophisticated simplicity. As a watercolorist I believe that there is a partnership between the artist and medium to balance the knowledge, technique and skill of the painter while leaving room for the magic that makes watercolor so distinctive.*







*Forward Guidance — Pickering Creek, Jonathan McPhillips*

1st Place

# Jonathan McPhillips

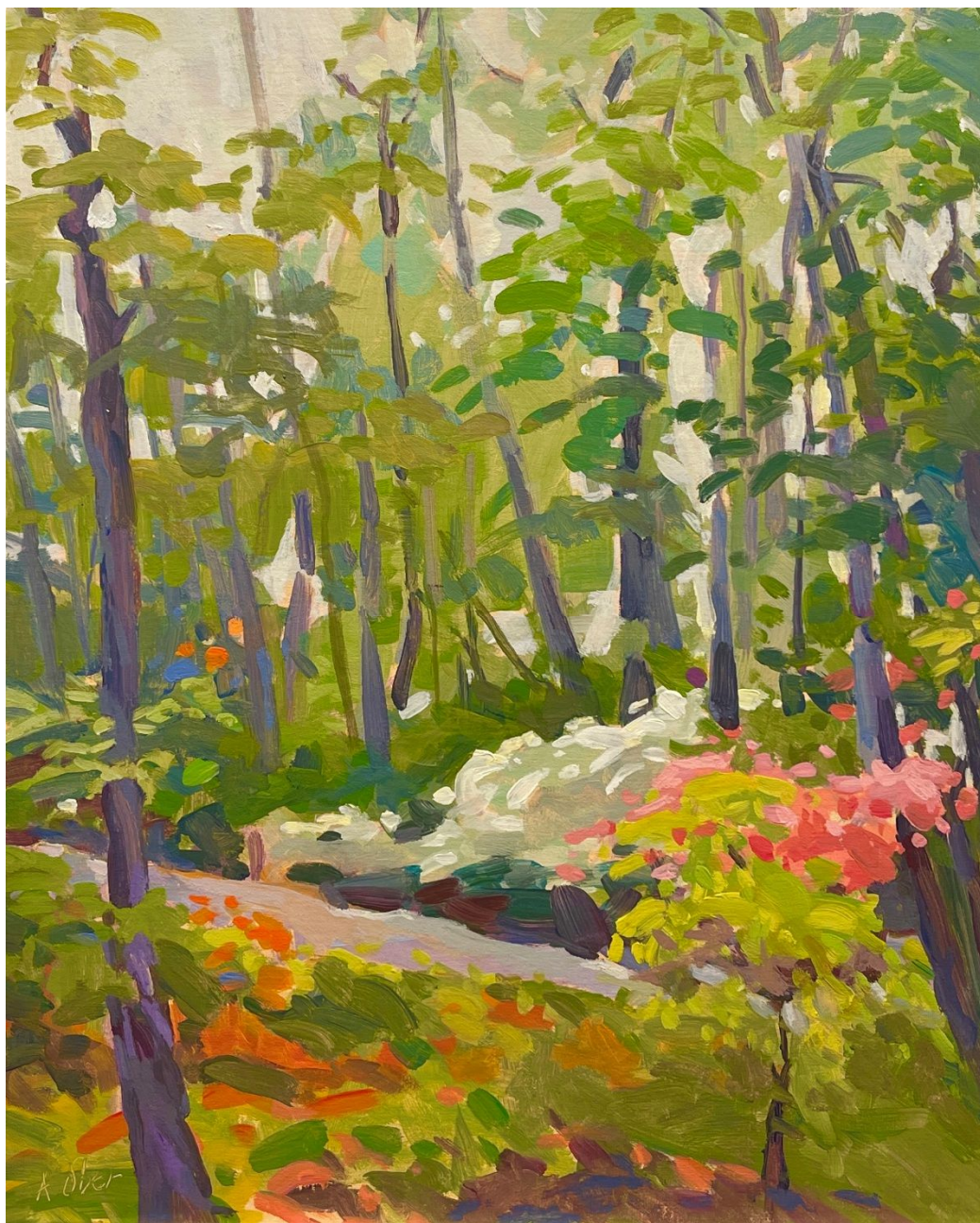
*Rhode Island*

Jonathan McPhillips, a Studio Art graduate from Connecticut College, celebrates the coastal splendor of New England through his captivating artwork. As an esteemed member of various professional art organizations, including the Providence Art Club and the American Impressionists Society, McPhillips continues to evolve and inspire with his evocative paintings. He brings to life the allure of coastal New England and beyond. He has taught at prestigious institutions including the Hilton Head Art League Academy, Rockport Art Association, and Lyme Art Association. The inspiration he has found in his environment is enduring and indelible, having an influence on his work wherever he might travel. Some of his recent accomplishments include 2025 Providence Art Club, Award of Merit; Members show 2025 First Place, Weather or Not Exhibition, Lyme Art Association; 2024 Best Water Feature Award, Wayne Plein Air; 2023 Cape Ann Plein Air, Best Seascape Award; 2023 Perkins Cove Paint Out, Ogunquit, ME; Second Place Award 2022 Cape Ann Plein Air; Quick Draw, First Place Award 2021 Cape Ann Plein Air; and First Place Award 2021 American Impressionists Society President's Choice Award, Omaha, NE.

*I enjoy working equally in the studio and on location, chasing the day and the night in the harbors, hamlets, landscapes, and cities of New England and beyond. Each painting I begin is a highly anticipated challenge to conquer, a puzzle seeking completion, and a culmination of all that came before. My ultimate reward is knowing when my work has captured the interests of both friends and strangers alike. In a world of digital focus and intensity, I hope that my artwork offers a calm place to rest, even if just for a few moments of the day. Through painting, I strive to forge connections between hearts and minds, unifying us through our shared experiences.*







*Azaleas at Jenkins*, Abby Ober

Golden Artist Colors/Williamsburg and Rosemary & Co. Awards



## Abby Ober

Maryland

Abby Ober spent her youth abroad as the daughter of a foreign service officer, living in Poland, Germany, Russia, India and Greece. She earned a BA in Fine Art at Rollins College (Winter Park, FL) and furthered her studies in Graphic Design at the Corcoran School of Art (Washington, DC). After a career in advertising design, she returned to her love of painting. She is active in plein air events and competitions and is passionate about teaching at various venues including Wayne Art Center (PA), The Academy Art Museum (MD) and online at Winslow Art Center (WA). Many of the plein air events she has participated in include Wayne Plein Air, Easton Plein Air, Gloucester Plein Air Invitational, Paint Annapolis and Winter Park Paint Out. She is represented by several galleries on the East Coast. She currently spends her time teaching and painting in St Michaels, MD and Venice, FL.

