

W. Jason Situ

W Jason Situ was born in Kaiping, China, where he was faced with the changes and challenges brought about by the country's cultural revolution under Mao Tse Tung. His interest in art took hold, as he copied propaganda and slogan banners, before connecting with Szeto Lapa, who introduced him to plein air painting and, later, with Mian Situ, who became his mentor. Eventually, Situ was able to study at the Guanzhou Academy of Fine Arts, where his style evolved into impressionistic realism.

Fast forward to 1989. Situ left China and immigrated with his wife Lisa and their two children to the United States, where they made their home in Los Angeles, California. He worked at a warehouse and soon began to paint portraits and caricatures in his spare time, before earning a reputation as a talented landscapist, whose focus was—and still is—on light, color, and mood.

"After I got to California, it was so exciting," Situ says of the natural beauty of the area. By 1997, he was painting full-time, enjoying the freedom to paint whatever he wanted whenever he wanted, wherever he wanted.

Within four years, he had earned a gold medal from the Oil Painters of America.

"The mood is most important," Situ says of his landscape paintings. "Colors also are very important to catch people's eyes, especially when at an art show. And composition is important; drawing must be good and strong."

Those are all elements in a Situ painting, as he captures landscapes that feature everything from mountains and canyons to the desert and the coast. "I like to catch the mountain colors in the distance, not up close," he says. "My favorite place is Catalina Island; I paint there a lot. I also like the San Luis Obispo area and Carmel and Palm Springs."

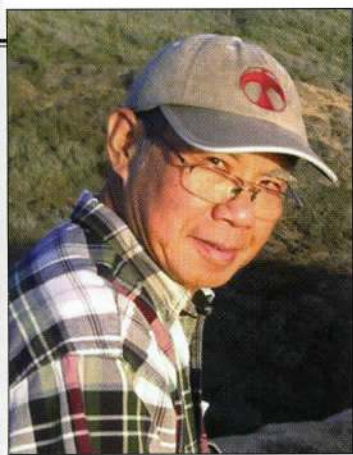
Situ participates in many plein air events each year, during which artists paint throughout the day, but says, "I like the afternoon light with shadows; it's my favorite. In a plein air event in Sedona, I got up before



Morning Light, oil, 11" by 14"

"During the Paint the Peninsula 2016 I did this very exciting painting quickly at the shipyard of Port Angeles. It won the Best of Show Award."





*Below - A Vigorous Moment
oil, 24" by 36"*

"When possible, I like to watch the sunset over the lake in a small park next to my house. Although each day is different, it's always an amazing moment. After years, the sunset has become one of my favorite subjects. I finished this large sunset painting in the studio for last year's California Art Club (CAC) Gold Medal Show. It received the Irvine Museum Award for Best Landscape and was purchased by the CAC for its permanent collection."

sunrise and finished seven paintings that day. I started with the sunrise and ended with the sunset; I only stopped for a little lunch. Now I've slowed down; I don't do so many events. One year I did more than 10; now I do two or three. I like to paint outside. In nature, everything can change. It's very exciting, but you have to catch it; you have to focus. You can get some really happy moments. I try to paint outside two or three times a week."

When he started painting landscapes, Situ says he painted what he saw. Today he does some visual editing of the scene before him. "I not only copy the scene, I have to do some personal style to look like it but better," he says.

