

SHAWN ESCOTT'S
**TRAVEL
JOURNAL**

Plein Air Convention & Expo 2018



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Shawn Escott

Artist Biography

Attention to detail and painterly strokes make the plein air paintings of Shawn Escott uniquely his own. His major influences are the American Impressionists, Plein Air Painters of America and many contemporary artists working today. He studied at the Lyme Academy of Art but is mostly self taught.

From capturing sunrises and sunsets, to painting the light of a fleeting moment, Shawn enjoys chasing the effect of nature's brilliance.

Shawn won first place at Plein Fun Fest, Plein Air Palm Beach 2016 First Inaugural Event. His work has been shown at Sotheby's International Realty, the Boca Raton Museum All Florida Exhibition, The Boca Raton Museum of Art School, The Boca Raton Historical Society, and The Cornell Museum.

Shawn is represented by Papagallery in Boca Raton, Florida and Arsenault Studio & Banyan Arts Gallery in Naples, Florida.

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SANTA FE PLEIN AIR MAGAZINE'S
7TH ANNUAL
PLEIN AIR
CONVENTION
& EXPO

Shawn
Escott
Boca Raton, FL

SPONSORED BY *Rosemary & Co*
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SECOND TIMER



Wet Panel Carrier and new brushes!

Last year at PACE17 I learned my lesson about painting different sizes for my panels and frames. This year I kept everything 9x12 inches, which made it relatively easy to transport and frame. I was researching wet panel carriers and decided to make my own. It's light weight and can hold 10 panels. You can make your own with foam board, hot glue, ruler, xacto knife and a little patience.

I also ordered a variety of new brushes from Rosemary and Co. Possibly the best brushes on the planet! Their service and professionalism is top notch!





Welcome to Santa Fe

I found the architecture and landscape design of New Mexico to be unique and charming. The adobe style buildings, with their rounded edges and clay earth tone colors, particularly stood out to me. Although the weather was dry, I still found blooming flowers and beautiful landscaping with rocks, desert plants and trees.

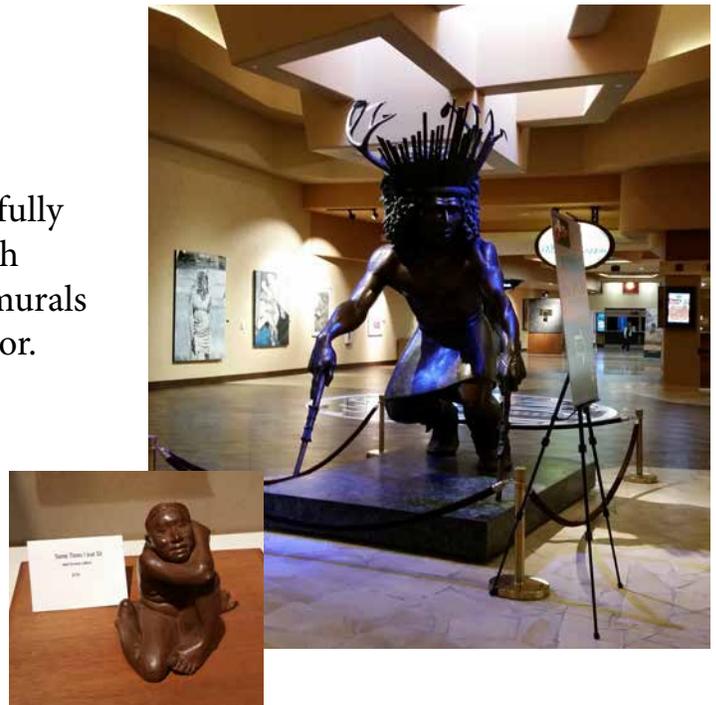


Buffalo Thunder



Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder

I was so impressed by this hotel and venue. Eric Rhoads and the staff at plein air magazine really outdid themselves this year. The hotel was beautifully decorated and housed an amazing amount of high quality artworks. Sculptures, paintings, pottery, murals and Native American artifacts adorned the interior. The events were perfectly timed, structured and executed. Everyone was professional, friendly and willing to help at the drop of a hat. Amazing people!

