

Michael Chesley Johnson, MPAC, AIS, PSA, PSNM

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Detailed CV

****Featured in *The Artist's Magazine*, September 2013****

Biography

One of the country's top plein air painters, Michael works in oil and pastel in the American Southwest, coastal Maine and the Canadian Maritimes. He has been an invited artist to many national plein air painting events over the years and has competed in challenging locations such as Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks. In 2013, he was featured in *The Artist's Magazine* and in 2012 was an invited artist demonstrator at the First Plein Air Convention in Las Vegas.

Elected a Master Pastellist by Pastel Artists Canada in 2008, he is a Signature Member of the American Impressionist Society and the Pastel Society of America. He is the author of *Backpacker Painting: Outdoors with Oil & Pastel* and *Outdoor Study to Studio: Take Your Plein Air Paintings to the Next Level*. A long-time writer for *Pastel Journal* and Contributing Editor for *The Artist's Magazine*, he splits his year between Maine and the Southwest, painting and teaching in both areas. Michael also specializes in teaching small-size plein air workshops in oil and pastel for all levels of painter and for painters desiring mentoring. In 2014, he was designated a Gamblin Dedicated Workshop Instructor by Gamblin Artists Colors, Inc.

Signature Member:

- American Impressionist Society
- Pastel Artists Canada (Master Pastellist)
- Pastel Society of America
- Pastel Society of New Mexico

Founding/Charter Member:

- *Founder*, Two Countries Art Tour (annual Canada/US tour with 60+ artists)
- *Founder*, Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy
- *Founder*, Quoddy Artists Studio Tour
- *Charter Member*, Landscape Artists International

Awards

- Paint Sedona Plein Painting Program was recognized by National Geographic Geotourism Program for sustaining and enriching the unique aesthetics, culture, environment and heritage of the Sedona area 2017
- Honorable Mention, Castine Plein Air Festival, Castine, ME 2016
- Gamblin Artist Colors Award for Main Street Paintout, Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona AZ 2015
- Award of Merit (Judge, Jim McVicker), Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona AZ 2014
- Honorable Mention, Castine Plein Air Festival, Castine, ME 2014
- Merit Award, Montague Plein Air Festival, Montague, PEI 2014
- Honorable Mention, Castine Plein Air Festival, Castine, ME 2013
- Honorable Mention, Annual Juried Show, Arizona Plein Air Painters, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona, AZ 2013
- Honorable Mention, Fall Juried Members Show, Arizona Pastel Artists Association, Manheim Gallery, Cottonwood AZ 2010
- Outstanding Genre Award, 4th Annual Northeast National Pastel Exhibition, Old Forge, NY 2008
- Oil Painters of America Shiril Smithson Scholarship in April 2008
- Scottsdale Artists School Scholarship in February 2007
- Diane Townsend Award, Pastel Painters of Maine National Show 2006

- Fourth Place, Pastel Society of New Mexico Juried National Show 2004
- Daler-Rowney Award of Merit, Pastel Society of the Southwest Juried Membership Show 2004

Outdoor Painting Events

- Grand Canyon Celebration of the Arts, "Plein Air on the Rim" Invitational 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 (Invited Artist)
- Invited Artist, Sedona Plein Air Festival 2006-2011, 2014-2016 AZ (Invited Artist)
- Plein Air Magazine 1st Annual Plein Air Exhibition & Expo, Las Vegas 2012 (Invited Artist)
- Where in the World is Plein Air? Juried Event June 2015 (Juried) Sponsored by Illume Gallery, St George, UT
- Montague Plein Air Invitational, Prince Edward Island 2014 (Invited Artist)
- Invited Artist, Castine Plein Air Festival, Castine, Maine (2013-2016)
- Plein Air Invitational at Zion National Park, 2011 (Invited Artist)
- Plein Air Southwest 2011, Southwest Gallery, Dallas TX (Juried)
- Invited Artist, Plein Air New Mexico Paintout 2005, NM Invited Artist)

Galleries

- Croucher's Point Gallery, Glen Haven, NS
- Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME
- Goldenstein Gallery, Sedona, AZ
- Pumphouse Studio Gallery, Ramah NM
- Friar's Bay Studio Gallery, Campobello Island, NB

Michael has been represented by galleries in :

- New Mexico (Santa Fe, San Patricio, Cloudcroft, Ruidoso)
- Colorado (Ouray)
- Arizona (Tubac, Sedona, Grand Canyon)
- Maine (Lubec, Bar Harbor)
- New Brunswick (Campobello Island, St Andrews-by-the-Sea)
- Nova Scotia (Glen Haven)

