

Nova Plein Air Artists (NPAA) – Artist Bios

Anne Alden

Anne Alden began her oil painting journey after retirement by studying oil painting with local and national artists. She is a member of NOVA Plein-air Artists and enjoys painting in the great outdoors as well as her studio. She enjoys painting with pallet knives and various tools along with her brushes. Her work has been juried into shows at the Virginia Art Factory, Art at the Mill, and Creative Brush Studios as well as shown at The American Horticultural Society at River Farm, Green Spring Gardens, The art of Great Falls, and participating plein-air events in Falls Church and the Virginia Arboretum.

Laura Bollettino

Laura Bollettino has a passion for capturing nature's landscape and the emotional reaction it inspires. She invites the viewer to be in the moment with her through bold and expressive use of paint, texture, and palette knife work. Her work has been on display in several shows in the surrounding DC area and she was most recently awarded the Juror's Choice Award at Flowrailia Paint the River 2022 and second place in the Clifton Art Guild Plein Air Painting Festival & Competition.

Tracy Burk

After earning a BFA from Concordia University in Montreal, Tracy Burk worked for many years as an illustrator for books and magazines, textile designing as well as museum work and teaching. She has lived in several cities in Canada, France, San Antonio, TX, and currently resides in Virginia. Tracy is an active member of Loudoun Sketch Club, and NPAA.

Amelia Cheuk

Amelia enjoys the optimal experience of putting paint on canvas - rendering beauty of a Landscape, distinctive setting of a Still Life, delightfulness of flowers, or mood of a Portrait.

She studied under the instructions of a world-renowned painter in Los Angeles and became an instructor at the Art School he founded. She now has relocated from L.A. to northern Virginia and appreciates the opportunity of regularly painting at the National Gallery of Art, being granted the museum permit to copy directly from the original master painting.

Anne Meagher-Cook

Anne studied Fine Art at the College of William and Mary and had a long career in art related fields, including graphic and exhibit design, video production, and e-learning development. She paints impressionistic landscapes in oil and particularly enjoys painting en plein air, which combines her passions for art and the great outdoors. She is a member of Falls Church Arts and the Vienna Arts Society and is represented by Nepenthe Gallery in Alexandria, Virginia.

Paula Cottrell

Paula Cottrell is a member of The Oil Painters of America, NOVA Plein Air Artists, The Art League of Alexandria, Loudoun Sketch Club, and the Artists of Middleburg. Virginia Galleries showing her work include: The American Horticulture Society Headquarters at River Farm, Art at the Mill; The Art League of Alexandria; The Artists in Middleburg Gallery; The Art Factory in Manassas; Suffolk Cultural Arts Center; The Arts of Great Falls; Green Spring Garden Gallery, Alexandria; The Waterford Fair Fine Art Exhibit; and The Rose Gallery, Reston. Paula was invited to compete in the first Suffolk Plein Air Invitational in 2021. Other Plein Air competitions include Falls Church and Great Falls, and the Blandy Experimental Garden Plein Air competition. Paula majored in fine art at the University of Oklahoma. Now an Avid Plein Air painter, Paula is a member of NOVA Plein Air Artists and the Loudoun Sketch Club. Works include landscape and still life done in oil on canvas.

Layla Gray

Layla Gray's style is varied, ranging from realistic impressionist to abstract painter. Her favorite medium is oil, and she finds the delicate brush strokes soothing to the soul.

Maureen Guillot

Maureen paints landscapes, portraits, and still life using oil paint, pastels, watercolor, and graphite. Her favorite subject to paint is "what is out there in the world"; in other words, plein air painting.

Margot Heineman

Margot loves painting outdoors as the light changes the colors and mood of the scene. Bull Run and the Manassas Battlefield are her favorite locations to explore in pastel and acrylics.

Amy Mann

Amy Mann works primarily in oils and mainly from life, whether a still life, plein-air landscape, portrait, figure, or museum copy. She earned a BFA in Painting in 1979 from the Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts). Amy has been a registered Copyist at the National Gallery in Washington, DC since 2000. Originally from Queens, NY, Amy has lived in Northern Virginia since 1964 and currently resides in Centreville.