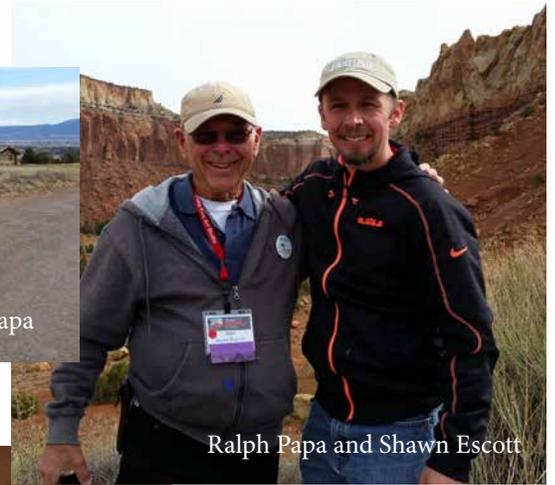




Heather Martin



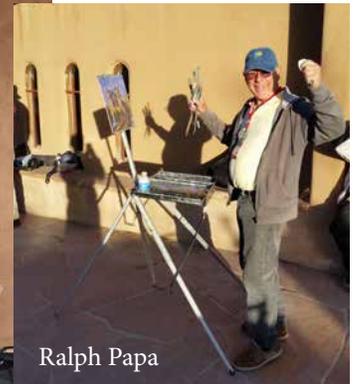
Ralph Papa



Ralph Papa and Shawn Escott



Al Biegel
Photo by Heather Martin



Ralph Papa



Ralph Papa, Heather Martin
and Shawn Escott

Camaraderie

I was lucky enough to be with my good friends Ralph Papa and Al Biegel at the convention. Both are fantastic artists and it was great to have people to hang out with. While walking in the hotel lobby I saw someone I thought I recognized from instagram. I asked if her name was Heather Martin and she said yes. Ralph invited her to go painting with us and thus began our fantastic painting camaraderie. Heather is a brilliant artist and kind person who is well on her way to becoming one of the greats.



