PLEIN AIR PAINTERS: AMERICA'S INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE
INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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America's Industrial Landscape
PAPA Painters Exhibiting Major Works of Industrial Landscapes

What: The Plein-Air Painters of America & Guests Explore Humanity’s Influence of Industry on the Environment

When: Opening Reception: Friday, September 22, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, at Tweed
Exhibition Dates: September 19 through November 12, 2017

Where: Tweed Museum of Art, 1201 Ordean Court, Duluth, MN 55812

Related Events:

Culminating Reception: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:00 – 10:00 PM, GLAFA

Tweedevening with Annie Dugan: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Tweed

Exhibiting PAPA Painters

Kenn Backhaus
Christopher Blossom
John Budicin
Jill Carver
Lorenzo Chavez
*John Cosby
Don Demers
*Kathleen Dunphy

*Andy Evansen
Gay Faulkenberry
West Fraser
Gerald Fritzler
Jean LeGassick
*Joseph McGurl
Ned Mueller
*Billyo O’Donnell

*Joseph Paquet
Ron Rencher
Randall Sexton
Matt Smith
*Kate Starling
*Brian Stewart
Skip Whitcomb
Dan Young

Guest Artists
*Carl Bretzke
*Jeffrey Larson
Dean Mitchell
Don Stinson

* These artists will be painting in Duluth, MN (9.18 - 9.22) and will attend the reception at the Tweed Museum of Art and Great Lakes Academy of Fine Art (GLAFA).
DULUTH, MN. In an exhibition that departs from traditional landscape themes, the Plein Air Painters of America turn their attention to urban sprawl and industrial blight, painting scenes and places, some shuttered and decaying, others functioning yet considered eyesores or environmental problems without solutions, and still others incorporating new clean technology and how it crops up in the natural landscape. The resulting paintings which depict subjects that challenge artists and patrons alike, done in a way that finds beauty amid the chaos, are the very thing that reach beyond the mechanics of art into the realm of truth-seeking.

The idea of painting industrial America took root at the turn of the 20th century, most notably with the Ashcan artists, who took to the streets painting gritty, heavily expressionistic renderings of the day-to-day people and workings of the city. Guided by Henri’s motto “art for life’s sake,” this group of eight looked to the burgeoning working-class culture for inspiration.

The Plein Air Painters of America, formed in 1986, is a fellowship of professional artists dedicated to the historic tradition of painting from life. Through this approach of firsthand observation, members strive to more fully explore and respond to the timeless beauty that surrounds us all. PAPA artists promote a heightened visual appreciation of the world by sharing with the public their combined knowledge and experience through workshops and exhibitions of the highest caliber.

America's Industrial Landscape is a collaborative project among the Plein Air Painters of America, the Tweed Museum of Art, the Duluth Art Institute, and the Great Lakes Academy of Fine Art.

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Hashtags: #PAPAatTweed #PleinAirPainters

About the Museum:

The Tweed Museum of Art is a collecting art museum that holds in trust a historical and contemporary art collection of over 10,000 artworks on behalf of the University of Minnesota and the people of Duluth and the outlying regions. The museum is located on the campus of the University of Minnesota. Hours and directions can be found at www.d.umn.edu/tma or by calling 218-726-8222.
Along the Canal at the Union Mills Paper Co., 24x24, Oil

The towpaths were very important and used extensively in the area on both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania sides of the Delaware River. Canals were dug out on both sides of the waterway and used to move commerce up and down the river. Horses and mules were led along towpaths that paralleled the canals pulling barges that held various products. The canals no longer are used for this original purpose today, but now serve as a recreational trail for kayakers and bicyclists.

Biography

Born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Kenn Backhaus spent much of his early childhood on the family farm, which proved to be a catalyst for his art. Backhaus studied at Layton School of Art then went on to work as a commercial designer and illustrator, receiving numerous awards for this work including acceptance in the 30th Annual Society of Illustrator’s show, New York City. In 1984, he switched tracks and followed his passion for fine art and painting outdoors. Since then he has shown in prestigious exhibitions across the country, been honored with major awards, and has been invited to show in museums. He was part of the PBS series, Plein Air, Painting the American Landscape, and is one of the hosts of Passport & Palette. He is a signature member of the California Art Club and a master signature member of both the Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society.
Christopher Blossom – Artist

Member since 2004
Stratford, CT

*Old and New, 16x20, Oil*

*In a narrow alley on a commercial lobster dock in Maine amidst the heavily used gear of the fisheries industry where nothing useful is discarded, a new pickup loaded with traps begins what will surely be several decades of punishing work. The prideful shine of newness will soon fade to match the surrounding well-worn comfort and reliability of things that just work.*

**Biography**

Christopher Blossom follows a line of highly accomplished artists. Both his grandfather, Earl, and his father, David, were celebrated commercial artists. Their influence, in combination with Blossom’s own unique approach, has led to him being regarded as a leader among today’s marine painters. After informal studies with his father, Blossom attended Parsons School of Design in New York City. At the same time, he worked in the Industrial Design Studio of Robert Bourke, where he learned to accurately interpret blueprints. By the time he finished, he was able to visualize an entire boat by using its plans alone as reference and could draw a craft from any angle. He has received numerous prestigious awards for his work and has been included in major private and public collections.
Carl Bretzke – Artist

PAPA 2017 Guest Artist
Minneapolis, MN

I want my work to show the viewer the beauty in something familiar and yet often overlooked, something they are surprised to connect with but often do. Cars and trucks are so common in our everyday lives and can serve as interesting shapes against a stunning sunset or light violet distant skyline. I often search for the mundane superimposed against something more beautiful. Industrial scenes often present this scenario. My painting “Mayflower” is an example. It was painted plein air from the Lowry bridge overlooking the scrapyards of North Minneapolis. I’ve already had several people comment, “I drive by that scene all the time and I never thought it could look that good.” A few cars actually stopped on the bridge to get a closer look and ask for more information...the beauty of oil paint.