Theresa Miller

Theresa Miller is a painter of watercolors and oil paintings. She looks forward to weekly painting sessions with NPAA, in private gardens and at public parks in the greater Washington DC area., but also enjoys painting from life in her home studio. Theresa is also a copyist in the Copyist Program of the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. It gives me great pleasure to spend one day a week copying the Masters and interacting with people from all over the world.

Marilyn Miyamoto

Marilyn's love for the vibrance of color and her keen interest in Impressionism makes the perfect foundation for plein air painting. As a co-founder of Nova Plein Air Artists, she is continuously exploring the interplay between color, light, and form in outdoor settings.

Abigail Davis Muncy

Abigail Muncy (b. 1970) is a contemporary landscape oil painter inspired by the impressionist tradition of painting, especially the work of Morisot, Pissarro, and Sorolla, as well as, their precursors to Impressionism such as Turner and Constable. Working plein air or outside allows her to look for compositions in the landscape that inspire a particular mood, particularly feelings of peace or tranquility. She also is inspired by the juxtaposition of rich neutrals with vibrant color. She has been a member of NOVA Plein Air Painters since 2023.

Rachel Garcia Palmer

Rachel is a contemporary fine artist and muralist from Reston, Virginia. She has been creating art and working in the design field in one form or another for almost 4 decades. She is one of the cofounders of NOVA Plein Air Artists and a resident artist at Gateway Gallery and Gifts in Round Hill, VA. Rachel is also a proud member of The Art League in Alexandria, VA, Artists in Middleburg, and Loudoun Sketch Club.

Rachel's work focuses primarily on realism, be it landscapes, portraiture, or even live on-site event painting. She also enjoys painting the occasional non-representational/abstract commission. While she paints mostly in oil, her favorite mediums tend to be charcoal and graphite for the dramatic contrast in textures and values they offer.

Christine Raymond

With over three decades of experience in the art world, Christine Raymond is an established figure renowned for her impressionistic style with a contemporary and expressionistic flair. Her artistic journey is deeply intertwined with her love for plein air painting, a passion she seamlessly integrates with her appreciation for hiking and nature.

As a professional artist for over 17 years, Christine actively contributes to the artistic community as a member of NOVA Plein Air Artists, where she paints weekly throughout Northern Virginia. Her talent and dedication have earned her recognition in various plein air competitions and art exhibitions, including placing 3rd at the Art of Great Falls event Paint Great Falls, receiving Best In Show at The Light and Shadow: The Essential Elements Exhibit at Artists in Middleburg, and winning People's Choice in Paint! Manassas 2019.

Robin Rosner

Robin's oil paintings are a variety of still life to landscapes. Robin enjoys working with contrast, strong colors and shadows. Painting in oil produces some wonderful colored pigments on a palette. Robin splits their time once a week between NGA as a copy artist and their studio in Great Falls, Va. In the spring Robin enjoys painting in plein air and connecting with nature, composition, and color. For more info visit: robinrosnerart.com

Margaret Stewart

Margaret Stewart discovered both plein air and oils early in COVID and hasn't stopped since. She uses paint to figure out the world around her and capture her experiences.

Robert Thoren

An avid proponent and practitioner of plein air painting, Robert Thoren has relished the opportunity to paint the Northern Virginia landscape. Before moving to Virginia in 1993, Robert studied with teachers closely associated with the late Russian emigre impressionist Sergei Bongart. Robert paints in a sensual, impressionistic style emphasizing vivid color and the employ of dramatic brushstrokes. His artistic goal is to suggest spontaneity while maintaining a firm mastery of drawing and painting techniques. Robert teaches landscape and still life painting and is an active member of both NOVA Plein Air Painters and Washington Society of Landscape Painters.

Vicky Zhou

Vicky Zhou is an award-winning watercolor plein air painter who loves to paint beautiful architecture and landscapes. The vibrancy in Vicky's paintings reflects a passion for expressing the energy and life within her subjects.