Shawn Painting. Photo by Heather Martin

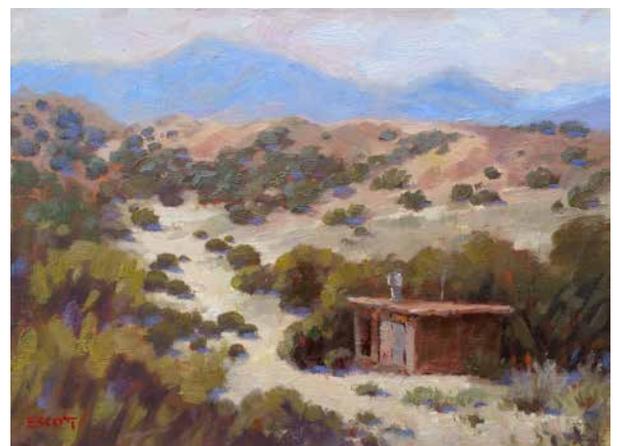


Photo by Heather Martin

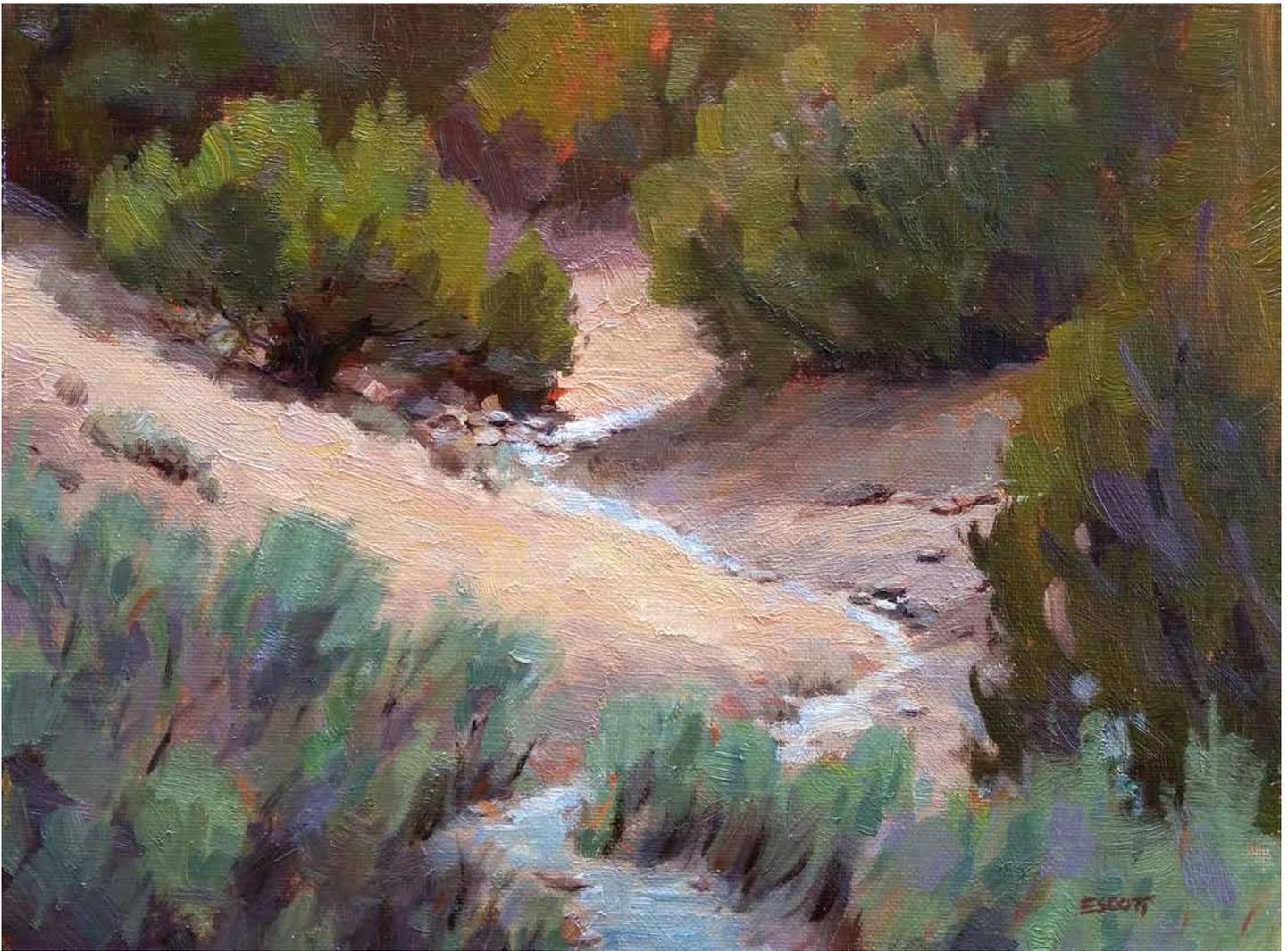
Ralph Papa and Shawn Escott

First Painting in Santa Fe

This was my first time in New Mexico and I was amazed by the landscape, how wild and rugged it looked. I thought the way the juniper trees dotted the desert floor and hillside was captivating. The patterns flowed like marbles down the hills, bumping and merging together..



Santa Fe
9x12
Oil on panel



Water Path

9x12

Oil on panel



A church behind the hotel

Dry Environment and Imagination

Many times a landscape may spark the imagination, however, it can lack that special something. As I worked on this painting I imagined water flowing down from the top of the composition. I saw a ditch where it would have trickled down and created a stream. I love the little rocks under the bush and the opposing angles.



Rugged landscape



Bill Davidson giving a demo

Informative and Entertaining Presentations & Demos



Joseph Gyurcsak giving a demo

At the heart of the conference are the demos and presentations. The knowledge shared about painting and the business was priceless! The demos were full of wonderful tips and how-to's with a bit of humor thrown in. The art marketing bootcamp was chock full of helpful tips for selling art and getting it out into the public eye.





Evening in Chimayo

9x12

Oil on panel

Chimayo

Hundreds of artists converged at Chimayo to paint en plein air. It was absolutely thrilling to see everyone enjoying themselves painting this spectacular place. The beauty was unbelievable and the character of the buildings unique. Stefan Baumann, a fantastic artist and super great guy, gave me one of his water bottles because I was dying of thirst! I also met Kathryn Stats and totally geeked out. I think she is one of the greatest painters working today.



Photo by Heather Martin



Best Souvenir Ever!

When I displayed my final painting on an easel at the convention I found this note written on my wet paint label. Best souvenir EVER!!!



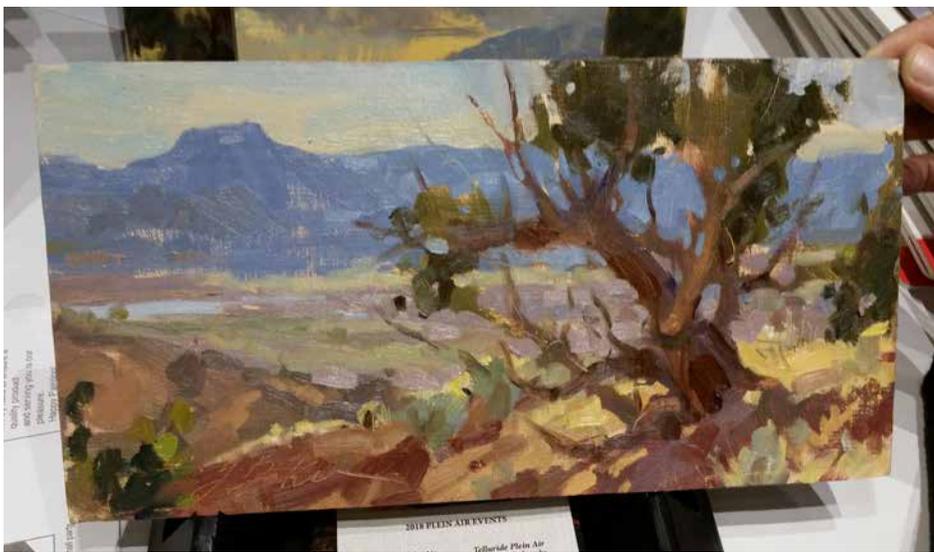


Palm Beach Crew

Ralph Papa, Al Biegel and myself representing Florida in Santa Fe. These guys are amazing friends, mentors and are always there to help out in a pinch.