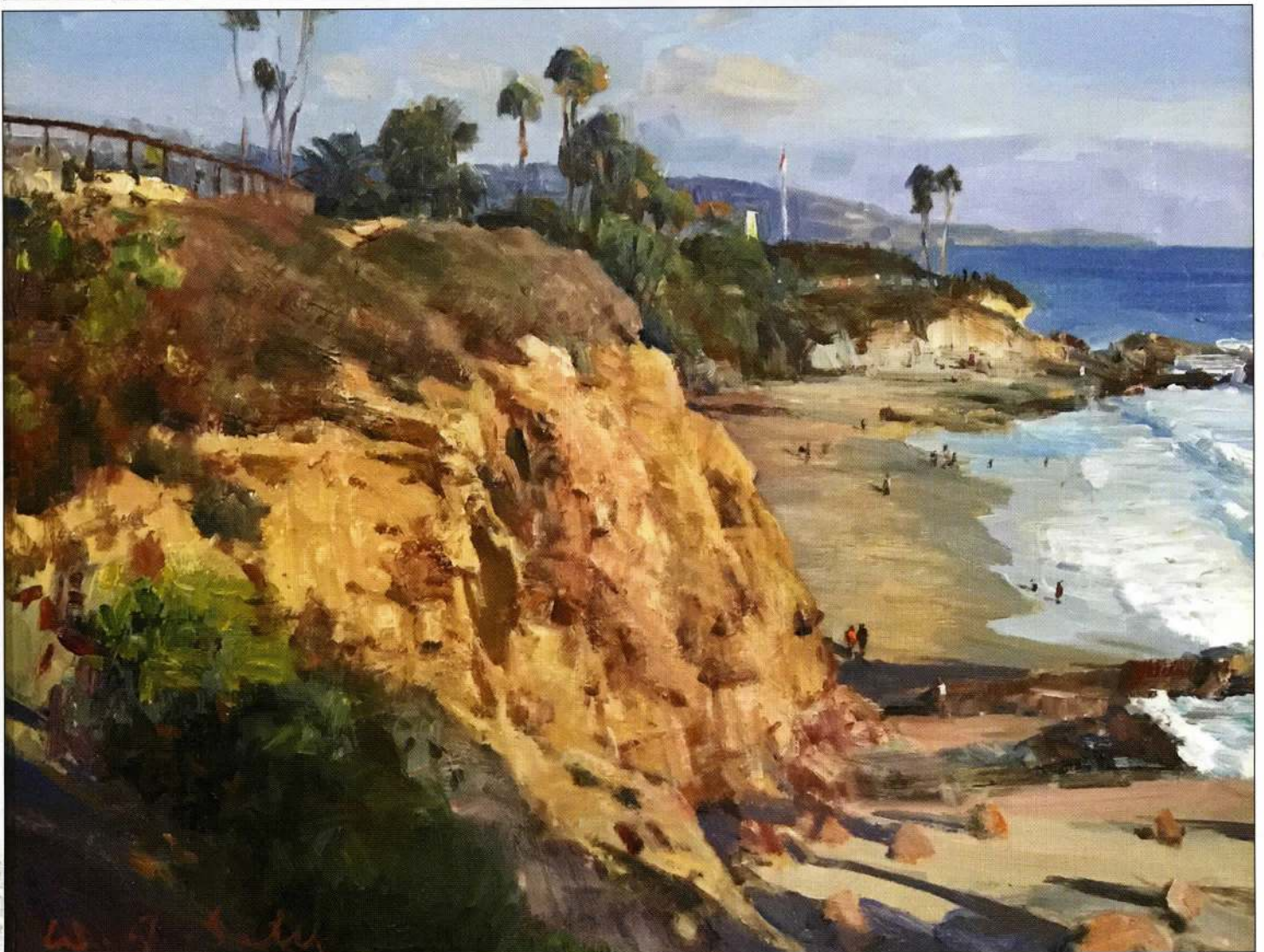




While Situ is happy to paint the landscapes that surround him in California, he says he also would like to paint in Montana, Alaska, and Hawaii. "I have a dream, too," he adds. "I hope to go to New Zealand. So many things inspire me. I like to spend my time in nature; it always makes me happy. For me, it is more relaxing than in the studio, and the color is amazing."

A Quiet Afternoon, oil, 24" by 36"

"For this this year's California Art Club Gold Medal Exhibition, I did this painting in my studio. Find a beautiful spot, spend two to three hours painting what you see—it's always my happy time."



Late Afternoon Colors, oil, 16" by 20"

"I have joined the Laguna Beach Plein Air Painting Invitational almost every year since 1999 and have done hundreds of paintings in the area, but there are still so many fascinating things to paint. This is a view in Laguna Beach Heisler Park; it stopped me that afternoon."