Biography

Carl Bretzke is a representational oil painter who specializes in urban scenes and plein air landscapes. Carl’s work has been described in the Washington Post as “simultaneously intimate and detached...The artist’s unadorned style recalls Edward Hopper and the Ashcan School.” Carl holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Colorado, where he also received a minor in fine art. Carl has also trained extensively under Plein Air Painters of America signature artist Joseph Paquet. Bretzke has received numerous awards for his works and has been featured in magazines, including Fine Art Connoisseur, the Washington Post, and Plein Air Magazine.
I was painting along the Santa Ana River Wash one afternoon. Just as I was leaving, walking toward my car, I noticed a golden glow through the other side of the bridge. As I walked toward the light this scene was bathed by the setting sun. By then all the workers had gone home; I immediately began my work.

**Biography**

Born in 1944, in Rovigno, Italy, Budicin moved to the United States in 1955. He was educated at Riverside Community College and presently lives and maintains his studio in San Bernardino, California. Budicin is a highly accomplished plein air painter and travels extensively throughout the United States and Europe. He is a signature member of the California Arts Club, the Plein Air Painters of America, the Oil Painters of America, and the Laguna Plein Air Painter's Association. Budicin has won numerous major awards including gold medals and first place awards. He has his work included in museum shows in California and Arizona and has been featured in recent articles in *Art of the West, American Artist, Southwest Art,* and *The Quarterly Magazine.*
Jill Carver – Artist
Member since 2014
Austin, TX

Downtown Boom, 30x32, Oil

The scene in my painting, Downtown Boom, is from the Colorado River in Austin, Texas. The city is changing fast and my painting refers to the boom in the construction of vast numbers of downtown condos, hotels and conference centers. Construction is probably the largest industry in Austin right now with at one point 150 people per day moving there. So I thought when the opportunity of this show came along, it would be a perfect way to stretch myself beyond my usual motifs with a scene that has been marinating in my mind for a while.

Biography

Originally from London, England, Jill Carver moved to the United States in 2002. Before becoming a full time professional artist, she was a curatorial research assistant at the National Portrait Gallery in London for twelve years. Carver currently divides her time between Austin, TX and Rico, CO. Recognition for her work has come quickly: in 2014, she won the Gold Medal (Artists’ Choice) for Best in Show at Maynard Dixon Country. Previously she won Best in Show at the Laguna Beach Invitational and Telluride Plein Air, both in 2009, and Artists Choice at the Easton Plein Air Festival in 2008. Carver has been featured in Art of the West magazine, Plein Air Magazine, and Southwest Art Magazine.
Lorenzo Chavez – Artist
Member since 2014
Parker, CO

Day Shift, 12x16, Oil

*I have a deep respect for the hard-working folks who give of their time to provide for family and give them a good home. This painting is of a moment in time of any typical workday, a good day to be proud of the hard work accomplished.*

**Biography**

Lorenzo Chavez was born and raised in New Mexico. His first inspirations and foundation as a young artist were formed by the local landscape and the art history in New Mexico. Lorenzo paints in both pastel and oil. He participates in national invitational and international exhibitions and has won major awards for his work. Feature articles have appeared in *Southwest Art, Art of the West, American Artist Magazine, Plein Air Magazine, Artists Magazine, Western Art Review, American Art Review, Pastel Journal*, and *Denver Post*. His work is featured in the fine art books *Les Mitres de Art France, Painted Sky, Art Journey America Landscapes, Colorado Landscapes and Pure Color: The Best of Pastel 1 & 2*, and *Plein Air New Mexico*. Chavez has taught workshops across the United States and is represented by galleries and in private and corporate collections both nationally and internationally. He is a signature member of the Plein Air Painters of America, Northwest Rendezvous of Art, California Art Club-Signature Member, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico, Master Signature Member of the Plein Air Painters of Colorado, Pastel Society of Spain, and the American Impressionist Society.
John Cosby – Artist

Member since 2010
San Clemente, CA

Back to the River, 12x20, Oil

I came across this austere river scene in a small Pennsylvania town mostly closed up for lack of jobs. The old factory and retaining walls are slowly being absorbed back into the river that was once in servitude to the factory.

Biography

John Cosby travels extensively painting what he sees and feels, expressing the truth of a place through the use of bold color and energetic brush strokes. He started traveling at an early age, and at 18 was chosen as an “advance man” for the Executive Branch of the US Government, serving under two presidents and traveling the world. Though he met many interesting people and saw amazing places, what most interested him were the great works of art he encountered. These works haunted him and helped set the course for his career as a painter. After leaving the White House, Cosby rebuilt an old classic sailing sloop designed by Nathaniel Herrishoff and, with a friend (who had dreams of being a writer), set sail up and down the eastern seaboard in the inland waterway for three years. Thus, he began his art career.
Along the Essex, 18x28, Oil

The Essex River in Essex, Massachusetts neighbors Gloucester. In the 19th and early 20th century it was one of the busiest ship building communities in the world furnishing the Gloucester fishing fleet with hundreds of schooners, sloops, and dories. There is a shipbuilding museum and related shipyard there now. It's a legendary place and frankly when I painted the scene I was struck at how quiet and bucolic the place is now knowing what it once was with schooners, tug boats, barges and all kinds of other watercraft jamming its banks a hundred or more years ago. The area which now has the occasional sound of a wooden mallet being struck or shorebirds calling out once had the sound of gangs of men yelling, steam engines chugging away and heavy metal equipment in operation. The subtle scent of a salt river was once overwrought with the smell of tar, fresh cut wood piles, and grease, not to mention working shifts of sweating shipbuilders.