Ralph and I were also able to catch Jim Wodak for a photo with the \$15,000 check! He said the bank wouldn't cash it for some reason.





An amazing painting by Suzie Baker! I love this! She also gave a wonderful demo.

New friends! I met a lot of people this year and everyone was so kind.



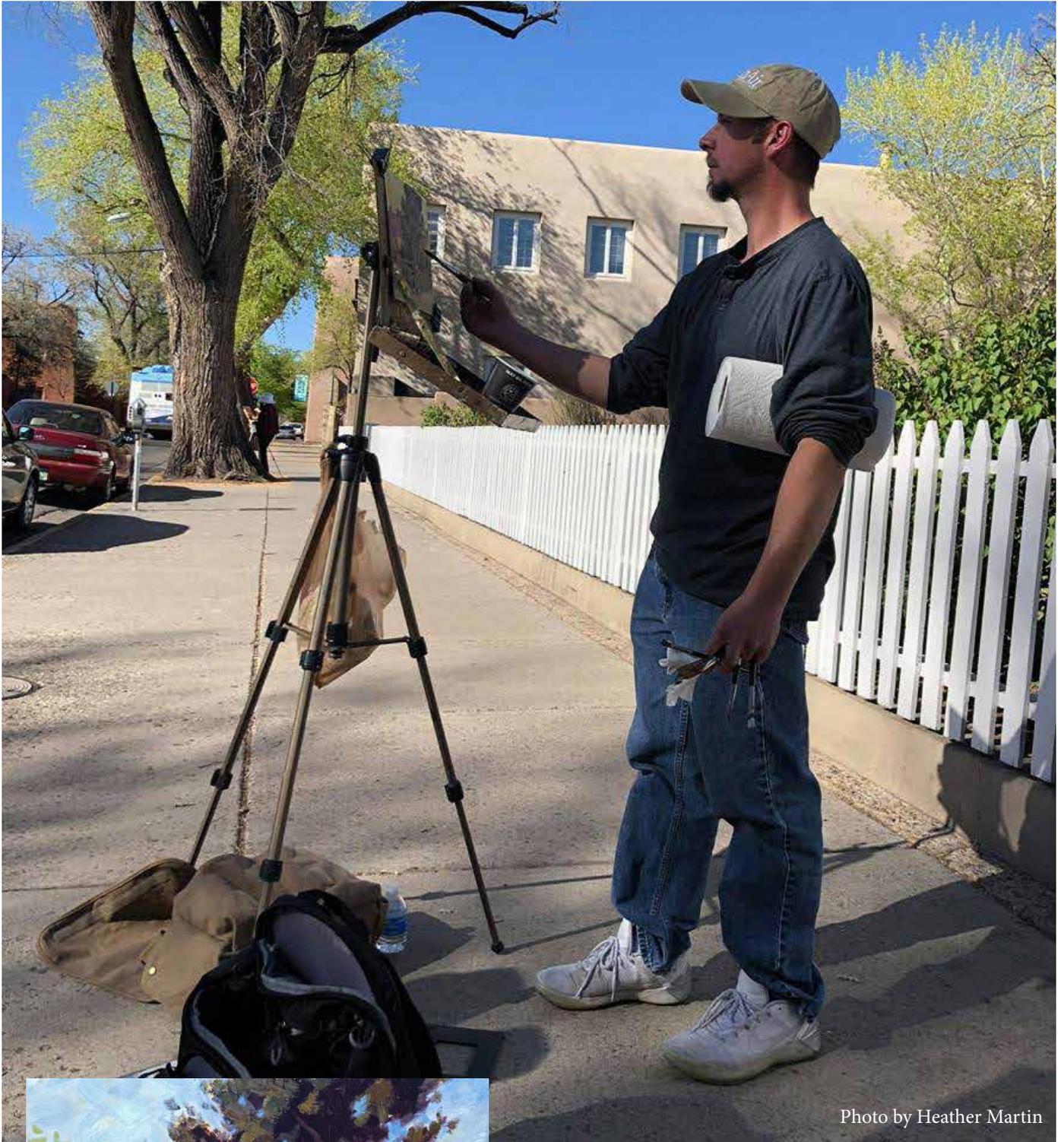


Photo by Heather Martin



Downtown Santa Fe

The weather during the day was absolutely beautiful. Many onlookers walked by and asked what was going on. We told them about PACE and they were excited and wanted to know more.



