

For immediate release

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Artist Bobby Gorby to Lead April Plein Air Workshop

Local artist Bobby Gorby will present this year's Plein Air Workshop at the Dale/Engle/Walker House on Sunday, April 28, at 9 a.m., as part of the sixth annual Plein Air event. A resident of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Gorby will share his insights into composition, working with a limited palette, and techniques such as dry-brush painting.

As part of a military family, Mr. Gorby lived for many years in Italy and Germany, where he was exposed to the arts. Following his service in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Gorby enrolled at Southwestern College at San Diego, where he was working toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, a curriculum that likely would have led to a career in education.

"Southwestern required courses such as Spanish and math, but I was interested in learning to draw and paint." A friend suggested the Watts Atelier in Encinitas, 30 miles north of San Diego. "The Watts Atelier is set up as the art schools of 200 years ago were—all art," he says.

As a student at the Atelier, Mr. Gorby studied the art and techniques of the great masters, such as Diego Velazquez, whom he credits as the single greatest influence on his painting.

Students at ateliers begin with drawing, then graduate to painting using a limited palette. "Painters learn more working with a limited palette, which provides a good foundation," he says. Mr. Gorby's classical training is reflected in his plein air landscapes, marines, and portraits.

The Atelier Movement has its roots in the Renaissance and emphasizes skill-based classical painting. The movement has grown since Mr. Gorby's day at the Watts Atelier, with ateliers now established in nearly every major city in the U.S. and abroad.

On Tuesday evenings he frequently participates in a life drawing class at The Arts Underground at 310 Market St. in Lewisburg and is looking for life painting classes nearby or possibly to establish such classes. "I want to paint more. It is all about practice," he says.

The Plein Air Workshop is free, but space is limited. To reserve a place, email workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com. Refreshments will be served midway through the presentation. The Dale/Engle/Walker property is located at 1471 Strawbridge Road, off Route 192, 1.7 miles west of Lewisburg.