



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

Dedicated to the Preservation of Representational Art

volume 19 issue 2

SUMMER
2009

Brushstrokes

Sage Creek Amazing in Every Way!

The City of Santa Fe was home to this year's 18th National Juried Exhibition held at Sage Creek Gallery, May 1 – 31, 2009. Clearly, this art Mecca is one historic location that every artist needs to visit at least once.

The opening weekend featured a series of compelling events that kept attendees busy from morning to evening beginning with a welcome reception on Thursday night. OPA president Neil Patterson OPAM remarked: "This year's show exceeded our expectations in both attendance and the exceptional quality of the artwork being exhibited."

Attendance was bolstered by a strong line-up of Master Signature members. Kevin Macpherson and Calvin Liang both provided exciting demonstrations. Joan Potter and Nancy S. Crookston talked with *Art of the West* publisher Allan Duerr about their careers and the ins and outs of establishing a successful career while raising families. Albert Handell rounded out this distinguished field with a fascinating slide presentation covering his life's work.



American National Award of Excellence winner "Wooden Bowl" painted by David Riedel (1st place Associate and Signature Division)

Many thanks to the volunteers who once again made this year's critiques a favorite. Volunteers included Jeff Otis OPA, Betty

Nance Smith OPA, Kate Palmer OPA, Zhiwei Tu OPAM, Bill Schneider OPA, Ken Cadwallader OPA and Neil Patterson OPAM.

Saturday morning was busy as artists and collectors gathered in the gallery or down the block in Santa Fe's ever popular plaza to watch demonstrations by John Michael Carter OPA, Ken Cadwallader OPA, Marc Hanson OPA, and movie producer and artist George Gallo.

If that weren't enough, OPA was proud to have a number of business professionals on hand to dispense timely information to audience members. Always a favorite, Clint Watson, owner of FineArtStudio On-line, addressed which online tools and sites artists should utilize, such as Twitter, Facebook, Blogs, and websites. And long time crack photographer Thomas Schmidt spoke to a full house on the best way to photograph one's own artwork.

Saturday evening, members previewed OPA member George Gallo's brilliant movie "Local Color" about a young man pur-

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“Amaryllis” by Dan Gerhartz OPAM won the OPA Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members (1st place Master Signature Division)

Sage Creek con’t.

suings his passion to paint and the old master who helped him. Mr. Gallo was on hand to talk about the movie which is based on his own experience as a young artist.

On Sunday, members attended a panel discussion on “How to Succeed In Tough Times” which covered several areas to help artists reduce their expenses. On hand to lend their expertise, were OPA member Johnnie Liliedahl, owner of Liliedahl Video Productions; Bill Bush CPA, owner of Fredericksburg Artists School; Board Member and Program Chair, Ken Cadwallader OPA; and OPA Vice-President William Schneider OPA, founder of DiMeo & Schneider, a investment firm located in Chicago.



Robert Johnson OPA won the American Art Collector Award of Excellence for his painting “Peonies” (2nd place Associate and Signature Division)

The weekend would not have been complete without an opportunity to get out and paint! Special thanks to Robert Kuester OPA for spearheading Sunday’s plein air painting outing. The majority of OPA members ended up painting at the Randolph Davies Audubon Park in Santa Fe which had an abundance of painting opportunities.

All in all, it was a fun and informative weekend. Many thanks to Sage Creek Gallery who did a terrific job hosting, the OPA staff and Board of Directors who worked through the opening weekend in various capacities, and the OPA volunteers who lent a hand with critiques and paint outs. Kudos to all of you for a job well done!

DAVID RIEDEL AWARDED 2009 AMERICAN NATIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

OPA member David Riedel, from Portland, Oregon, was announced the 2009 American National Award of Excellence winner for his exquisite painting, “Wooden Bowl” during this year’s 18th National Juried Exhibition. An elated Mr. Riedel was on hand to receive his pres-



Jeff Otis OPA won the *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine* Award of Excellence for “New Mexico Mesas” (3rd place Associate and Signature Division)

Sage Creek con't

tigious award in front of hundreds of artists and collectors. This year's award included \$22,000 in cash and a beautiful hand cast gold medal. On hand to congratulate Mr. Riedel was this year's Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM and president Neil Patterson OPAM. Taking home the silver medal was Robert Johnson OPA for "Peonies" and Jeff Otis OPA was awarded the bronze medal for his painting "New Mexico Mesas."