**Biography**

As an artist primarily inspired by the outdoors, both land and sea, Don Demers is dedicated to the practice of plein air painting despite the fact that the term has become misunderstood, often presented as a performance art, when in fact it is a form of study that dates back to the 1600s and beyond. His dedication to the practice of plein air painting is based on an essential need to have direct contact with his subjects in a multi-sensory consciousness and to seek the truth through “visual veracity.” When his understanding of a subject reaches a requisite level, he feels liberated to explore the subject through his own voice, his own subjective truth. The amalgamation of understanding the nature of a subject combined with the interpretation of that subject through an artist’s personal nature is, he believes, how great art is born.
INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

**Kathleen Dunphy** – Artist

Member since 2012
Murphys, CA

*In the Roundhouse, 16x20, Oil*

The railway settled the American West and its hardworking denizens have come to rest in the Rail-town Museum in Jamestown, CA. Crammed with tools and parts, this roundhouse offers a rare glimpse into the working side of rail transport. These steam engines still function, being lovingly restored by train enthusiasts to play parts in movies and transport tourists through the rolling hills of the California Gold Rush country. The iron horse helped to shape our nation, and its complex mechanisms and sheer power still fascinate to this day.

**Biography**

Kathleen Dunphy studied with Kevin MacPherson and Dan Gerhartz and in 2000, was awarded a full scholarship at the renowned Academy of Art University, San Francisco, where she has been offered a faculty appointment and participates in the annual Alumni Auction. Further study with Scott Christensen and T. Allen Lawson helped hone her skills and refine her unique style of painting. Dunphy’s paintings can now be found in galleries from coast to coast. Her honors are considerable and include important juried shows as well as top honors. In 2014, her painting *The Flotilla* was purchased by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum for inclusion in their permanent collection. She is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society, Laguna Plein Air Painters, the American Society of Marine Artists and Artists for Conservation, as well as the Plein Air Painters of America. In a short period of time, she has earned an impressive and growing reputation with galleries, private collectors, and art magazines across the United States.
Andy Evansen – Artist

Member since 2013
Hastings, MN

_Bridge Builders, 14x20, Watercolor_

The controlled chaos of building a bridge across the Mississippi, while the old bridge still stands watch, was a subject too tempting to pass up. The sheer scale of a project like this is astounding, reinforced by viewing it all from ground level. I also liked the colorful aspect of the new bridge while the old one has turned gray and dingy.

**Biography**

Primarily self-taught, Andy Evansen studied watercolor with Skip Lawrence, Eric Weigardt, Alvaro Castagnet, and Joseph Zbukvic. His watercolors first gained recognition after winning an international competition through *American Artist magazine* in 2005. Since then, his work has appeared on the cover of *American Artist’s Watercolor Magazine* and he has been featured in *International Artist, Watercolor Artist, Plein Air, and American Art Collector* magazines. His award-winning paintings are in collections on four continents, and he has become a sought-after workshop instructor who paints and teaches internationally. Evansen is a member of the Minnesota and American Watercolor Societies, the Plein Air Painters of America, the Northwest and the Red River Watercolor Societies, and the California Art Club. His paintings have won numerous awards, including the Bronze Medal of Honor at the 2012 American Watercolor Society Exhibition, the High Winds Medal at the 2015 AWS Exhibition, and the Painters Award in the Northwest Watercolor Society’s 2012 Waterworks Exhibition.
Forgotten Summers, 11x14, Oil

I had passed Bray Cotton Gin, the last standing cotton gin in Stephens County, Oklahoma, several times, but the light was never quite right. One morning everything seemed to work for me: the light and shadows on this abandoned building, the golden colors of mid-summer heat, spoke to me. This area, once abundant cotton farming land, is now a part of the past.

Biography

A native Oklahoman, Gay Faulkenberry has traveled and painted throughout the West and in Europe. Exposed to French Impressionists and Taos artists by her grandmother who operated a lodge in Northern New Mexico, Faulkenberry gravitated toward luminous color. She studied at Southwestern State and Oklahoma State universities. Travels to Taos in the late 1970s pushed her to work “alla prima” and soon she transitioned to oils after studying with Russian master Sergei Bongart. Subsequent workshops with Ray Vinella, Ned Jacob, and Mark Daily refined her skills. Faulkenberry has been a popular instructor herself, conducting workshops throughout the United States and abroad. As a mentor, she shares her insights and technical expertise in using the eyes, heart, head, and hand in translating the joy of life onto canvas. Faulkenberry’s work has been featured in leading art publications, and she is frequently asked to jury art shows. Her work is represented in corporate, private, and museum collections across the country.
West Fraser – Artist
Member since 2010
Charleston, SC

Oyster Shuckers, 16x20, Oil

Oyster Shuckers was painted from life, inside the Bluffton Oyster House. It is a study for a large piece I painted, featuring eleven people shucking, working the clean-up, and delivering for the shuckers. The oyster house on the May River is the only remaining shucking house in South Carolina. The subject speaks for itself. The challenge for the finished painting was the handling of the warm and cool white surfaces, the fluorescent and bright natural light flooding the room and the variations of skin tones and wet or dry surfaces.