A street view of Santa Fe



Heather Martin painting a masterpiece



Stunning Light

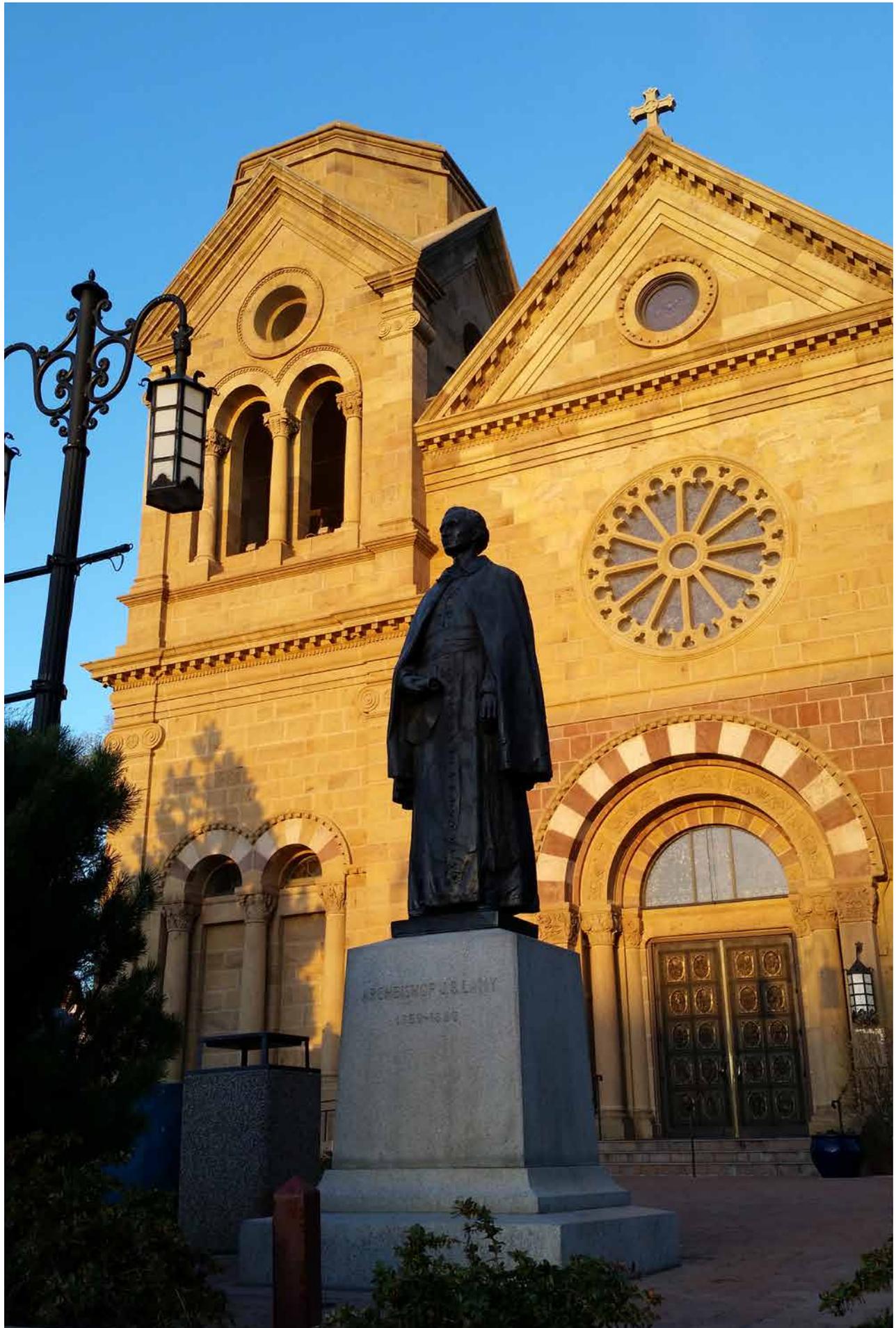
The evening in Santa Fe got really cold, enough to make us shiver uncontrollably. But that didn't stop the light from dancing across buildings, roads and monuments. Something about being 7,199 feet above sea level makes the air clearer and the light is able to sing. The thing with sunsets is that they only last a few minutes. When you're painting them it is extremely difficult to capture. You have to be really fast or go back on a similar day and continue where you left off.

