



Eric Fei Guan

Plein air painting is undoubtedly a creative source for artists to learn and cultivate from nature. To me, plein air painting is bringing the wild fruits of nature back to the studio with me where plein air painting and art creation are always integrated. It is similar to the laboratory where sorting, testing, debugging, and modification happens.

Art creation - with the intense concentration and observation - produces rich, and vivid expression, carrying the artist's objective vision and reflecting the spiritual values of an era.

Whether you are classical and realistic, or modern and freehand, as long as you can feel your heart in the process of creation, this is the driving force behind art.



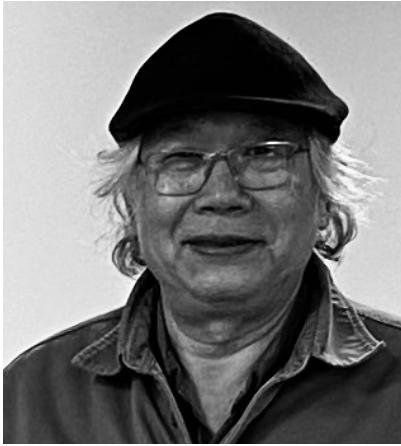
Lee Rue

Born in 1962, Lee Rue received an MFA degree from Academy of Art University, San Francisco in 1998. He started his career as a designer and for many years taught art, design and lighting techniques at FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising), Academy of Art University, and UC Berkeley Extension in San Francisco.

Lee is a current associate member of Oil Painters of America, National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society, and American Impressionist Society. He resides in Petaluma, CA.

Recently, I have been fulfilling my childhood dreams as an artist from my family tradition. My painting style combines realistic basics with impressionistic colors, brushstrokes and light. Romanticism in general can be seen throughout most of my paintings with a mythical and slightly untamed style.

My passion to create in this unique style of oil painting never fades...



Zhiwei Tu

In 1970s in China I did not know about America. But a few things were famous including two things from California - the light and the special fruit from California agriculture.

In 1987 I came to the United States to study oil painting and continue my art career. I visited California many times to see galleries in Carmel, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

When I was here I felt the REAL California light. It is bright, very bright!! In 2001 my son got a tech job in San Jose and we often stayed with him all the while enjoying the California light. In 2015 with the birth of my grandson we moved permanently to Brentwood in northern of California where I have continued to focus on the sunlight.

This year I had the opportunity to attend a few Art & Ag farm visits where I did landscape painting on Daniel B. Hrdy's farm in Winters. It was there that I saw the amazing light in his barn and got very excited. I could not stop painting the light on the old agricultural machines and tools. Now I have completed several large canvases. My paintings show that the California light is still shining bright on agriculture and on California history



Benjamin Wu

Born in 1961, Benjamin Wu studied art at the Guangzhou Fine Art Institute in China from 1978 to 1985. Upon completion of the oil painting program, he became a teacher at the Guangzhou Fine Art Institute. He came to the United States in 1986 to continue his artistic studies and received his MFA from Academy of Art University (formerly Academy of Art College) in San Francisco in 1991.

His work has been featured in arts magazines and shown in exhibitions throughout the United States including Arizona, Colorado, and Texas, and internationally.

His exquisite paintings have garnered many awards including, most recently, the *Frederic Remington Painting Award for Artistic Merit, Prix De West*, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in 2019.

He resides in San Francisco with his wife and daughter.



Richard Yang

I like to paint rural themes and natural scenery paintings. During my observations, I pay attention to the landscapes of California's central valley. Why am I so interested in the agricultural themes of the valley in painting?

Looking back when I was in elementary and middle school in China in the 70s, students were required to visit nearby rural areas to help farmers and go to factories for labor internships. Its purpose was to cultivate children's labor awareness and ability, to experience the joys and sorrows of laborers, and to establish a correct outlook on life.

After middle school China was undergoing changes and social progress, and I was admitted to the Oil Painting Department of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts with the goal of realistic painting. The method of learning back then was to observe the beauty of natural phenomena and to understand and experience the beauty of life.

When we were in my second year, the teacher led us into the deep mountains of central China for a month. From morning to night, we feverishly painted. The natural scenery was so beautiful. The men, women and children so simple and kind. In order to better observe and understand the villagers, we sometimes lived in the farmers' homes. We ate with them, worked in the fields together, attended weddings, and gathered together just like family members. After we returned to school this experience improved our ability to draw upon personal experiences and feelings and reflect them in our paintings.

The activities that YoloArts provides for artists to visit the farms to meet the farmers are in line with my past experience, which is why I like to participate in the Art & Ag Project. These personal encounters continue to inform and influence my paintings and creative process.