Biography

Born in Savannah, GA, West Fraser’s roots date back to 1695. He came of age on Hilton Head Island, S.C., where he developed his love of the coastal environs that today still provide him with inspiration. One of the leading American artists in the representation The Master Tech, 19x14, Watercolor and plein air tradition, Fraser was a commissioner with the South Carolina Art’s Commission and is a member of the Salmagundi Club, the Plein Air Painters of America, and the California Art Club. He has received numerous awards of excellence, and his work hangs in permanent collections of nine museums across the United States, in Bermuda, and in the permanent collection of the White House Historical Association. Fraser has been honored with eight solo museum exhibitions, and his paintings have been included in many juried museum exhibitions nationwide. Fraser has been published extensively, including features in Art & Antiques, The Robb Report, Charleston Magazine, Southern Living, American Artist, Southwest Art, US Air Ways, American Art Collector, and Garden & Gun. Exhibition catalogs and books of his work include: The Color of Light, 1995 Springfield Museum of Art, OH, and A Native Son, 2012 Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA. Fraser’s ninth one-man show and third one-man show at The Gibbes Museum in Charleston opened earlier this year. In 2000,
he represented South Carolina in the bicentennial celebration calendar published by the White House Historic Association. In 2001, the University of South Carolina Press published the monograph *Charleston in My Time: The Paintings of West Fraser*, which was accompanied by a traveling exhibition to southeastern museums. In July 2016, Fraser’s second book from USC Press, *Painting the Southern Coast: The Art of West Fraser*, was released. In 2006, Fraser painted the official portrait of South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford. Fraser currently lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC with his wife Helena Fox.
The Master Tech, 19x14, Watercolor

Harley-Davidson has been an all-American built motorcycle company for 114 years in this great country of ours. This painting shows “Wild Bill,” one of the master mechanics that I know, working on the front forks of an Ultra Limited Touring motorcycle in the service garage in Grand Junction, Colorado. He has been working on Harley’s for years. The pride that he takes working on bikes shows in his ability to keep the dream alive and running for everyone who rides a Harley.

Biography

Gerald Fritzler has achieved many goals in his career as one of the country’s top watercolorists. He has been featured in numerous magazines, and his work has been published in Best of Watercolor; Splash III, IV and V; A Gallery of Marine Art; Contemporary Western Artists; Watercolor Expressionists; A Simple Secret to Better Painting, and others. He is a member of numerous prestigious artist organizations, including the National Watercolor Society, California Art Club, Northwest Rendezvous, and the American Watercolor Society. He travels every year in search of new and exciting subject matter, working out on location as well as in the studio. His extensive travels have taken him as far away as China, North Africa, throughout Europe, into Mexico, and across the United States, but he has always returned home to paint in the splendor of the Rocky Mountains and red rock canyon lands of the southwest. Of painting on location, he said, “Plein air painting has helped me approach my watercolors in a very spontaneous and colorful way, boldly responding to each exciting subject with great emotion.”

Gerald Fritzler – Artist
Member since 2011
Mesa, CO
Jeffrey Larson – Artist
PAPA 2017 Guest Artist

Work coming soon, revealed at opening.

Biography

Jeffrey T. Larson is a nationally known artist, recognized particularly for his realist still life, figure and portrait paintings. He was born in Two Harbors, MN on July 19, 1962, and was raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Between 1980 and 1984, Jeffrey Larson was trained in the manner of the “Old Masters” at Atelier Lack, a studio/school founded by Richard Lack (1928-2009) whose traditions and training methods reach back through Impressionism to 18th century French academies. He deepened his education by studying anatomy at the University of Minnesota (1983), studied art and history in European museums (1987), and bronze casting and finishing at private foundries (1988).

Jeffrey T. Larson and his wife, Heidi, met when he was the head instructor and assistant director at Atelier LeSueur. He has, since then, painted professionally full-time. Since 1990 they have lived in a renovated school in rural Maple, Wisconsin, where they raised and home-schooled their three children: Brock, McKenzie and Sophia Rose.

Jeffrey’s art has won and placed in multiple national and international competitions, including American Artist magazine’s Annual Awards 1st Place in 2013, 2012 and 2009; and First, Second, and Third awards in the Art Renewal Center’s International Salons amongst others, and has the distinction of being named a “Living Master.” In 2011 he was invited to be part of a select group of American and Chinese artists whose work toured in both America at the Butler Museum of American Art and at the World Art Museum in Beijing, China. He has had over twenty one-man exhibitions and has shown in multiple galleries across the nation, placing over 750 works in private collections. His paintings are currently shown at the Collins Galleries, Orleans, MA and Helena Fox Fine Art, Charleston, SC. Larson is frequently invited to lecture, judge, demonstrate, and consult about traditional techniques and atelier training.

In the summer of 2016, the Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota Duluth put together the exhibit: Jeffrey T. Larson: Domestic Space, his first solo museum exhibition and publication.

Along with being a prolific artist, Jeffrey T. Larson has taught traditional techniques at: Atelier LeSueur, Excelsior, MN (1984-86); the University of Minnesota (1986); and Atelier Lack (1983-85, 2010-15).
Jean Legassick – Artist

Member since 1995
Cedarville, CA

Stoppered in Its Tracks, 18x24, Oil

Although I mainly concentrate on the natural landscape, this collection of old buildings and railroad cars in Vale, OR, caught my eye—what an interesting conglomeration of shapes and colors! The engine clearly was not in use, its tracks buried in weeds, and the buildings were dilapidated, but the train signal along the road looked new, shiny, and ready to use.

