



Michael Obermeyer, "Autumn Afternoon." Fine Art Connoisseur Award

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Winsome Winners in Laguna

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A star-studded, heavily attended painting competition in Laguna Beach represented landscape art at its finest.

The **Laguna Plein Air Painters Association** hosted an exhibition of stellar new paintings last weekend, following its annual plein air painting challenge. The **16th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Painting Invitational** ran October 12-19, and artists and collectors who attended the week's festivities continue to rave about their experiences. As ever, the impressive vistas of the Southern California landscape and the scenic coastline in Laguna offered exceptional subject matter. It was all smiles for those involved, but the winning artists must have been smiling a little bigger.



Michael Obermeyer receives the *Fine Art Connoisseur* Award for "Autumn Afternoon" during the Afternoon Collectors' Soiree for the 16th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Painting Invitational. (L-R): LPAPA President Greg Vail, *Fine Art Connoisseur* California editor Vanessa Rothe, artist Michael Obermeyer, and California and Southeastern Regional Sales Manager for *Fine Art Connoisseur* and *PleinAir* magazines Krystal Allen. Photo: Rick Lang

Michael Obermeyer took home the *Fine Art Connoisseur* Award, earning him a full-page advertisement in an upcoming issue of *Fine Art Connoisseur*. **Josh Clare** won the *PleinAir* Magazine Award, netting him a half-page advertisement in an upcoming issue of *PleinAir*, and **Paul Kratter** claimed the *OutdoorPainter.com* Award, for which the artist receives a one-month Web advertisement.