



Leslie Allen

January 2016

**Happy New Year!**

**We wish you all the best in 2016; may you and your families  
enjoy good health, prosperity, and happiness and may  
there be peace for all on earth.**

.....  
ARTMA Coming in February!  
Get tickets: [artmaonline.org](http://artmaonline.org)

This painting will be up for Auction  
Value: \$1720 Minimum Bid: \$500



©Land Pattern #13 12" x 36" Oil/Museum Wrap Canvas  
From the popular Land Pattern Series!  
Abstracted Landscape – Missouri Valley in Iowa

Thank you for helping to defeat Childhood Cancers.  
The Morgan Adams Foundation Pediatric Cancer Research Fund

.....  
Several paintings left the studio last Holiday season for new homes!  
Thanks to new and current collectors! We are *most grateful* for your interest in my work.  
We wish you a very Happy New Year!





**Don't forget to call and make your appointment to visit the studio! 303-752-2029**

**If you cannot come to the studio, call and tell me which piece on the website you are interested in!**

**Will mail or ship unframed (Deduction will be applied) or framed if you wish.**

**Current Patrons will receive a discount of 20%.**



**A recent Interview reprinted with permission by PAAC.**

**Featured Founding Emeritus Member  
By Tracy Haines**

**Leslie Allen**

**<http://www.allenfineart.com/>**



*Leslie painting at the OPA event in Evergreen 2012  
Photo by Bonnie Gangelhof*

Leslie Allen is one of the founders of Plein Air Artists Colorado and served for many years as Main Contact.

Leslie, tell us a bit about yourself.

Leslie Allen (LEL): I am primarily known as a prolific Plein air painter. Recently, I have been receiving accolades for my larger "abstracted" studio works. I'm reinventing myself at 73!

Plein air has become difficult for me due to macular degeneration and other medical problems so I paint in the studio where I can control the light and see what I'm painting.

Tracy Haines (TH): Briefly describe your role in founding PAAC:

LEL: In the beginning, there were just a few of us who studied with Jay Moore at the League (Art Students League of Denver) and we started going out to paint together. We met artists all over the state who started painting with us. We started showing together around the state and in Chicago by invitation and in Santa Fe on Canyon Road. Before you knew it, we were becoming good at putting on shows and events and we decided to give ourselves a name (Plein Air Artists Colorado) and go forth. We specifically chose "Artists" vs "Painters" because at the time we knew sculptors who were working en Plein air.

Then we discovered a group with almost the same name. We met with them to discuss how our groups were similar and might join together. So PAAC and PAC became PAAC and we went national, and the rest is history.

We didn't ever have a "president" per se. We each took on different duties and on certain issues we had to have a unanimous vote.

TH: What were some of your duties as board member?

LEL: I recall at one point being Secretary but I think someone else took that on later. I was the main contact for the members much as Holly Kernes is now. I did a lot of the follow up and show planning, and the PR. I was the CaFÉ™ administrator. I taught Holly the CaFÉ™ and she has taught Jennifer.

TH: What have you been doing artistically since retiring from the PAAC board?

LEL: I've mounted some solo shows that challenged my ability to work to a deadline! I always have a list of paintings that I want to do. They boggle my brain until I actually paint them! I paint my irises every spring, and hollyhocks every summer. I

send a regular (monthly) newsletter to a list of almost 300.

TH: When did you first become interested in art?

LEL: My grandfather was a Canadian artist and so I was always interested in visiting his studio to see his paintings and we had his paintings in our home. I began to paint when "Santa Claus" brought me a paint box, paints, brushes, and an easel one Christmas. I have a small 8x10 painting I did back then and it says on the back that I was 12 years old. He painted my portrait when I was 16 as a surprise for my parents; I have it in my collection. I've been painting ever since! My grandfather also had beautiful gardens and he bred iris; people would come from miles around to see them! That could be where my love of iris comes from.

TH: Where do you sell your work? ( galleries, festivals, internet...)

LEL: I sell from my studio and occasionally my website [www.allenfineart.com](http://www.allenfineart.com). A collector is coming to the studio today to purchase the painting she saw last time she was here and it stuck in her mind! She now has four. (And she will bring her friends who are all commenting on her new paintings!)

I show with PAAC and WAOW and I sell through those shows. I occasionally sell at Framed Image in Denver. I have sold to local curators who place the work in commercial sites. I pulled out of galleries a few years ago.

TH: What is your biggest challenge when painting en Plein air?

LEL: Well, now that my eyes are not good, I find it difficult to "see" the colours\* and values; and everything is pretty blurry. The sun isn't good to my eyes. I still LOVE being out there with the PAAC but the results are usually not as great as they used to be. My balance isn't great and I've fallen and fractured my ankles. My Canadian painting pal drove me from Rocky Mountain National Park to Boulder and I drove back to Denver (after we stayed and painted 3 pieces each); then I went to the ER!

\*Canadian spelling

TH: Briefly describe your most interesting or funny Plein air experience.

LEL: There have been so many. I remember painting in Silver Plume with Fran Gottlieb one time in the winter and we were in the path of huge big-horned mountain sheep; we got out of the way quickly. Fran didn't want to move pronto but the males were butting the females to get going! I've had never been that close to wild animals before. Wish I could remember all the times; should have written them down!

TH: Please tell me about an interesting non-art aspect of yourself that people might be surprised to know.

LEL: I was an ICU nurse for many years and taught cardiology/electrocardiography to coronary care nurses. I had PTSD for a long time after leaving Nursing and woke up with nightmares of some of the most challenging and horrific cases we had. I'm getting a headache just thinking about it. As a result, I have always wanted to just paint some of the "beautiful" things around us.

TH: What is your long-term goal as an artist?

LEL: At this age, I just want to paint what I want to paint when I want, and how I want. I recently painted a portrait of my dear deceased brother's dog because he always wanted me to and I never got around to it when he was still alive. I gave it to his grandson.

TH: Any tips on tools, techniques or gear for the budding Plein air artist?

LEL: I've always used the "Z Box" (Greg Zimmerman) and he also made me a great carry box that holds different sizes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amBmpAOxlZw> [greglzbox@yahoo.com](mailto:greglzbox@yahoo.com)

Greg Zimmerman is the one to go to for mounting linen to panel and cutting to specific sizes. I'm loyal! Find someone who does what you want and does it well and stick with them. Same goes for a good framer!

TH: What advice do you give an artist just starting out?

LEL: Just paint and paint some more and keep painting. It is the frequent exercise of painting en Plein air that makes you get better and better.

That's why PAAC is so wonderful. You can find a group in Colorado to paint with almost every day of the week. You will make great lifelong friends and learn from one another.



*Five Points Hollyhocks*  
11x14 Oil Plein Air  
By Leslie Allen