Collections

- (Loan, 2016-) US Department of State, US Embassy Baku (Azerbaijan), Ambassadorial Residence
- Gamblin Artists Colors, Inc.
- Nature Trust of New Brunswick (Canada)
- Lawrence Academy, Groton MA
- artcenter Traverse City, Traverse City MI
- University of Colorado-Boulder
- Northern Indiana Pastel Society / South Bend Museum of Art (Indiana)
- Many other private collections in US, Canada, UK and Australia

Solo Shows

- July 2016: Miniatures of Acadia National Park, Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME
- January/April 2015: Sedona City Hall, Sedona, AZ
- January/April 2015: Mayor's Office, Sedona, AZ
- July/August 2012: Sunbury Shores Art & Nature Centre, St Andrews, NB
- October/November 2009: Lubec Memorial Library, Lubec ME
- March 2005: The Gallery, Roswell Fine Arts League, Roswell NM
- January/February 2004: Hubbard Museum of the American West, Ruidoso NM
- November 2003: Townsend Library, New Mexico State University
- August 2003: Eagle Ranch, Alamogordo NM
- January 2003: Alamogordo Public Library
- January 2002: Catamount Arts, St Johnsbury VT

Group Shows

- *Upcoming*: September 15, 2018-January 14, 2019: Grand Canyon Celebration of Art, Kolb Studio, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ
- *Upcoming*: March 2-July 22, 2018: "Cool, Cool Water" Exhibition at the Phippen Museum, Prescott, AZ
- July 2017-September 2018: *Acadia Invitational III*, Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME
- March 2017: American Impressionist Society Small Works National Open Exhibition, Randy Higbee Gallery, Costa Mesa, CA
- October 2017: 11th Annual Sedona Plein Air Invitational, Sedona, AZ
- September 2016 – February 2017: Grand Canyon Celebration of Art, Kolb Studio, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ
- July-August 2015, 9th Annual Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy Exhibition, Saint John Arts Centre, Saint John, NB
- October 2015, 11th Annual Sedona Plein Air Invitational, Sedona, AZ
- November 2014-January 2015: Grand Canyon Celebration of Art "Plein Air on the Rim" Exhibition, Kolb Studio, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ
- October 2014: 10th Annual Sedona Plein Air Invitational, Sedona, AZ
- July-November 2014: Verde River Exhibition, Phoenix Airport Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- Spring 2014: Architecture of the Southwest, The Phippen Museum, Prescott AZ.
- September-November 2013: 14th American Impressionist Society Annual National Juried Exhibition, Gallery M, Charleston SC (Apple Tree & Fir, 16x20 oil)
- August 2013: "Abstractions of Nature," Two-Person Show, Mulholland Market Gallery, Lubec ME
- July 2013: "A River Runs Thru Us," Verde Artist Challenge Show, Manheim Gallery, Cottonwood AZ
- April 2013: Invited Artist to Sedona Area Guild of Artists (SAGA) Annual Members Exhibition, Sedona Art Museum, Sedona AZ
- March 2013: Arizona Plein Air Painters Annual Juried Members Show, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona AZ
- January 2013: Sedona Arts Center Featured Artists Show, Sedona AZ
- December 2012: Sedona Arts Center Member's Holiday Show, Sedona AZ
- September-November 2012: Grand Canyon Celebration of Art "Plein Air on the Rim" Exhibition, Kolb Studio, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ
- March 2012: Sedona Arts Center Annual Juried Members' Show, Sedona AZ
- October-November 2011: 12th Annual American Impressionist Exhibition, Carmel, CA
- October 2011: 7th Annual Sedona Plein Air Invitational, Sedona, AZ
- September-November 2011: Plein Air Invitational at Zion National Park, UT
- September-November 2011: Grand Canyon Celebration of Art "Plein Air on the Rim" Exhibition, Kolb Studio, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ
- August 2011: Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre, St Andrews, NB (two-man show)
- July 2011: "Pastel by Invite," Invitational Exhibition, School House Gallery, Qualicum Beach, BC
- June-July 2011: "Breath of Fresh Air," Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy Annual Exhibition, Next Door Gallery, Eastport ME
- April 2011: Arizona Pastel Artists Association Members Exhibition, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona AZ
- April 2011: Arizona Plein Air Painters Members Exhibition, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona AZ
- April 2011: Plein Air Southwest Exhibition, Southwest Gallery, Dallas TX
- February 2011: Faculty Exhibition, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona AZ
- November 2010: Fall Juried Member Show, Arizona Pastel Artists Association, Manheim Gallery, Cottonwood AZ
- November 2010: Fall Member Show, Sedona Visual Artists Coalition, Tlaquepaque Plaza, Sedona AZ
- August 2010-September 2011: *Acadia Invitational II*, Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME
- June/Sept 2010: Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy Annual Exhibition, Saint John Arts Centre, Saint John NB
- October, 2010: Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona, AZ (Juried)
- January, 2010: Scottsdale Artist's School "Best & Brightest" Exhibition, Scottsdale AZ (Juried)
- October, 2009: Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona, AZ (Juried)
- September/October, 2009: New Brunswick Museum, Saint John NB (invitational exhibition)
- August, 2009: Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre, St Andrews, New Brunswick NB
- June/July 2009: Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy Annual Exhibition, Lubec ME