Ober's work appears at the following galleries: Local at American Holiday Home in St. Michaels, MD, Collectors Gallery in Venice, FL and Bozzutto Greene Art in Lutherville, MD.

*"I am inspired by the vast elements in nature and authentic imagery such as timeless structures and serene vista views. From a background in graphic design, I strive to balance a strong abstracted composition with vibrant color to convey a new sense of reality."*





*On Top of the World*, Elise Phillips

Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. Award

# Elise Phillips

*Pennsylvania*

Regarded for capturing the light, space and atmosphere in her paintings, Elise Phillips is well known as an accomplished artist. With her sensitive statement of color and poetic painterly notations, she engages the viewer to see the beauty in the world that surrounds them through her paintings. Having won numerous awards and honors, her work is held in several collections throughout the country. She is a signature member of the American Impressionist Society and the Philadelphia Watercolor Society, a member of the Oil Painters of America, and the Mid Atlantic Plein Air Painters. Phillips grew up in Wayne, PA and attended Hussian School of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. She now resides in Elverson, PA where the bucolic countryside is inspiration for her paintings as is the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket where she frequently visits.

*Ever since I was a child, I knew I was an artist. Where most people see the ordinary, I envision a painting. Everyday surroundings become inspiration to me. My paintings are my journal, reflecting on the places I've been, seen and experienced. I strive to capture a sense of nostalgia by creating timeless pieces that connect the present with the past and am eager to share my reflections through my paintings in the hopes that they will evoke the same feelings in the viewer as I had — a sense of awe in everyday life.*







*Lonely 1:20 AM*, Crista Pisano

Best Nocturne Award

# Crista Pisano

New York

Born and raised in northern New Jersey, Crista Pisano began painting in oils in 1989 under the instruction of John Phillip Osborne at the Ridgewood Art Institute in Ridgewood, NJ. She graduated from the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts in 2000, receiving a bachelor's degree of fine arts painting, and in 2003, received a master's degree of fine arts painting from the New York Academy Graduate School of Figurative Art. Pisano paints landscapes mostly en plein air as well as in her studio in Nyack, NY, and is known for painting on a small scale.