Biography

LeGassick graduated from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California in 1979 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In addition to the Plein Air Painters of America, she is a signature member of the California Art Club. Her bibliography includes Enchanted Isle: The History of Plein Air Painting in Santa Catalina Island and California Light: A Century of Landscapes (California Art Club). She has had feature articles in many national art magazines and also took part in the six part PBS series, Plein Air: Painting the American Landscape, shown on public television stations across the nation and available on DVD. LeGassick paints en plein air because “nature is the greatest teacher.” She prefers travel by truck and camper so she can set up at the source of her inspiration. She often uses mule-pack trains and hikes with art supplies carried on her back to remote campsites so she can immerse herself in the natural world. Her favorite places to paint are the rugged mountains, deserts, and seashores of the West.
In search of a setting to address the theme Industrial America, I drove to Immokalee, FL, and spent time considering different options. It struck me that without power, none of the industries I was seeing would be functional. Where did that power come from, and how did it get here? I found the powerlines coming from somewhere beyond the horizon and chose to portray this aspect of industrialization—the conduit between the generation and consumption of energy. I found it interesting that powerlines appear motionless and seemingly inactive, but on a subatomic level, there is a frenzy of activity occurring inside those lines. The cows placidly eating grass below made an ironic contrast, at one time farming was mankind’s primary industry, and animal power was once the main source of energy.

**Biography**

Joseph McGurl grew up working with his father, James McGurl, a muralist and his most influential teacher. McGurl went on to graduate from the Massachusetts College of Art and to study in England and Italy. After college, he worked as a yacht captain, sailing the east coast from Maine to the Caribbean, all the while observing and interpreting the natural world in paint. In search of a more solid training in drawing, he sought out Robert Cormier, a devotee of the French Academy methods, and for two years studied sight-size figure drawing under him. Today, McGurl’s synthesis of academic figure drawing skills with sight-size landscape painting has resulted in a new and unique approach to addressing the landscape.
Unquestionably one of the most sought after and influential landscape artists currently working in America, McGurl has been included in museum shows and leading galleries. He was designated a ‘Living Master’ by the Art Renewal Center, is a member of the Plein Air Painters of America, the Guild of Boston Artists, and was a “Copley Master” with the Copley Society of Boston. He is a fellow of the American Society of Marine Artists and has won significant awards and honors. Additionally, he has been the subject of numerous book and magazine articles, and he conducts workshops and presents lectures throughout the country. McGurl’s interest in modern physics and the nature of reality combined with the spirituality he finds in nature has resulted in a thoroughly modern approach to style and subject. He is one of the few contemporary realists who does not, for philosophical reasons, include the use of photography in his art.
People’s lives are shaped and informed in these spaces and structures; they have psychological effects that can last for decades. I have no fear of looking at the harshness of life through my work if I feel it needs to be seen for the betterment of humanity.

Biography

Dean L. Mitchell graduated from Columbus College of Art & Design, Ohio. Well known for his figurative works, landscapes and still lifes, he is accomplished in other mediums, including egg temperas, oils and pastels. Mitchell has been featured in numerous publications, including the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, American Artist, Artist Magazine, Fine Art International, and Art News. His art is in corporate and museum collections across the country, including: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; Mississippi Museum of Art; Saint Louis Art Museum; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art; and the Library of Congress. He received the American Watercolor Society Gold Medal, Allied Artist of American Gold Medal in Watercolor and Oil, Thomas Moran Award from the Salmagundi Club in New York, Remington Professional League, and for three years in a row the Best in Show Award from the Mississippi Watercolor Society Grand National Competition. In 2004 and 2007, he received the Autry National Center Award for Watercolor at the Masters of the American West Fine Art Exhibition and sale. Mitchell is a member of several professional societies, including the American Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society.
Ned Mueller – Artist

Member since 1998
Renton, WA

*Have Done Their Duty, 11x14, Oil*

*Farming is a great but tough life; one really needs to really love it. Farmers love their tools and machinery, and they never know when a part may be needed and put to use. These are also old friends and are part and parcel of the history, legacy and connection as time moves on. I sensed that duty and wanted to convey that in this painting.*

**Biography**

Born in Wisconsin and raised in Montana, Ned Mueller has been drawing and painting all of his life. He graduated from the prestigious Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles, where he also taught drawing while still a student. Mueller has worked as an illustrator for 25 years and as a successful full-time artist since 1984. He continued to enhance his knowledge and skills by taking workshops with master artists Harley Brown, Richard Schmid, Bettina Steinke, Del Gish, and Sergei Bongart. He has written several articles on painting for the *Artist’s Magazine*, is called upon to jury shows, and is a popular and enthusiastic workshop teacher around the country and abroad. He is a signature member of the Plein Air Painters of America, Portrait Society of America, the California Art Club, the Northwest Watercolor Society, Northwest Pastel Society (Distinguished Pastelist), Northwest Rendezvous Society, Laguna Plein Air Painters, Puget Sound Group of Northwest Painters, and the American Society of Marine Artists. He is the only Northwest Artist that is designated a Master Signature Artist by the Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society. He exhibits his work in some of the finest shows and galleries in the country and has won numerous awards.
Hardworking Riverboat Men, 40x36, Oil

The barge workers have passed down their knowledge, showing others through their movements of tying barges together with a web of steel cables, a labor rarely seen from land across the wide and powerful Mississippi River. You can see the effects on every barge from the powerful Mississippi River through layers of rust, paint, and repairs of welding marks like scars. Each river barge with age gains its own character, a feast for my eyes as we glide along on the smooth silent river. Silent much like the workers who say little to each other because all is known about each other from spending a month at a time together without touching land year after year.