Also deserving special recognition is Master Signature member Dan Gerhartz who took home a gold medal and \$4,300 in cash for his first place award in the Master Signature Division for his painting, "Amaryllis." The silver medal was awarded to David Hettinger OPAM for his painting, "Evening in the Garden" and the bronze medal went to Thomas Buechner OPAM for "Red Hat Society."

With a generous \$20,000 donation, OPA awarded one deserving artist with the Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists. This fellowship provides one Midwestern artist with the means to continue to pursue his or her passion for painting without the financial constraints they might otherwise have. This year's winner is Mary Qian, for her painting, "In Dream." Ms. Qian is a young emerging artist from Chicago, Illinois.

Generous donations from our long-time supporters allowed OPA to continue to provide outstanding awards this year. A complete list of award winners follows:

American National Award of Excellence – David Riedel for "Wooden Bowl" - \$22,000 cash funded by OPA

American Art Collector Award of Excellence – Robert Johnson OPA for "Peonies" - Full feature article valued at \$14,000



Glenn Harrington's painting "Headdress" won the Jack Richeson & Co. Award of Excellence



The Donor's Award of Excellence was awarded to Joshua Flint for his painting "We Pivot Like Constellations in the Sky"



"Holding All He Needs" by Nancy Howe OPA won the Fine Art Studio On-Line Award of Excellence



Jeff Jamison's painting "The Fisher King" won the Liliedahl Video Productions Award of Excellence

Liliedahl Video Productions Award of Excellence – Jeff Jamison for "The Fisher King" - a selection of DVD's by Master Artists valued at \$1,000

Presidents' Award of Excellence – Gabor Svagrik for "Summer House" - \$1,000 cash funded by past presidents Zhiwei Tu OPAM and Betty Schmidt

Classic Gallery Framing, Inc. Award of Excellence - Dan Beck for "Here and Now" - \$250 cash and a merchandise certificate valued at \$500



"Here and Now" painted by Dan Beck won the Classic Gallery Framing, Inc. Award of Excellence

Utrecht Award of Excellence – Robert Coombs for "Familiar Crossing" - \$750 merchandise certificate

Jack Richeson & Co. Inc. Award of Excellence – Shawn Zents for "Café Rouge" - Shiva oils and brushes valued at \$600

Blick Art Materials Award of Excellence – Timothy Norman OPA for "The Shepherd" - \$500 merchandise certificate

Fredericksburg Artists' School Workshop Scholarship – Mary Qian for "In Dream" - One week painting workshop valued at \$500

Hunter Editions Award of Excellence David Gray for "Common Things" - Free prepress and one sheet paper or canvas reproduction valued at \$500

Sage Creek con't.

Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine Award of Excellence – Jeff Otis OPA for "New Mexico Mesas" Free full page advertisement valued at \$3,520

Donors' Award of Excellence – Joshua Flint for "We Pivot Like Constellations in the Sky" - \$2,000 cash funded by sponsors of OPA

Jack Richeson & Co. Inc. Award of Excellence – Glenn Harrington for "Headdress" - Santa Fe Easel valued at \$1,200

Fine Art Studio On-line Award of Excellence – Nancy Howe OPA for "Holding All He Needs" \$500 cash and two years of web hosting valued at \$600



The Presidents' Award of Excellence was won by Gabor Svagrik for his painting "Summer House"

Fredrix Artist Canvas and Gamblin Artists Colors Award of Excellence – Tim Horn for "Long Term Parking" Fredrix Artist Canvas Merchandise Certificate (\$250) and Gamblin Artists Colors Deluxe Painting System (\$250)

Fredrix Artist Canvas and Gamblin Artists Colors Award of Excellence - Trent Gudmundsen for "Bistro Sage Creek con't.