Hungry Painters

We found a nice little restaurant called the Shed, where we saw other hungry and exhausted painters. The food was outstanding and company equally enjoyable. Although we were all pretty wiped out from painting and the cold, we managed to make it back to the hotel in one piece. I'd call that a good day of painting!



Photo by Ralph Papa





Juniper Trail

9x9

Oil on panel

Cold and Windy

The wind started to pick up and was only going to get worse. I did this painting before Kevin Macpherson was to give a demo. I hurried it as quickly as I could and raced over to catch the demo. Kevin's books have influenced me a lot over the years.



Random tumble weed blowing
in the parking lot



Eric Rhoads

I kept bumping into Eric at the convention and paint outs. What a great person with a huge passion for painting and big heart to help everyone learn how to paint.

Dan Mondloch

I met Dan at PACE17. He's a super talented artist and the nicest guy you could meet. He was Ralph and my ride to some of the paint outs last year.



Jim Wodak

I first became aware of Jim's work in the magazines. I was entranced by his paintings. He won the \$15,000 prize in the Plein Air Magazine contest. Super cool dude!

John MacDonald

I met John for the first time this year and I'm really glad I did. I caught one of his demos and was blown away. Not only is he a fabulous painter but he's also a very articulate teacher.





View at El Rancho de Las Golondrinas

9x12

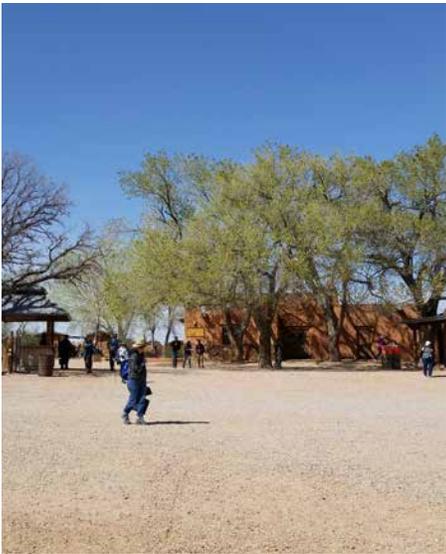
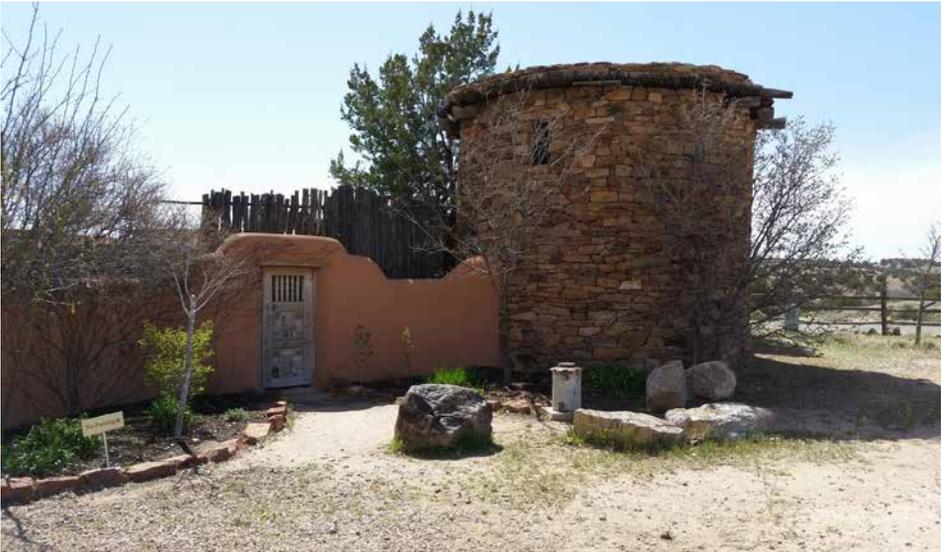
Oil on panel

Wind and Dust Storms

The forecasts were calling for extreme wind conditions with gusts up to 60mph. We have those in Florida and they're called tropical storms! That's getting close to hurricane strength winds. Nevertheless, being the hardcore painters we are we soldered on. I must have breathed a pound of dust and dirt into my lungs!



Ralph Papa and Al Biegel



Photos from El Rancho de Las Golondrinas

PACE PARTY!



PLEINAIR™ MAGAZINE'S
7TH ANNUAL
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& EXPO





Mingling with the Pros

It's amazing who you bump into at PACE. Most of the time all you have to do is start up a conversation and you'll be surprised who you meet. Heather and I had a wonderful time with the brilliant artist Thomas Kegler. He has a video from Streamline Art Video where he paints Niagara Falls. Google it!!! And then buy it! He wowed us with his paintings and made us feel like part of the family.



