

## Exhibit Title: San Joaquin Plein-Aire Painters – Plein-Aire Landscapes of the Valley

Group Info: Plein air painting is the practice of creating art outdoors, directly in the natural environment. It emphasizes capturing the essence of a scene, often with a focus on natural light and atmosphere.

**SUSAN COLEMAN GUZZETTA** is a local artist who has called the Central Valley home for over forty years. As a teenager, Susan studied oil painting with local artists from the Mojave Desert during her time there. She later continued her art studies at the Art Students' League in New York City. After living overseas for several years in Europe, North Africa, and Greece, she returned to the Los Angeles area where she studied for a year with Russian artist, Sergei Bongart. Currently, Susan is a member of the Door Art Gallery and the Tuesday Plein Air Painting group. Susan's figurative work has received numerous awards over the years at the Nudes in November shows at Chris Sorensen's Studio. Her work was featured in the Central California Blood Center calendar for several years and she was also a contributing artist for the River Parkway Trust's Parties for the Parkway.

**MAXINE FARGASON** has been pursuing her passion for painting for approximately 40 years. She has attended many classes and workshops, both locally and abroad, growing as an artist thanks to the invaluable instruction from notable instructors. Maxine uses her talents to create beautiful paintings of landscapes, portraits and the occasional still life. She especially enjoys Plein Air painting. Maxine has received numerous awards for her creations including the Mary Krause Award at the Clovis Annual Open Show, given for "the greatest skill and knowledge of basic art principles" and the Cornelia Hanel-Malley award at the Society of West Coast Artists San Bruno Annual Exhibit. She is no stranger to Best in Show recognitions, or first and second place ribbons.

**SALLY MOSS** is an award-winning artist who shows paintings across the country and proudly claims the title of Signature Artist of the Alliance of California Artists and the Society of West Coast Artists. As an elementary school child Sally was awarded free class time to paint and draw after her seat work was completed, feeding into her love of art. She received an art scholarship at the age of ten to the Fresno Art Museum, at the time known as the Fresno Art Center. Sally's love for art and travel continued as she received her B.F.A. from Graceland University. Sally continued studying art while working on a post graduate degree from Fresno State University. Sally now spends her time between homes in Fresno and San Francisco when she is not traveling to far ends of the world with her family, painting the places they have visited and loved.

**LAURA SILBERMAN** attended many art exhibits as a child growing up in Los Angeles with her mother at the LA County Museum of Art where she grew a deep appreciation for the French impressionists. Nearsighted as she was, she could easily relate to the lack of detail and dominance of shape and color in their paintings. Laura has always had a passion for art and has enjoyed the last 12 years pursuing this love. She has studied with outstanding local artists, including Ann Lewis, Shannon Bickford and Janice Leppke, as well as national

watercolorists Tony Couch and Dale Laitinen. She has exhibited and sold watercolor paintings in various Fresno area studios and has won several awards at the Sorensen gallery.

**MARILYN TORCHIN** draws inspiration from nature to create stunning watercolor landscapes and botanicals. Some of this influence comes from her Plein Air painting group excursions each Tuesday. She is influenced by the intricacy and biodiversity of the Central Valley's local surroundings. Marilyn uses digital photos she takes while hiking, traveling, or exploring new and unusual places as motivation while painting. Over the past few years, she has developed new special techniques for creating mixed media abstract paintings. She lets her work evolve as she takes the pieces in and out of their working stage to add color, texture, or depth. Marilyn is a Signature Member of the Society of West Coast Artists and has won many awards in various art shows where she has displayed her works.

**RANDY VIGER** draws inspiration from the beauty of nature and paints in the impressionist style. Originally from Canada, Randy has been painting in Plein Air around Fresno for many years.

**CONNIE M. CLAES** has continued her art following retirement in the medical field. She began as a member of Alliance of California Artists and transitioned to Society of Western Artists after A.C.A. closed. She enjoys pen and ink as well as other mediums. She has completed portraits of people and pets in pen and ink. Her favorite medium of pen and ink consists of renditions of moiré's where the lines form a flow using basically only her hand and pen. Nothing mechanical is used to create her moirés.

**JEANETTE JOHNS** recently relocated from Southern California to the San Joaquin Valley. She previously painted and exhibited with the Plein Air group, SO CA Papa. She is thrilled to have found and to paint with this talented and dedicated group of Plein Air artists. Loving the seasonal changes and the stunning scenery of the Valley, she finds it compositionally challenging and inspiring – so many reflections! Additionally, she is transitioning from watercolor Plein Air to Oil painting and embracing the logistics of that new perspective. Jeanette received her BFA and MA from Cal State Univ. Long Beach, where she also taught art for twenty plus years.

**NANCY STEGALL** is a local artist who loves to paint plein air. She moved to Fresno and got a degree from Fresno City College in Legal Secretary but took art classes there too. After working as a legal secretary for six years, she quit law and went to Fresno State majoring in graphic arts. Then, Nancy went back into law as a paralegal and then as an attorney, but she continued to paint as her hobby. Now, she is retired and painting as her second career. Nancy worked inside so long, she finds that painting with nature is a true outlet for her. She enjoys painting local scenery with her friends on Tuesday mornings, and Nancy also travels and paints plein air in Europe and Argentina.

**KIM BUNCH** developed a lifelong appreciation for art, initially learning methods from books and exploration. In the 1990s, Kim owned and operated a small business in Old Town Clovis specializing in decorative art on furniture and accessories. Kim collaborated with local craftsmen to build custom pieces and restore found furniture, embellishing each with hand-painted floral and fruit motifs. Though physically demanding, the business was successful for more than fourteen years. Kim later pursued formal instruction under a fine arts teacher, selling select works and gifting others, and takes pride in creating pieces that remain cherished within their family. Continuing to grow as an artist, Kim has studied with professional artists both online and abroad, including Nancy Medina and Chris Fornataro, and is an active member of the San Joaquin Plein Air Painters in California's Central Valley. Grateful for the artistic journey, Kim primarily works in oil paints while also exploring acrylics with enthusiasm.