- Oct/Nov 2008: 2008 Oil Painters of America Eastern Regional Exhibition, Richland Fine Art, Nashville TN (Juried)
- October 2008: Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona, AZ (Juried)
- August, 2008: Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy Annual Exhibition, Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre, St Andrews, New Brunswick NB
- May-June 2008: Northeastern National Pastel Exhibition, Arts Center/Old Forge, Old Forge, NY (2 paintings juried in)
- May 2008: "Something Fishy" Exhibition, Maine Art Gallery, Wiscasset, ME (Juried)
- 2007/2008: LAI/IPAP World Tour. Orlando, FL; Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, BC; Estes Park, CO; Door County, WI; Newburgh NY; St Augustine FL
- December, 2007: Oil Painters of America Annual Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition, Naples FL (Juried)
- November, 2007: Pastel Society of New Mexico Annual National Juried Exhibition, Albuquerque NM (Juried)
- October, 2007: Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona, AZ (Juried)
- October, 2007: Connecticut Pastel Society Annual National Juried Exhibition, Connecticut (Juried)
- August, 2007: Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre, St Andrews, New Brunswick
- 2007: Paint America "Paint the Parks" Mini Top 50 (Juried)
- July - August 2007: Plein Air Painters of the Bay of Fundy Group Exhibition, Lubec Landmarks, Lubec ME
- October, 2006: Sedona Plein Air Festival, Sedona, AZ (Juried)
- July-August 2006: Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre, St-Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick. Three-person show.
- June, 2006: Pastel Painters of Maine National Juried Exhibition, Heartwood College of Art, Kennebunk, Maine (Juried)
- November 2005: Pastel Society of New Mexico Juried National Show, Albuquerque, NM (Juried)
- August - September 2005: Plein Air New Mexico Members Paintout and Exhibition, The Mission Gallery, Grants, New Mexico (Juried)
- May 2005: American Impressionist Society Members Exhibition, Nichols Taos Fine Art Gallery, Taos, New Mexico (Juried)
- April 2005: Masterworks of New Mexico Exhibition, Albuquerque, NM (Juried)
- November 2004: Pastel Society of the Southwest Membership Exhibition, Richardson, TX (Juried)
- November 2004: Pastel Society of New Mexico Juried National Show, Albuquerque, NM (three paintings were juried in) (Juried)
- March 2004: Pastel Society of America Invitational, Dunedin FL (Juried)
- March/April 2003: Mesilla Valley 8th Regional Exhibition Las Cruces NM (Juried)
- November 2002: Pastel Society of New Mexico National Pastel Painting Exhibition, State Fairgrounds, Albuquerque, NM (Juried)

Residencies

- Vermont Studio Center, April 2002

Books

- *Outdoor Study to Studio: Take Your Plein Air Paintings to the Next Level* (Friar's Bay Studio Gallery Publishing, Welshpool NB 2015)
- *Through a Painter's Brush: The American Southwest* (Friar's Bay Studio Gallery Publishing, Welshpool NB 2012)
- *Paint Sedona! Plein Air Painter's Guide to Sedona, Arizona.* (Pumphouse Studio Gallery, Sedona AZ. 2010)
- *Backpacker Painting: Outdoors with Oil & Pastel.* (Friar's Bay Studio Gallery Publishing, Welshpool NB. 2008)
- *Through a Painter's Brush: A Year on Campobello Island.* (Friar's Bay Studio Gallery Publishing, Welshpool NB. 2007)
- *The Art of Ann Templeton: A Step Beyond.* (Fresco Books, Albuquerque, NM. 2005)