Shawn Escott, Ralph Papa and Tom Elmo



GHOST RANCH



Shawn Escott, Ralph Papa, Heather Martin, Al Biegel



Ghost Ranch

3x4

Oil on panel

A Magical Experience

This was the first time I painted mountains and I was really excited to give it a go. The views were spectacular! The icing on the cake was the snow that started to fall on my palette. I yelled out, “It’s snowing!!!”

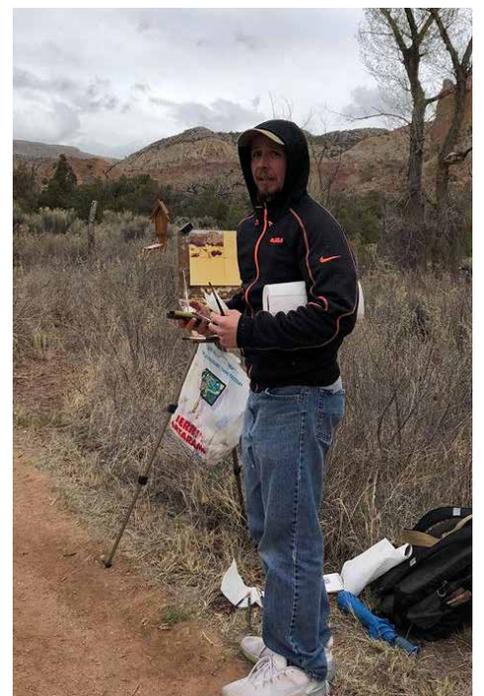


Photo by Heather Martin



View from O'keeffe's cottage

3x4

Oil on panel

Painting in the Footsteps of O'keeffe

There's no limit of subject matter at Ghost Ranch. A painter could spend a lifetime here, oh wait, Georgia O'keeffe did that already! You can see her cottage in the photo to the right. I understand why she loved this place. It's magnificent.

