



# Fleeting moments

The tradition of plein air painting is one that has lasted over the centuries, with artists setting up their easels and reinterpreting the sights of the great outdoors firsthand. In the new exhibition *Fleeting Moments: Works en Plein Air* at American Legacy Fine Arts in Pasadena, California, 25 artists are spotlighted, with their perspectives on plein air painting being revealed. According to the gallery, the show will feature more than 40 works that

capture the ephemeral qualities of light.

*"Fleeting Moments* joins the discourse in defining contemporary plein air painting and explains the practice as creating works outdoors, al fresco, as a way of expressing spontaneous reactions to a subject affected by natural light and atmosphere," says gallery director Elaine Adams. "The key to understanding the concept of plein air is in evaluating the artist's success in capturing a realistic sense of natural light and

atmosphere and their combined effects in a moment of time that has stirred the artist's emotion—whether completely painted on location or further refined in the studio."

Participating in the show are contemporary California Impressionists as well as artists influenced by landscapes of New England, urban settings and more. Among them are **Peter Adams, Warren Chang, John Cosby, Quang Ho, Michael Obermeyer, Joseph Paquet, Daniel W. Pinkham, Ray Roberts,**







1  
**Peter Adams, *Evening Splash, Leo Carrillo Beach***,  
 oil on panel, 16 x 20"

2  
**Warren Chang, *Plein Air***,  
 oil, 14 x 11"

3  
**Tim Solliday, *San Gabriel Summer***,  
 pastel, 7 x 8"

4  
**Daniel W. Pinkham, *Still Waters***,  
 oil on panel 8¼ x 8"

**Mian Situ, Tim Solliday and Jove Wang.**

Chang's piece for the exhibition is from his series depicting artists painting. Titled *Plein Air*, the work shows an artist participating in the *Carmel Art Festival's* plein air competition. "During this time of year, you can find visiting artists painting throughout the Monterey Peninsula painting in plein air," says Chang. "The location for this particular painting is near Lovers Point in Pacific Grove, California."

*Still Waters*, by Pinkham, is a quiet waterside scene with lush grasses and reflections of the forest in the ripples of the water. "The simplest encounter with nature's purity of verse," he says. "I hope never to grow deaf to her."

In his art, Peter Adams focuses on "painting the light, the mood and the emotional impact" and finds *Fleeting Moments* to be an ideal vehicle for this painting style. "I try to paint images and lighting conditions that are harmonic and last for only an instant," he says.

*Fleeting Moments* opens with a reception Friday, November 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. The artwork hangs through December 15. ●



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