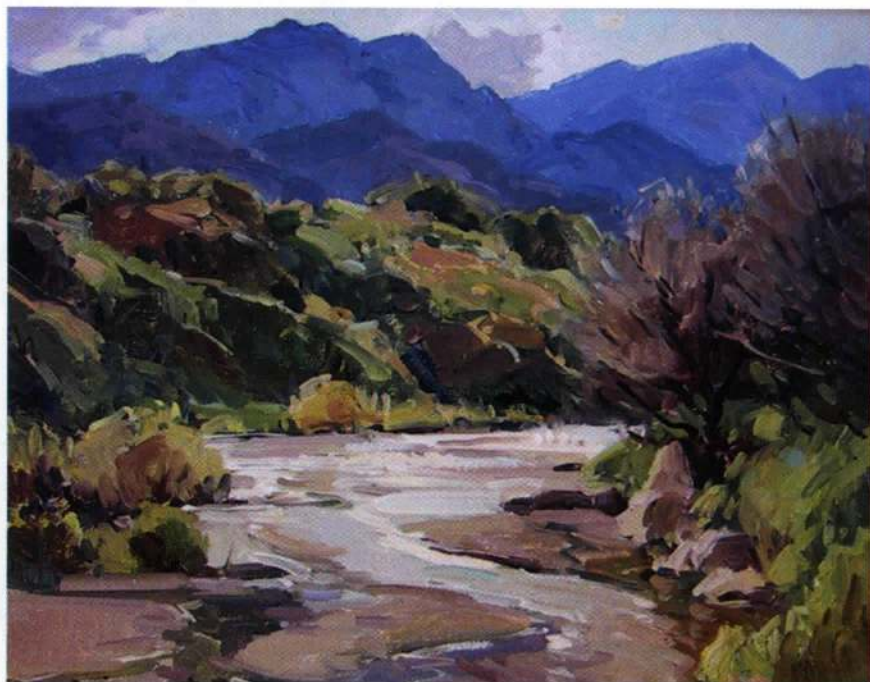


From the Desert: Plein Air 2005 Winners



Montana painter Josh Elliott took home two awards and California artist Daniel Pinkham won Grand Prize and \$10,000 at the awards ceremony for Plein Air 2005 on March 5 in Tucson, Arizona.

Nearly 60 artists were invited to paint in the Sonoran Desert last January and February as part of the event, which was held at, and organized by, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, which is located just outside of Tucson. A Quick Draw Competition was held earlier in the day, challenging more than 25 artists to paint a scene on the grounds of the museum in less than two hours. Elliott won the Quick Draw Award and \$2,500 for his painting *Grand View*.

Pinkham's Grand Prize painting was titled *Light of Day*. Duane Bryers, who juried the show with Bob Kuhn, said Pinkham "painted a painting that jumped off the wall."

Elliott also collected the Maynard Dixon Award and \$5,000 for *Catalina Wash*. Matt Smith was awarded the Sonoran Award and \$2,500 for his piece *Recent Rains*, while the Artist's Choice Award and \$1,000 went to Gregory McHuron for *Catalina Gold*. The Plein Air Magazine Publisher's Choice award and \$1,200 was given to Len Chmiel for *Two's Company*. Scott Brems, Gregory Hull, Glenn Renell, and Jason Situ were each awarded honorariums by the Tucson Plein Air Painters' Society. For more information about the event, visit www.pleinair2005.com. To learn more about the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, go to www.desertmuseum.org.



TOP
Catalina Wash
by Josh Elliott.

ABOVE
Recent Rains
by Matt Smith.

LEFT
Light of Day
by Daniel Pinkham.