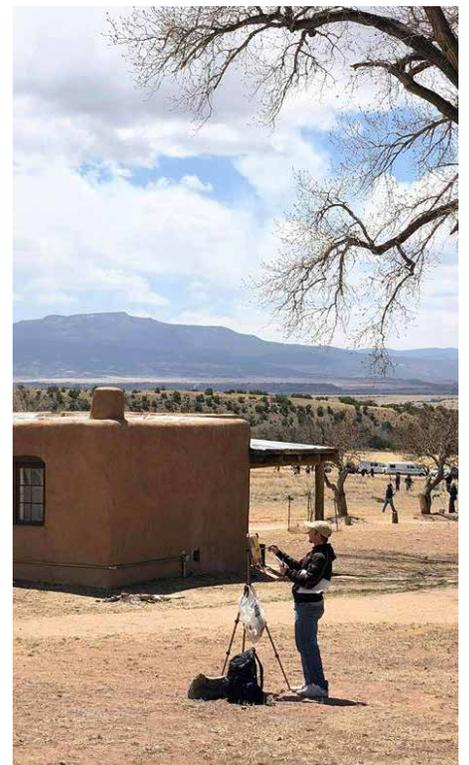


Photo by Heather Martin



Mountain Stream at Ghost Ranch

3x4

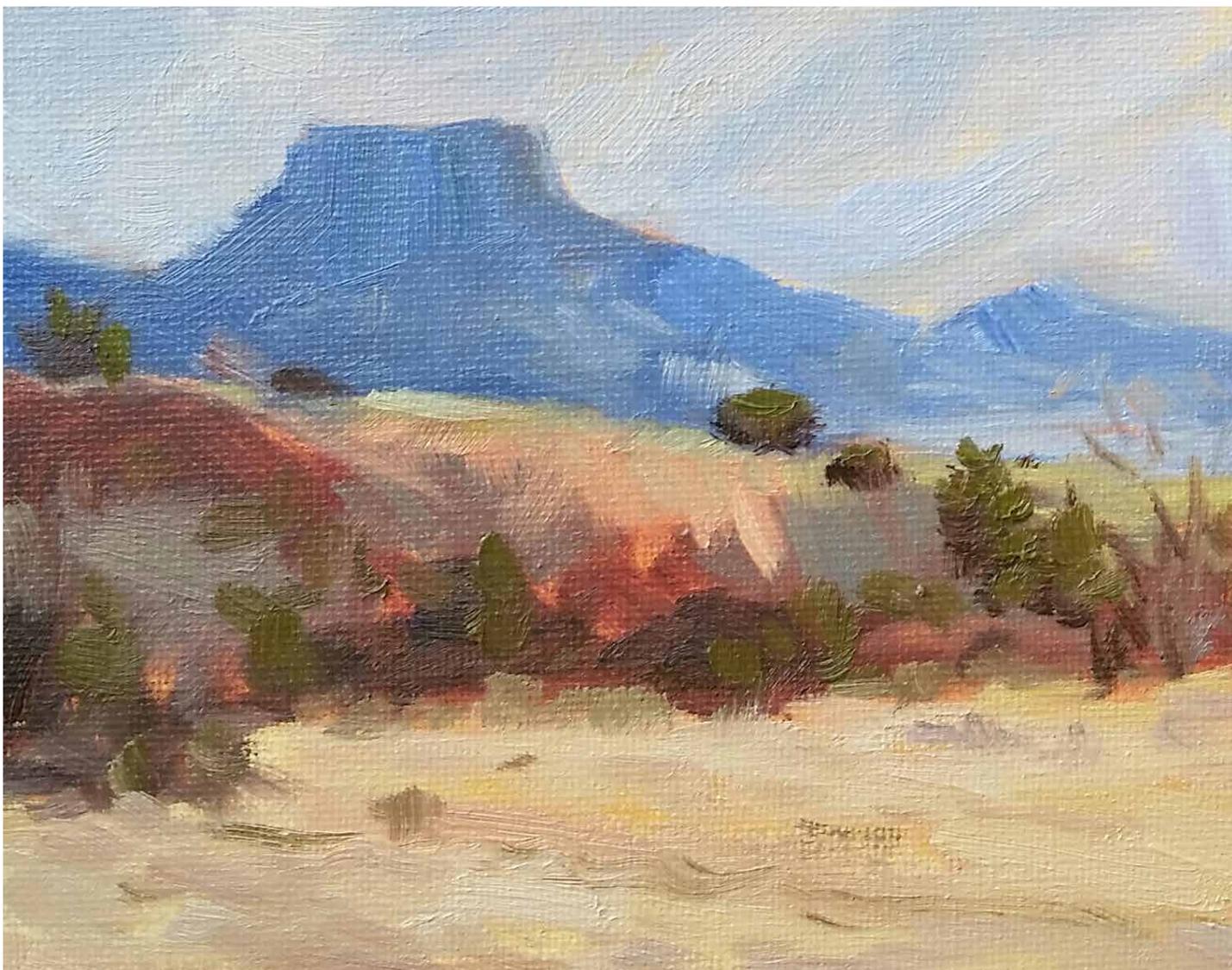
Oil on panel

Finding Water in New Mexico

I have to admit, I didn't see much water in New Mexico. Maybe a river or two but that's it. I was happy to find a little stream and old tree which seems to be reaching out for a taste. The colors, textures and distant mountains are fun to paint.



Photo by Heather Martin



Distant Blue

3x4

Oil on panel

Final Painting of the Day

The sun started to set and the air was getting cooler. My final painting was completed in less than an hour and ended the day with a fascination of this beautiful part of our country. I wish we could have stayed another week or two but home was calling and it was soon time to go.



Photo by Linda Fleischman



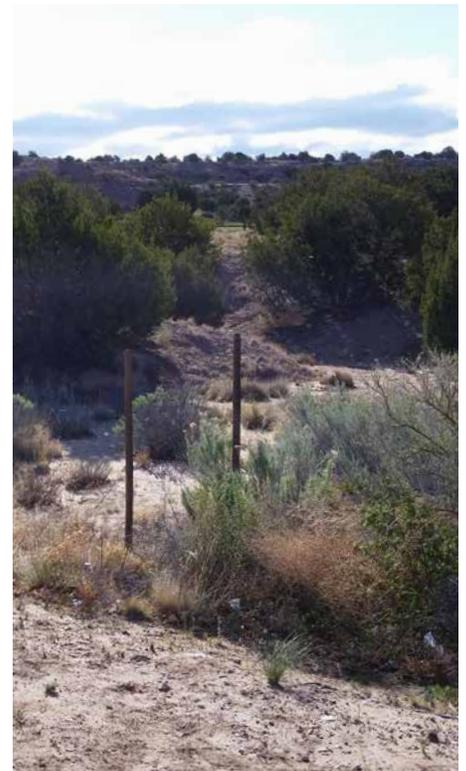
Magic of Santa Fe

3x4

Oil on panel

Last Painting From Santa Fe

I had a few hours before leaving to the airport and I wanted to get another painting done. This scene is behind the Buffalo Thunder Hotel. Even this little area has a plethora of different subjects to paint. The backlight coming through the leaves of the tree caught my eye. I also liked the textures and variety of colors.





Until Next Year...

Thank you for letting me share my journey with you! This was my second time attending the Plein Air Convention and Expo and it's getting better every year. It's a life-changing event and I'm so glad I was able to attend. I met new friends and reunited with old. It was truly a memorable experience.

ESCOTT

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