Biography

One of eight children, Billyo O’Donnell’s childhood was spent on the family farm west of St. Louis, along the Missouri River where the hills rise up out of the valley to meet the plains. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from Missouri State University. In 1995, he was invited to participate in the San Juan Capistrano Mission Paint Out as one of five guest artists from across America. Since then he has continued to participate in plein air events, has juried numerous exhibitions and received awards and honors for his work including: Best of Show Award, 14th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Painting Invitational; 2009 Missouri Humanities Governors Literary Book Award for Painting Missouri; Best Body of Work, 2006–Maui Plein Air Invitational; 2003 Advocacy Award by the Missouri Citizens for the Arts; and was an invited member in the Society of Illustrators, NY. In 2012, he was given the highest award for an artist in the State of Missouri: the Independent Artist Award. O’Donnell was honored with an exhibition at the Governor’s Mansion in Jefferson City before the unveiling of the book Painting Missouri: The Counties en Plein Air by Karen Glines, depicting the 114
counties in Missouri and the city of St. Louis. He has been featured in magazine articles, and his work has been shown in museums across the country. He is a member of the St. Louis Artists’ Guild, the California Art Club, National Oil and Acrylic Association, and serves on the board of the Missouri Citizens for the Arts. Today, O’Donnell and his wife live west of St. Louis in a 200-year-old log cabin that was once his grandmother’s.
Fifty-four years ago, I was born in Patterson, New Jersey. My mom was a small, loving, headstrong German immigrant who grew up on a rural farm, plowed with oxen, and found her creative outlet in knitting and sewing beautiful clothing. My dad, a giant of Canadian and Irish descent, worked for the railroad for 43 years as an iron worker, dock builder, mason, and carpenter. He painted in oil and carved stone in his spare time. I was surrounded by the unspoken but clearly held belief that hard work was the key to building a good life and, for heaven’s sake, don’t blow your own horn. At the same time, creativity was all around me.

I love an edge and I hate having anyone tell me what to do. Obvious beauty is grand, but elevating the commonplace has always held a greater fascination for me. I’ve always believed one should paint on one’s own time. Industrial landscape simply speaks to me; it’s about hard work with beauty always in service of its functionality. It’s a different kind of beauty.

I am at home there.

**Biography**

While pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts in New York, Joseph Paquet had the good fortune of finding a mentor in John Foote who opened his eyes to the joys of drawing the human figure. After graduating, Paquet met another major influence in his life, John Osborne, who believed a landscape painting should begin on location, but that its poetic essence should be completed in the solitude of the artist’s studio. Paquet experienced a demanding and rewarding apprenticeship, in which he learned to fuse field studies with the image he could see in his
mind’s eye. Today, Paquet teaches and paints at Hurinenko and his studio in St. Paul. He has been featured in many publications, including the Washington Post Sunday Magazine, The Artist’s Magazine, American Artist, Southwest Art, and Plein Air Magazine. His work has been in museum exhibitions across the country, and he has received high honors that include both Artists’ Choice and Collectors’ Choice from the Laguna Beach Plein Air Invitational, the Alden Bryan Memorial Prize from the Salmagundi Club-New York, and the Hudson Valley Art Association’s Award for Traditional Oil Painting. Paquet is a member of the Plein Air Painters of America, the Salmagundi Club, and the California Art Club.
Ron Rencher – Artist

Member since 1998
Canyon Lake, TX

Looking across a small cove at Richard Stanley’s Custom Boat and Repairs, and a colonial residence, Bass Harbor is a lobstering culture, so the support structure is active. I was drawn to the scene for two reasons: the obvious working environment as embodied in these structures and the large simple silhouettes of geometric forms juxtaposed against nature and the boats anchored in the harbor, and the interplay of light and atmosphere.

Biography

A native of Utah, Ron Rencher spent his formative years on the family’s ranch north of St. George, in the Pine Valley Mountains. He credits those early years as being critical to his lifelong love of nature, which led him into landscape painting. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Art from Southern Utah University and started painting southern Utah landscapes shortly thereafter, spending five winters in and near Zion National Park, and occasionally venturing to the Grand Canyon. Rencher has received numerous awards for his work, including the Golden Thunderbird (Artist’s Choice) and Gold Medal for best group of paintings at the 2015 Maynard Dixon Country Invitational; Plein Air Magazine Associate Member Award of Excellence, American Impressionist Society; and Best Associate Honorable Mention at the Oil Painters of America 25th National Juried Exhibition. His work has been featured in Art of the National Parks; Historic Connections, Contemporary Interpretations (Fresco Books); Painters of Utah’s Canyons and Deserts, (Gibbs Smith Publisher); Enchanted Isle, A History of Plein Air Painting in Catalina Island; and he has been featured in Art of the West, American Artist, The Artist’s Magazine, Plein Air Magazine, and the PBS series Plein Air: Painting the American Landscape. His work is part of major public and private collections, and he has been invited to participate in exhibitions across the country. He is a member of PAPA, an associate member of the Oil Painters of America, and a member of the American Impressionist Society.
Dismantling, 24x30, Oil

Dismantling is a scene close to home here in Vallejo, California. The dry-docks of Mare Island have been repurposed recently after the close of the naval shipyard in 1995. The first base to be established on the west coast, the island is now host to some innovative industries that have included preparing retired warships to be dismantled. In this scene, the ship is being cleaned and prepped so that it can be moved to Texas for the remainder of the task.