Waitress” ” Fredrix Artist Canvas Merchandise Certificate (\$250) and Gamblin Artists Colors Deluxe Painting System (\$250)

All-In-One Easel and Winsor & Newton; ColArt Americas, Inc. Award of Excellence - Marc Hanson OPA for “Rural Route” All-In-One Easel (\$250) and Winsor & Newton Artists’ Oil Box (\$210)

Barbara Carter Fine Gilded Frames Award of Excellence - Joan Johnson for “The Gardeners” 24” x 30” 23k Water Gilded Gold Leaf Frame

Sourcetek and Arlington Heights Art Guild Award of Excellence – Xue-Cheng Piao for “A Grandmother” - “Premium Line” canvas panels valued at \$250 and \$100 donation from Arlington Heights Art Guild

Martin F. Weber Award of Excellence – Greg Scheibel for “Coastal Glow” - \$300 Merchandise Certificate

Martin F. Weber Award of Excellence - Todd Williams OPA for “Stairway Home” - \$300 Merchandise Certificate

Ray Mar Art Award of Excellence – Jim Beckner for - \$250 Merchandise Certificate

Directors’ Award of Excellence Richard Russell for “Through Quiet Meadows” - \$200 funded by OPA Board of Director William Schneider OPA

Master Signature Division OPA Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members – Dan Gerhartz OPAM for “Amaryllis” \$4,300 cash award. \$3,000 funded by OPA, \$1,300 funded by Friends of OPA

Art of the West Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members – David Hettinger OPAM for “Evening In the Garden” - Free full page advertisement valued at \$3,075

Southwest Art Award of Excellence for Master Signature Members – Thomas Buechner OPAM for “Red Hat Society” - Two-third page advertisement valued at \$3,000

Shirl Smithson Founders Award for Master Signature Members – Jeffrey R. Watts OPAM for “Wiley Irishman” - \$500 cash funded by the Shirl Smithson Family

The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists – Mary Qian for “In Dream” - \$20,000 cash award funded by the Driehaus Foundation



“Familiar Crossing” painted by Robert Coombs won the Utrecht Award of Excellence



The Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Fellowship for Midwestern Artists was awarded to Mary Qian for her painting “In Dream”



JUROR OF AWARDS STATEMENT By Kevin Macpherson OPAM

Dear OPA Members:

Upon entering the beautiful Sage Creek Gallery in Santa Fe I thought to myself, "I am glad I got into OPA way back when the competition was not so fierce."

The gallery hung the show with great respect and I spent 8 hours by myself admiring and scrutinizing each and every wonderful painting. I take the responsibility as a judge very seriously. It is not an easy task. At the end I may only have one person that agrees with my choices.

The first two to three hours I viewed all the work. I took a break to digest all the images - which ones made a lasting impression and which paintings touch me emotionally. As I returned I revisited all the works again with a fresh eye. Some paintings that made a dramatic first impression seemed to fade. Other sensitive paintings whispered, "Look at me again".

My process was to examine each painting for emotional content and objective attributes that connect with the idea, color, light, shadow, values, drawing and edges.

There were so many subjects some tightly rendered and others more suggestive; the use of thick paint and thin, representational and expressionistic; all valid approaches that I did not let personal preferences hinder my decisions.

Many exhibits that I had judged I had difficulty giving awards to very average paintings. This 2009 National OPA exhibit I had wished I had a few more awards to hand out. All who were accepted should be very proud. Thank you for honoring me with the task.

Sincerely,
Kevin Macpherson OPAM



The opening of the exhibition was well attended by both artists and collectors



Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM studying entries



Allan Duerr with Distinguished Artists Series interviewees Nancy S. Crookston OPAM (left) and Joan Potter OPAM (right)

MEET THE WINNER

David Riedel

David Riedel was born in 1956 in Indiana and lived there until moving to Tempe, Arizona to study art. He fell in love with the Southwest, graduating from Northern Arizona University in 1982 with a BFA in printmaking. For many years David lived in the Southwest near Taos, New Mexico. Presently he is in Portland, Oregon with his wife and daughter.