*It is vital for a landscape painter to study outdoors to fully understand how to interpret nature. The ability to experience light, value, color, and atmospheric changes within nature firsthand has been crucial in my artistic development. The past two years have been very exciting for me upon entering my fourth decade of painting landscape. I find myself making very intentional choices outside, rather than just painting the obvious. I am now more interested in painting the air and finding content within simplicity while always playing with scale and format of the picture plane. Schooling and nature taught me about the rules of painting but now I control the rules.*





*Saturday Morning, Wayne*, Jennifer Sampson

Method Lights Award



# Jennifer Sampson

*New York*

An Army brat born in California, Jennifer Sampson is primarily a plein air painter. Her interest in art began at a young age (she enjoyed drawing Ninja Turtles), and then intensified in high school, when she won a scholarship to attend a summer art camp in Kerrville, Texas. After one year of college in a visual arts associate's program, she decided her time was better spent pursuing other interests. Those interests led to a bachelor's degree in Chinese literature in Taiwan, and eventually a master's in translation and interpreting in Australia. In Sydney, she attended a plein air class at the Julian Ashton School of Art, which helped lead her back to herself through plein air. After returning to the States in 2017, Sampson took a job in education near the Adirondacks, where she remains for the time being, enjoying the quiet of the countryside.

*For most of my adult life, I painted urban landscapes, primarily in the studio, because I found myself in urban environments. While I initially was drawn to scenes with strong contrasts of sunlight and shadow, I find myself increasingly interested in the subtler shifts in tones on gray, dreary days. What I love most about urban subjects is being able to translate some forgotten corner or gritty scene into a view people might not have noticed otherwise. Over the past few years, I've been taking advantage of the beautiful location I find myself in to paint landscapes en plein air. I struggle more with nature because it's already perfect; how can I hope to do it justice? So, I'm working to push past my feelings of inadequacy and instead focus on the enjoyment of being surrounded by beauty, practicing, experimenting, and hoping it turns out.*





*Ardrossan*, Richard Sneary

En Plein Air Pro, Royal Talens and Method Lights Awards

# Richard Sneary

Missouri

Richard Sneary has been painting en plein air since 2011, after more than 40 years as an architect, teacher, and architectural illustrator. He is a signature member of AWS, NWS, AIS, MOWS, OPS, and MVIS. Recent awards include Grand Prize at Lighthouse Plein Air, 2022 and Artists Choice, 2024; 2nd Place at Paint Annapolis 2022 and Estes Valley Plein Air 2022 and 2023; Body of Work at en Plein Air Texas 2021; Best of Show at Stems Plein Air 2020 and 2011; 2nd Place Artists Choice at Telluride, 2018. Sneary was a faculty artist at Streamline's 3rd Annual Watercolor Live 2023, PACE 2016, and PACE 2024. He has been published many times in various periodicals including *Plein Air Magazine's* February/March 2022 "Playing Within the Lines," June/July 2020 "Deep in the Heart of West Texas," June/July 2016, and Aug/Sept 2014 special feature in *Watercolor Magazine*. Sneary is represented by Art Gallery Prudencia, San Antonio, TX and McBride Galley, Annapolis, MD.