Publications as Subject / Artwork Included In

- "Historic Lands," [American Art Collector](#), July 2017.
- [Art in Embassies Exhibition: United States Embassy Baku.](#) 2016.
- Featured Artist, [Fine Art Connoisseur](#) Website, November 2016

- "Celebration of Art" Grand Canyon National Park, [Southwest Art](#), September 2016
- Goldenstein Gallery / L'Auberge Resort Artist-in-Residence, [Kudos \(Verde Independent, Cottonwood, AZ\)](#), Feb 12, 2016.
- "Artist as Collector: Scott Gellatly" [PleinAir Today](#), Oct 1, 2015. Features MCJ painting collected by Gellatly.
- "Eight Reasons to Base Studio Paintings on Plein Air Studies," [PleinAir Magazine](#), August-September 2015
- "Crowdfunding for Artists," [Professional Artist](#), June/July 2014.
- Bloomfield, Maureen. "Poetry of Earth," Featured Artist, [The Artist's Magazine](#), September 2013.
- Bahr, Bob. "My Favorite Place to Paint," [OutdoorPainter.com \(Plein Air Magazine blog\)](#), June 2013.
- Haas, Cherie. "In the Frame," [The Artist's Magazine](#). April 2012. Interviewed about framing tips.
- Griffel, Lois. [Painting Impressionist Color](#). 2011.
- Spotlight Column, [Sedona Monthly](#), May 2011.
- "You Can Take it With You," [The Pastel Journal](#), August 2010.
- Feature Interview in [Canadian Brushstrokes Magazine](#), Sept/Oct 2008.
- "Award-winning Artist Donates Painting to Nature Trust," [The Saint Croix \(NB\) Courier](#), 15 July 2008.
- "Award-winning Painter Releases New Book," [The Lubec Light \(ME\)](#), July 2007.
- Johnson, Michael Chesley. "Magic in the Maritimes." [The Pastel Journal](#), Dec 2007
- "Art in the Borderlands," [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#), 11 September 2007.
- "Creative Free Trade," [Telegraph-Journal \(NB\)](#), 15 September 2007.
- "Lubec, Campobello, Inspire Painters," [The Saint Croix \(NB\) Courier](#), 14 August 2007.
- Templeton, Ann. *Color and Beyond*. Albuquerque, NM: Fresco Books, 2007.
- Featured Artist, International Plein Air Painters web site, January 2007
- Interview, [Lubec Light](#) (Lubec ME) July 2006
- Interview, [Quoddy Tides](#) (Eastport ME) July 2006
- [The Illustrated Word](#), Episcopal Church & The Visual Arts newsletter, January 2006; March, 2006
- Cover artist, University of Colorado-Boulder Directory, 2006
- [The Illustrated Word](#), Episcopal Church & The Visual Arts Newsletter, December, 2005
- Featured artist, [INK Magazine](#) (cover artist) March 2005
- Painting: "Fog Rolling In, Hamilton Cove Beach," [American Artist](#), March 2005
- Painting: "Fog Rolling In, Hamilton Beach Cove," [Plein Air Magazine](#), January 2005
- Cover artist & Interview, [Stepping Out](#) (Socorro NM) Jan-Feb 2004
- Interview, [Vamonos!](#), [Ruidoso News](#) (Ruidoso NM) January 9, 2004
- Workshop Article, [Vamonos!](#), [Ruidoso News](#) (Ruidoso NM) January 2, 2004
- Interview, [Mountain Monthly](#) (Cloudcroft NM), March 2003
- Interview, [Caledonian Record](#) (St Johnsbury VT), January 2002

Publications as Author on Art-Related Subjects

- Articles regularly in [The Artist's Magazine](#) (2004-present); named Contributing Editor in 2010
- Articles regularly in [The Pastel Journal](#) (1999-present) as Contributing Writer
- Articles in [Watercolor Artist](#) magazine (2006-2007)
- Articles regularly for [Mid-Tones](#) and [HighLights](#), Pastel Society of New Mexico newsletter (2005-2006)
- Reprint of profile on Bob Rohm in [American Artist's Landscape Highlights](#) magazine (Fall, 2005)
- Excerpt from *The Art of Ann Templeton*, [Southwest Art](#), July 2005
- *A Step Beyond: The Art of Ann Templeton*, Fresco Books 2005
- Profile of Artist Bob Rohm, [American Artist](#), November 2003

Workshops Taught (2001-Present)

