

Plein Air Painting of Theodore Payne Foundation by the San Fernando Valley Art Club July 3 - August 16, 2014

The Theodore Payne Foundation is pleased to present a summer show of *plein air* painting of the TPF site by members of the San Fernando Valley Art Club (SFVAC).

Since 1943, The San Fernando Valley Art Club has provided a continuing forum for artists of all skill levels working in most art mediums. Guests are welcome to attend monthly meetings and demonstrations. Additional information can be found on the club's website at sfvartclub.org.

In early April, 16 members of SFVAC gathered at the Foundation for three days of on-site sketching in preparation for the exhibition. Their presence at TPF gave visitors a chance to observe the creative process and talk to artists about their work.

En plein air is a French expression meaning "in the open air," and is used to describe the act of painting outdoors. Artists have long painted outside. However, in the mid-19th century, working in natural light became increasingly important to multiple schools of art, including the Impressionists, whose work focused on ordinary subject matter and the changing qualities of light.

The popularity of *plein air* painting increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paint in tubes, which replaced the task of grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. The box easel was invented during this period, increasing the ease and portability of art supplies. In the mid-20th century, the invention of fast-drying, water-based acrylic paint added yet another convenience.

Interest in *plein air* painting continues today. There is something profoundly satisfying, even meditative, about working outdoors. The artist is inseparable from the environment. Birds sing and insects buzz, as the painter works to capture the ever-changing sunlight and shadows.

With this exhibition, the Foundation continues its support and outreach to local art groups.



Morning Light (Theodore Payne Headquarters Building), 2014
Frank Lennartz
Oil

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Work has begun on our new educational facilities!

- Nursery and store are open during construction
- Picnic area has been relocated to north of the tree yard
- Port-a-potties are north of the tree yard
- North parking lot is open
- Please do not park on the easement access road
- Take a peek at the progress, but please stay out of the construction zone