Biography

California based artist Randall Sexton is nationally known for the use of color and expressive brushwork in his oil paintings of everyday scenes. Raised in rural Connecticut, Sexton moved to San Francisco in 1980 after completing a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the University of Connecticut. Sexton taught classes in drawing, painting, and composition at the San Francisco Academy of Art until 2005, and now leads private workshops around the country and teaches as a freelance instructor at Pixar Studios, Emeryville, CA. Sexton has garnered national awards for his paintings, most notably, Artists’ Choice at the 10th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Event. He won the same award in Telluride at the Sheridan Plein Air Festival and at the Napa Valley Land Trust Art Festival, as well as in Sedona and Maui, at their respective painting festivals. He has been honored with Jurors’ Choice, Best of Show, in Northern Views, a biennial at the Napa Valley Museum, and in the Maui Plein Air Festival. Sexton has been featured in various national journals, including American Artist, Southwest Art, Plein Air, and Workshop. He is a member of the California Art Club, the Laguna Beach Plein Air Painters Association, and “The Outsiders,” a group of artists loosely connected to “The Society of Six,” and the Baywood Artists Group committed to working on environmentally sensitive projects.
**Remnants**, 14x18, Oil

I spend a great deal of time traveling the surrounding area of my home state of Arizona. It’s difficult to travel any measurable distance without seeing the influence of the cattle industry on this part of the country. This painting depicts the “remnants” of an old homestead ranch in southwestern Colorado. I couldn’t help but think this old place had a few stories to tell.

**Biography**

Growing up in Arizona, Matt Smith developed a lifelong connection to the Sonoran Desert and the great outdoors. This connection influenced his decision to paint the landscape. As a teenager, he also lived two years in France and one year in Switzerland. While in Europe, he had the opportunity to visit many of the great museums, which helped solidify his love for art. In 1985, Smith earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from Arizona State University. These days Smith can be found painting from southern Arizona to the Canadian Rockies, from the California coast to the Rocky Mountains. He has been honored with numerous awards, including Best of Show at the Tucson Plein Air Paint-Off, the Red Smith Award, “Western Visions” at the National Wildlife Art Museum, and Best of Show, “Emerging City,” San Jose, CA. He has been featured in *Southwest Art, Western Art Collector, Art of the West, American Artist,* and others. He lives in Arizona with his wife, Tracey, who is also a painter.
Kate Starling – Artist

Member since 2014
Rockville, UT

Solar Farm—Mountain Range and Playa Lake, 16x48, Oil

I expected to see the glare of shallow water as I dropped into another valley in the basin and range region of the west. The modern basin has another source of glare now: the reflection of the sun off thousands of solar panels on the desert floor of the Nevada Solar One, a solar power plant south of Las Vegas, Nevada, on Highway 95.

Biography

Kate Starling is an oil painter who lives and works in the canyons of southern Utah. Having earned a degree in geology, she spent years working in that field and as a National Park ranger. After formal academic art training at the University of Oregon, followed by the graduate painting program at Southern Utah University, she devoted her work to painting the landscape. Educated in the importance of painting directly from observation, she has spent years painting outside, learning the way light plays on the land. Starling’s paintings portray the natural world and focus on communicating a sense of place, atmosphere and dazzling light, retaining the immediacy of the painting experience. She knows the strength of emotion that the landscape seen in a particular light can trigger in her, and she strives to paint in such a way that memory and emotion are triggered in the people who see her work. Starling’s work has been included in exhibitions across the western United States, and she has been honored with prestigious awards, including Collector’s Choice Award, Best Oil Painting, and the Milford Zornes Award, at Maynard Dixon Country, Utah; the Award of Merit, Utah Spring Salon, Springville Museum of Art, Utah; Best of Show and Purchase Award at the St. George Art Festival, Utah; and the Award for Best Desert and Mountains, from Plein Air Tucson. Feature articles on her work have appeared in Plein Air Magazine, Southwest Art, and the Wasatch Journal.
Brian Stewart – Artist

Member since 1991
St. Paul, MN

*Over Duluth, 12x16, Oil*

I painted this from the top of a hill in a working-class neighborhood in Duluth, MN. I was attracted to the way the old trees framed this view of one of the most spectacular harbors in the world, the old brick apartment buildings, the guy mowing his lawn and the big guy trudging up the hill. As I painted, I was surrounded by a group of Native American kids watching with great interest and asking a lot of questions. It made for a nice connection, the kind you only get when painting outdoors on location. To me, the whole experience just personified Duluth.

**Biography**

Before becoming a painter, Brian Stewart had a successful 25-year career in advertising creating award winning work for national corporate and packaged goods accounts. He received his early art training at The Art Center in Los Angeles and later at Atelier LeSueur in Minneapolis where he learned the classic, academic fundamentals as they were taught in Paris a century ago. He has taught at Pasadena Junior College, the Minneapolis College of Art & Design, lectured at the University of Minneapolis, and taught workshops throughout the U.S. and abroad. Stewart has had several one-man shows, two museum shows, and numerous group shows. He recently had a piece collected by the Kaiping Art Museum in China. He has received many awards for his plein air work, including ARC International Salon awards, Best of Show at Coos Art Museum and the California Art Club, and was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Grant for 2014. His work has been featured in *Fine Art Connoisseur, Southwest Art, Plein Air, American Artist* and *The Artist Magazine* among others. He has served as juror and lecturer for national plein air shows and judged prestigious on-line art competitions. Stewart has also been the subject of TV and on-line interviews, is a signature member of the Plein Air Painters of America, as well as the California Art Club, the Oil Painters of America, and the American Society of Marine Artists. A visual raconteur, he’s known and collected nationally for his unique vision and the storytelling quality of his paintings. This native Californian, who now makes his home in Minnesota, can be found playing the banjo when not painting.
Don Stinson—Artist