In 1986 David began attending courses at the Art Students League in New York City. It was at the Art Students League that David first began the serious study of painting under the internationally acclaimed teachers there.

Similar to the Old Masters' style, Riedel's works are characterized by their chiaroscuro and deep background color, lending a certain vibrancy and energy to his subjects. His use of dramatic lighting and rhythmic color, combined with a sense of solid composition, produces work that is timeless in its appeal. David considers his primary instruction to be from David Leffel OPAM, yet he also feels the importance of many fellow artists in both Taos and New York. The excitement of interacting with other artists creates a milieu in which he finds opportunities for artistic growth.

Moving to Portland has inspired David to explore his love of landscape painting and the northwest outdoors. David's wife is a graduate student and middle school teacher. His teenage daughter enjoys lessons in art, and spends time with her rabbit, Chai.



Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM, 2009 American National Award of Excellence winner David Riedel and OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NEW!

OPA has recently established an Editorial Committee to assist with the OPA newsletter. Committee members will be asked to advise, support, and contribute as they can over the next two years. If you have an idea for an article please e-mail Howard Friedland OPA at: mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com.

We thank them in advance for lending their hard work on behalf of OPA. The committee consists of:
Chairman: Howard Friedland OPA,

Susan Blackwood, Roger Dale Brown OPA, Chauncy Homer Susan Ploughe, Suzanne Poursine Massion, Todd Williams OPA.

VISIT OPA'S WEBSITE AT www.oilpaintersofamerica.com for a terrific article on how to pack your painting(s).

Also read about Setting Goals — Roger D. Brown OPA talks about how important it is for you to set goals and hold yourself accountable.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

It's official! Next year's 19th Annual Juried Exhibition will be held at Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona, April 30 – May 30, 2010.

SIGNATURE MEMBER NAME

In the spring, 2009 *Brushstrokes* we regret that we misspelled the name of Qiuzhen Wei OPA, who was recently elevated to the status of Signature member.

CATALOGS AVAILABLE

Additional copies of past OPA catalogs are still available. They may be purchased by sending your request and check to: Oil Painters of America., P. O. Box 2488, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488, or may be ordered on-line.

2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006	\$21.00 each	\$16.00 each for orders of 3 or more
2002 and 2001	\$20.00 each	\$15.00 each for orders of 3 or more

MARY QIAN
RECIPIENT OF THE DOROTHY DRIEHAUS MELLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN ARTISTS



Mary Qian currently lives in Chicago but received her education at Brigham Young University in

Provo, UT with a BFA in Fine Arts and Illustration.

Artist Statement:

I feel my art is like an open diary. It records my life, and the life around me.

My paintings are my preferred way to explain myself to the world. They speak of the things I don't know how to put into words.

Painting is a process and it connects me, my sitters and the viewers. It is a bridge between past and present.

I want to paint people, because people intrigue me, especially during the process of communication in silence.

I hope viewers will feel what I felt in the moments of painting. See what inspired me!

Mary has received many awards and was the featured artist in "Artists to Watch" in *Southwest Art Magazine*.

Mary's work is currently being exhibited in the Ann Nathan Gallery, Chicago, IL, the Creekside Gallery, Park City, Utah and the Meyer Gallery, Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



Calvin Liang OPAM demonstrated his technique of painting from a picture



Ken Cadwallader OPA painted a portrait in the courtyard of the Sage Creek Gallery



OPA member and movie producer George Gallo talks about his new movie "Local Color".





We deeply apologize. In the 2009 National catalog, we regret that the image of K. Henderson's painting "Jack In the Box" is incorrect. The correct image is shown above.

