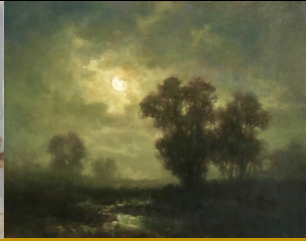


OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA

2021 NATIONAL SALON SHOW | JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 7

AT THE QUINLAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER



DIANE FECHENBACH

Watercolor, Oil, Pastel

Painting isn't heart surgery. It is supposed to be fun. I delight in finding interesting subjects and then trying to capture these three-dimensional subjects on a two-dimensional surface. That is only half of the picture (if you will). What really gets my juices going is capturing light. More specifically: light and shadow. Better yet, really dramatic light and shadow, or complicated light and shadow. The challenge is in identifying all of the light sources, analyzing them, and trying to render them in paint. Some light sources are pretty obvious: sunshine, lamps, fire light. Other light sources (the really intriguing ones) are not so obvious: light reflected from other objects or multiple light sources. Sometimes shadow areas have multiple light sources – but are still in shadow. To make it more entertaining, each light source has a different color, so the objects it hits appear to be different colors. Rendering these complex lighting puzzles is the most fun of all.

I have always looked at the world this way. From the time I was a little girl I saw the world as a series of paintings. Everywhere I looked there were wonderful compositions and delicious color. It was a shock when I learned that other people did not “see” this way. My observation is that every small child starts with a keen eye and fearless passion for art. Preschoolers draw and paint with glorious abandon. Somehow that joy gets lost along the way and adults grow up thinking they cannot master art. Now, as an instructor, I delight in helping others rediscover this joy.

Plein Air (outdoors) painting is one of my favorite things. Sitting in the sun (occasionally in the rain), enjoying the breeze and the birds twittering (but not the bugs) opens up the senses. I make sketches in oil, pastel, or watercolor and ink. While soaking up the local color, it is a great way to meet people. When I travel, these sketches are mementos of the places visited. Back in the studio sketches provide subjects for larger paintings, where the fun begins again.