Member since 1991
St. Paul, MN

Giorgione Pass: imagined beginnings, 38x46, Oil
Courtesy, Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe

In this oil painting Giorgione Pass: Imagined Beginnings, I picture the 160 ft. towers at the beginning of their march across the Coachella Valley just northwest of Palm Springs, CA and east of Giorgione Pass. I imagine the optimism and the awe that must have accompanied the orderly precision with which a new industry was born, an industry that promised to be an incredible new source of green energy. Imagining this kind of bright industrial optimism brought to mind Charles Sheeler’s painting Conversation—Sky and Earth at the Amon Carter Museum in Ft. Worth. In that painting, Sheeler juxtaposes electric transmission lines against the backdrop of a clear blue sky above Hoover Dam. So, thinking of Sheeler I featured the sparse beauty of the empty desert landscape opposite the steady march of the wind industries towers across the valley. My subject is not just about power, but also its costs to the land.

I paint these types of industrial subjects because the visual stories these places present require both an awareness of great historical precedents, such as the work of Charles Sheeler, and the demand that I think differently in order to depict them in their full complexity.

Biography

Don Stinson is known for panoramic oil paintings that explore the physical and cultural geographies of the West. His work examines the dynamic elemental and creative forces that continue to shape this contested terrain. Stinson received his B.F.A. from Colorado State University and his M.F.A. from Tufts University/School of Fine Arts in Boston. He was the recipient of the Colorado Council on the Arts Director’s Grant and his work is
placed in the collections of the Phoenix Art Museum, the Denver Art Museum, and the Art in Embassies Program in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He has been featured both in extensive solo and group exhibitions in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas, with prominent showings at The Joslyn Art Museum, The Phoenix Art Museum; The Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; and Artist Space, New York. Don’s work has been featured in the New York Times and Time magazine. He lives and works in Evergreen, CO.
Whether in abstract detail or their entirety, I find endless possibilities in the graceful utilitarian lines of these functional pieces of sculpture. This is a tribute to a late great friend who flew this machine.

Biography

Born in Sterling, Colorado, Skip Whitcomb earned his Bachelor of Fine Art from Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles in 1971. His work has been shown in major exhibitions across the country, including the National Academy of Art, NY; National Academy of Western Art, Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City; National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, WY; Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa OK; Bradford Briton Museum, Big Horn, WY; Coors Western Art Exhibition, Denver CO; University of Wyoming Museum, Laramie, WY; Maynard Dixon Country Invitational Show, UT; Prix de West, Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City. His work has traveled with the following exhibitions: From Sea To Shining Sea, originating at the Haggin Museum, Stockton, CA; Landscapes of Colorado, Mountains and Plains, curated by Ann S. Daley, Denver CO; Masterpieces of Colorado: A Rich Legacy of Landscape Painting, curated By Rose G. Fredrick, originated at the Foothills Art Center, Golden, CO. Among the many honors and awards are: Grand Award Pastel Journal International Exhibit, 2000; Artist’s Choice Award, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, WY, 1991 and 2000; Artists’ Choice Award, Buffalo Bill Historical Center and Museum, Cody, WY, 1998 and 2000; Elliot Award for Excellence in Landscape Art, Colorado Mountain Club, Golden, CO 2003; Signature Member, Plein Air Painters of America, 2003; Featured Artist, Coors Western Art Exhibition, Denver CO, 2009; Award of Excellence, Western Rendezvous of Art, Helena MT, 2009; Artists’ Choice, Coors Western Art Exhibition, Denver CO, 2011; Donald Teague Memorial Award-Best Work on Paper, Prix de West, Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, OK, 2017. Whitcomb’s work is in numerous public and private collections and has been featured in Western Art & Architecture, Plein Air Magazine, American Artist, Art of the West, and Southwest Art, among others.
Dan Young – Artist

Member since 2016
Silt, CO

Coverup at the Sawmill, 16x20, Oil

This is an old local sawmill that I have driven past many times. I had only painted it once from the main road. The interesting chaos of the place tends to overwhelm most people who pass by. I was heading out to paint after a couple of good snowstorms and happened upon the sawmill. I just had to turn in and ask if I could paint. Mother Nature had simplified the chaos for me with a fresh new blanket of white.

Biography

Born in Denver, Dan Young grew up in rural western Colorado. His experiences camping, fishing, and exploring throughout the Rocky Mountains as a child have been a strong influence on his work. He attended Colorado Institute of Art, hoping to find a direction for his talent. After graduation, he moved to Dallas, Texas to pursue the commercial art field. Even with a successful illustration career, the landscape of his youth was always calling him back to Colorado. He returned in 1989 to begin painting full time. Young’s work has been exhibited in many prestigious shows including Arts in the Embassies, American Embassy, Brussels and Athens; Maynard Dixon Country, UT; American Master’s at SCNY, Salmagundi Art Club, New York; Small Works Great Wonders, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City; Western Visions Miniatures and More, National Museum of Wildlife, Jackson; Coors Western Art Exhibit, Denver; Biennial Invitational, Bradford Brinton Memorial Museum, Bighorn, Wyoming; American Art in Miniature, Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa Ok. Feature articles have appeared in Southwest Art, Aspen Magazine, Art of the West, Western Art Collector, Plein Air, Cowboys and Indians, 5280 Denver’s Magazine, American Art Collector, and Western Art & Architecture.