



---

# OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA

THE VENERABLE ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES  
ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION IN DALLAS

---



THIS MONTH the Oil Painters of America unveils its National Juried Exhibition of Traditional Oils at Southwest Gallery in Dallas. With over 200 paintings on view, the show opens with a reception for the artists on Friday, May 13, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. An awards ceremony follows that includes special events in celebration of OPA's 25th anniversary and over \$100,000 in prizes.

Collectors will want to arrive in Dallas early since the days leading up to the opening offer multiple art-related events, including a panel discussion titled *The Art of Collecting*. The discussion begins at 3 p.m. on Friday and is moderated by OPA member artist John Pototschnik. Avid

collectors—including Salmagundi Club chairman Tim Newton and OPA board member Jim Bruce—discuss how they began collecting and share a wealth of information that's as appropriate for artists as it is for collectors.

Artist attendees are invited to participate in a plein-air painting event on Wednesday and Thursday, May 11-12, and the works they create are also for sale during the show. *Southwest Art* magazine sponsors a Pampered Paint Out at White Rock Lake on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This gives collectors a chance to watch the artists at work. An awards ceremony for the plein-air works begins at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Weekend activities come to a close on Sunday, but the show remains on display at the gallery until June 15.

On the following pages we introduce you to a small sampling of the talented artists accepted into this year's silver-anniversary show. Enjoy a preview of their accepted paintings as well as insight into each artist's inspiration. —*Laura Rintala*

---

## contact information

815.356.5987

[www.oilpaintersofamerica.com](http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com)

---



Village Character, oil, 24 x 18.

## SUSAN PLOUGHE

**What inspired this painting?** This is one of my favorite people, whom I first met in Xizhou, China, in 2008. He really is a bit of a character, so my interactions with him were memorable. When I ran into him during my second visit six years later, he was carrying a stack of photos, including one of the two of us! I love his expressive face and tobacco-stained hands.

**Where did you study art?** I have a BFA in painting from Carnegie Mellon University, as well as working experience as a graphic designer and illustrator. I continue to be inspired and challenged by the work of many living artists.

**What have been some of the highlights of your art career?** Two things come to mind: The first is to have attained signature member status in the Oil Painters of America. It is a huge honor. The second would be my travels abroad, particularly to China. It was on these trips that I discovered my love of painting people, and that has informed much of my work since.

**What are your goals for the future?** More! More paintings, more galleries, more sales, more workshops, more travels to paint more fascinating people! There are more than 7 billion people in the world; I have a lot to do.

**What galleries represent your work?** Linden Gallery, Ellison Bay, WI; Germanton Gallery, Germanton, NC; Greenwich House Gallery, Cincinnati, OH; [www.susanploughe.com](http://www.susanploughe.com).



Summertime Portrait, oil, 12 x 9.

## STEPHANIE DESHPANDE

**What inspired this painting?** My painting was inspired by the song "Summertime Sadness" by Lana Del Rey. The impassioned lyrics stuck in my mind, and I was driven to depict them visually. Although I hoped to incorporate more elements from the song, I ended up loving the simplicity of my daughter's pose and the subtle emotion it embodied.

**Where did you study art?** I earned my BFA in painting at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, but I longed for classical art training. I studied in the Boston School tradition for a month at Ingretson Studio and then under Steven Assael and Vincent Desiderio at the New York Academy of Art, where I received my MFA.

**What have been some of the highlights of your art career?** It was an honor to be asked to paint a portrait of Myra Thompson, one of the victims in the 2015 Charleston church shooting, as a tribute to her and as a remembrance for her family. I have been fortunate to be in Women Painting Women shows and will be in the WPW traveling museum exhibition planned for 2017. I had the opportunity to teach at the Teaching Studios of Art in Long Island and Chelsea Classical Studio of Fine Art in New York City.

**What are your goals for the future?** I would like to continue teaching and take on more portrait commissions.

**What galleries represent your work?** Arundel Art Room, West Essex, England; [www.stephaniedeshpande.com](http://www.stephaniedeshpande.com). ♦