- US (2001-present): Washington, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Massachusetts, Maine, Alabama, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Illinois, Texas, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina
- Canada (2006-present): New Brunswick, Ontario
- Artist's Network University (F&W Media, 2011-present): Online workshops and critique service

Michael has taught at workshop centers and for art groups such as the following: Northwest Pastel Society (Gig Harbor, WA); Green Drake Gallery (Milheim, PA); Art Barn (Valparaiso, IN); Acadia Workshop Center (Southwest Harbor, ME); Sedona Arts Center (Sedona, AZ); Old Forge Arts Center (Old Forge, NY); Sunbury Shores Art & Nature Centre (St Andrews, NB); Pastel Artists Canada (Burlington, ON); New Hampshire Plein Air (Goffstown, NH); Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod (Barnstable, MA); York Art Association (York, ME); Springfield Area Pastelists (Springfield, IL); Los Reyes Gallery (Tubac, AZ); Bay River Art Guild (Daphne, AL); Roswell Museum (Roswell, NM); Hubbard Museum of the American West (Riudoso, NM); ArtCenter Traverse City (Traverse City, MI); Lawrence Academy (Lawrence, MA); Vermont Pastel Society (Montpelier, VT); Cloudcroft Art Workshops (Cloudcroft, NM); Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association (Baltimore, MD); Water Street Studios (Batavia, IL); Eastport Arts Center (Eastport, ME); Pastel Society of El Paso (El Paso, TX); Ellis County Art Association (Waxahachie, TX); Middlebury Studio School (Middlebury, VT); Toledo Artists Club (Toledo, OH); Wilmington Art Association (Wilmington NC); Coastal Maine Art Workshops (Rockland, ME); Tucson Pastel Society (Tucson, AZ); Central Ohio Plein Air (Columbus OH), Ohio Plein Air Society (Cincinnati OH)

Lectures/Demos/Presentations

- Arizona Pastel Artists Association, Phoenix AZ, January 2017
- Pastel Artists Canada, Burlington ON, April 2015
- SAGA (Sedona Area Guild of Artists), "3 Masters Speak", November 2013
- South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN, May 2013
- Spectral Arts Painters, Mesa AZ, January 2011
- Vermont Pastel Society, Montpelier VT, October 2009
- International Association of Pastel Societies Biennial Convention (Albuquerque NM) May 2009
- Arizona Pastel Painters Association (Phoenix AZ) March 2009
- Pastel Artists Canada, Burlington ON, April 2008
- Pastel Society of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, April 2005

Shows Judged/Juried

- *Upcoming:* 15th Annual Exhibition, Ohio Plein Air Society, October 2018 (Judge of Awards) + workshop
- Castine Plein Air Festival, Castine ME, July 2017 (Judge of Awards)
- Arizona Plein Air Painters Exhibition, Scottsdale Artists School, Scottsdale, AZ, April 2016 (Juror of Entry)
- Arizona Pastel Artists Association State-Wide Exhibition, Sedona, AZ, March 2016 (Juror of Entry)
- Northwest Pastel Society National Exhibition, Gig Harbor, WA, June 2015 (Juror of Entry/Awards Judge)
- Southern Appalachian Artists Guild National Show, Blue Ridge, GA, October 2013 (Juror of Entry/Awards Judge)
- Pastel Society of Eastern Canada, Montreal, QC, 2013 (one of three jurors)
- Pastel Artists Canada Annual Members Juried Show, Burlington, ON, August 2013 (Juror of Entry/Awards Judge)
- Great Lakes Pastel Society Annual Members Show, Grand Rapids, MI, June 2013 (Juror of Entry/Judge of Awards)
- Jacksonville Arboretum "Brush with Nature", Jacksonville, FL, March 2013 (Juror of Entry)
- Pastel Society of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH, July 2011 (Juror of Entry)
- Sedona Arts Center Members Show, Sedona, AZ, February 2011 (Juror of Entry)
- Sedona Arts Center Gallery, Sedona, AZ, 2010, 2011 (Juror of Entry)
- Pastel Society of El Paso Annual Exhibition, El Paso, TX, May 2009 (Juror of Awards)
- 5th Annual Northeast National Pastel Exhibition, Old Forge, NY, May 2009 (Juror of Awards)

Education

Michael has been mentored by Albert Handell OPAM MPSA and Ann Templeton PSA. Additionally, he has studied with Doug Dawson MPSA; Bob Rohm PSA OPA; Ray Roberts; and others.