CRITIQUES

OPA is now offering a critique service thanks to the many wonderful Signature and Master Signature members who have volunteered to help us with this endeavor. If you would like to have your work critiqued, please mail two identical discs containing 3-10 paintings of your most current work, a brief one-page bio along with a \$25 check payable to OPA. The service is also available to non-OPA members at a cost of \$50. One disc will be sent to one of our Signature or Master Signature members for their review and the other will be kept on file. The volunteer critiquer will review your work and provide you with constructive criticism and feedback. As you know, our volunteer critiquers are very busy, so please allow four to six weeks to receive feedback.



One of the plein air painting locations was the beautiful and tranquil Randall Davey Audubon Center



"How To Photograph Your Own Artwork" was presented by OPA photographer Tom Schmidt



Juror of Awards Kevin Macpherson OPAM, *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine* Award of Excellence winner Jeff Otis OPA and OPA President Neil Patterson OPAM



Albert Handell OPAM discussing his artwork during his slide presentation

A QUESTION OF ETHICS

OPA is interested in your opinions about a variety of ethical questions. We open the topic up to OPA members for discussion. How would you respond? Have you been in a similar situation? How did you handle it, and would you do anything differently? What would you suggest in this scenario?

We wonder if you have faced the following situation in your professional careers as artists. It is hypothetical, but has the elements that many of us in OPA have experienced. The premise is this:

You are newly affiliated with a fine art gallery and have a contract with

them for the purpose of selling your art work on a consignment basis. The gallery has hosted an opening to introduce you as their newest artist. Printed invitations were mailed to their clients, press releases were placed in newspapers, and gallery staff has promoted your art work. They are showing a good selection of your work and want to rotate paintings on a regular schedule. In short, the gallery has invested some time and capital in promoting you. The relationship is new but off to a good start. No paintings have sold yet. An important client of this gallery contacts you and expresses a wish to visit your studio and view work

other than what the gallery is showing. The client also asks if your selling price is any different than the gallery price.

The Newsletter Editorial Committee would like to hear from you. Although we do not intend to attribute right or wrong, please contribute your experiences or ethical dilemma to an ongoing column in our newsletter. We would like to select and print some of your responses in future editions.

Contact us through the OPA e-mail at mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com or by mail.

PAINTING OUR FUTURE NEWS BRIEFS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Patt Baldino was chosen by the Scarsdale Historical Society to paint one of their five sculptured roosters for a community-wide art exhibit. Patt is also pleased that the painting "Two Lemons" was awarded the Traditional Painting Award at the 112th annual Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Exhibition. And third, Patt is pleased to advise that the Ridgewood Art Institute, of Ridgewood, NJ, awarded the painting "Burgundy Vase" the Natalie A. Williams Award.

Rick Hansen received many awards in 2008, to include an Honorable Mention at the Navarro Council of the Arts National Juried Show in Corsicana, TX, the Merit Award at the Arts in Harmony National Juried Show in Elk River, MN, the Bara's Award at the Red River Valley Mu-

seum in Vernon, TX and the Third Place Award at the Beaumont Art League's National Juried Show in Beaumont, TX.

Steve Henderson's painting "Lilacs" was recently accepted in the 18th Annual Masterworks in Miniature Exhibition at Gallery One in Mentor, OH.

Brenda Howell's painting "West Rim Afternoon" was awarded the Honor Of Acceptance in the Art Renewal Center's International 2008/2009 ARC Salon™. The painting is now hanging in the historic El Tovar Hotel at the south Rim of the Grand Canyon. Howell has also been invited to join the International Guild of Realism.

Elayne Kuehler wanted to note a

correction to the last newsletter. Elayne did not host the exhibition of her 27 paintings. It was hosted by the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts. We apologize for the misinformation.

Michael Mao OPA won second place at the Salon International 2009 and third place at the RayMar Art annual competition for his work "Dreamer".

Lindsay McKee has had two paintings accepted in the Richeson 75: International Still Life & Floral 2009 competition. The works are "Dragonfly Vase" and "Snuggles".