*Richard Russel Sneary is a watercolorist from Kansas City, Missouri. Architects and watercolor go hand-in-hand, and it has been my medium of choice since college. Architecture was my first love and has formed the foundation of my understanding of design, composition, freehand drawing, perspective, the built and natural environment, as well as many other aspects in my personal and professional growth. I love painting and drawing most any subject. I love watercolor for its incredible luminosity, the challenge of visualizing and planning the lights and darks backwards, the ability to work quickly with loose washes, or to slow down and provide sharpness where I need or want it, but mostly I love the peace it gives me.*







*Rose Bush in Bloom*, Caleb Stoltzfus

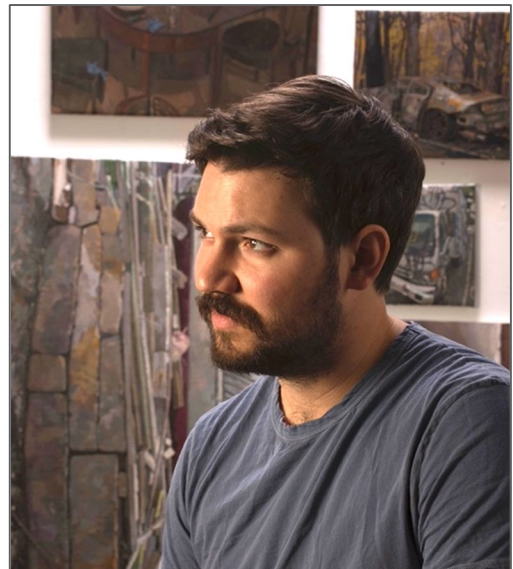
Plein Air Magazine Half-Page Award

# Caleb Stoltzfus

*Pennsylvania*

Caleb Stoltzfus (b. 1992 Elverson, PA) began learning to draw and paint at an atelier under Nelson Carlin in 2008. He received a BA in Art from Covenant College in 2015 and studied landscape painting and composition under Daud Akhriev from 2016-2017. He completed the Mount Gretna Studio Seminar in 2023. Stoltzfus is based in Philadelphia and has exhibited his paintings and sculptures throughout the Midwest and Northeast, including group shows at Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, First Street Gallery in New York, Art at Kings Oaks in Newtown, PA, and a solo show in Philadelphia at Gross McCleaf. This is his third year participating in Wayne Art Center's Plein Air Festival.

*My work draws upon the symbolic significance of people, places, and objects to underscore the spiritual significance of the material world. I see plein air painting as an important part of this exploration—notes from a primary source. I try to consider different aspects of my observed experience, including what I know versus what I discover. I strive to create contemporary representational paintings with narrative poignancy, specificity, weight, and quiet lucidity.*







*Between Rain and Sun*, Mark Vander Vinne  
Best Depiction of Light Award



# Mark Vander Vinne

## Indiana

Mark Vander Vinne is an award-winning plein air and studio oil painter known for capturing the moods and beauty of rural landscapes through shape, design, and color. Born in Eldridge, IA, Vander Vinne's love for art began with finger painting and grew into a passion for fantasy illustration and comic book art. While studying at Central University of Iowa, a life drawing professor encouraged him to pursue formal training. He attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, where he built a strong artistic foundation and fell in love with the creative process. Beyond painting, he enjoys time with his artist wife, Kim, and their three daughters. He's passionate about music, D&D, mythology and fairy tales, psychology and soccer. He currently resides in Porter, IN, near Indiana Dunes National Park.

*I paint boldly quiet landscapes using shape and color to reconnect us to the simple beauty of our natural surroundings. In our noisy and hectic world, it's easy to feel disconnected from nature, which I believe we are a part of. My art invites viewers to slow down and rediscover the quiet aliveness both within themselves and in the natural world.*





*Color, Fragrance and Texture*, Durre Waseem

Wayne Art Center Award

# Durre Waseem

## California

Durre Waseem has a master's in fine arts and humanities. She taught art history, drawing and painting from 1990 to 2000 in Pakistan. She taught art history and humanities from 2008 to 2016 in California. Since 2018, she has participated in national and international art shows and plein air festivals and has received several awards.

*Throughout my student, teaching and practicing years in Pakistan I have only painted from life and mostly large-scale canvas on busy urban locations. It was a wonderful experience as the people of Lahore are known for their hospitality and I enjoyed not only free food but some over-protective chaperones, which sometimes became too overwhelming. However, the frenzied crisscross of the old, dilapidated buildings fringed with thick strands of electric wires was good training for my eyes to find order in chaos. It was rather a challenge to paint the manicured locations of California, when I moved to the United States in 2001. Being involved in some major plein air events since 2019, I have added more versatility to my plein air subjects, although the human interaction with nature and its role in urban setting remains my favorite topic.*