Dan McWilliams' painting "Last Table" was chosen as the Grand Prize winner of the Mini 50 competition of 2008 Paint the Parks. His

painting “Best Beach” received the Elaine Hahn Jurors Award at the same show. Thirdly, Dan was accepted into the top 100 of the National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society for 2007 and 2008.

Nicholas Petrucci won the Green Artist challenge for Best Environmental Message — Painting for his outstanding depictions of environmental icons.

Grace Schlesier’s painting “Light & Shadow” won the top award at the 2008 Paint America Top 100. Also, Grace’s painting “Trade Winds” has been accepted into the International Artist competition “Seascapes, Rivers & Lakes”. *International Artist Magazine* will devote a full page showing her painting, inspiration, strategy and working process in the June/July issue.

William Schneider OPA’s painting “The Last King” was awarded Honorable Mention in the Salon International 2009 competition, hosted by Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art. This is the second time he has received an award in this international juried exhibition.

Carol Swinney’s painting “Morning Along the Wash” won an Award of Excellence at the 2009 “Nomadas Del Arte” show at Southwest Gallery in Dallas, TX. For the second year, Carol participated in the Cowgirl Up! Art From the Other Half of the West” Show at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum in Wickenburg, AZ. Carol is one of seven artists invited to participate in the Outdoor Painters Society’s Plein Air Southwest 2009 event in Dallas, TX. And lastly, one of Carol’s

paintings has been accepted into the California Art Club’s 98th annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition, held at the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Ron Ukrainetz had two paintings accepted into the 2009 Paint the Parks Competition and Exhibition: “A Drink at Dawn©” and “Loons and Lilacs©”.

Daryl Urig took on the task of painting “a painting a day for the month of May” in his “Daryl Urig’s 31 Days, 31 Paintings” project.

Dorenda Crager Watson was chosen by *Art Calendar Magazine*, a business magazine for the visual arts, as their feature online community artist for the June, 2009 issue. Dorenda’s work will also be featured in the Zanesville Art Center’s 65th Annual Ohio Exhibition.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Our Friends

It is with extreme sadness that we mark the passing of the following Oil Painters of America members. Please keep the friends and families of these artists in your thoughts and prayers. They will be missed.

Bruce Baker of Litchfield Park, Arizona - January 2009,
Joyce Clark OPA of Bend, Oregon - January 2009
Bob Heuel OPA of Cleveland, Wisconsin - March 2009,
Janet Hunsaker OPA of Indianapolis, Indiana - January 2009,
Billy Kirk of Corinth, Mississippi - March 2009,
Robert Kirkpatrick, of Phoenix, Maryland - February 2009
Vanoy Lester of Pittsburgh, Texas - July 2009



Oil Painters of America is pleased to introduce the first ever OPA cap. Embroidered in gold thread on a denim-colored adjustable-size cap, these are now available at a cost of \$15.00 each. They may be ordered by sending a check to OPA at P.O. Box 2499, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2488 or online at mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com.

A sample of the cap appears at the left, being held by staff member Rosemary Murray.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

OPA's 5th Annual Paint Out Underway!

We are pleased to invite you to participate in this year's Great Paint Out! It is a terrific way to meet and network with other OPA members in your state - so take a look and see if there is one scheduled near you.

The enclosed sheet has a complete listing of scheduled paint outs or go on-line for more details at
www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/2009paintouts.htm

December 1 – Deadline for submission for 2010 Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarship.

August 1– Deadline for submission for Signature membership status. Minimum requirement is having been juried into three OPA National Exhibitions or three regional shows within the last five years and two OPA National Shows.

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

Regional Shows

November 20 – December 23, 2009 - Eastern Regional Show at Corse Gallery & Atelier Jacksonville, Florida - Juror of Awards: C.W. Mundy OPAM. Deadline for on-line Submissions: August 31, 2009 Canvas size not to exceed 720 square inches.

National Shows

April 30 – May 30, 2010 - 19th National Juried Exhibition at Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona - Juror of Awards: Nancy S. Crookston OPAM Deadline for on-line submissions: January 25, 2010 Canvas size not to exceed 1200 square inches.