

LA PALOMA & MEX-ECO TOURS ART ADVENTURES **Art Workshop Series for 2008 - 2009**



"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance, and this and not the external manner and detail is true reality." (Aristotle)

This year is all about painting green! What does green mean? Well it's much more than the myriad of colors that excite the canvas...we are going to paint with an ecological focus! Infused in our creations will be attention to: ***community, sustainability, conservation and preservation of our natural environment.***

Each of our various eco-friendly adventures will provide a variety of subject matter to expand your own perception of this part of the Mexican environment. Each creative journey will take you far beyond the typical vacationer's familiar quick glance from the comfort of a deck chair on the pool's edge. Instead, you will be provided the time and space to explore each of these areas from the lens of your camera, your pencil and sketch book, or while journaling your thoughts feelings and ideas. The studio will allow paintings to evolve from your experience.

We have discovered four unique "green" environments especially conducive for you to paint, shoot and journal which will provide you with ways to see ***community sustainability, conservation and preservation of our natural environment*** in action. The experience may make you more determined to take these words back and put them into action in your home areas. It may spark some new paths to paint for our future generations, who may see how beautiful things are now, and sense how those things could be preserved.

We will introduce as many if you to these pristine places as capacity allows. Each group can only accept 10 participants. Material lists will be provided. A detailed description of each workshop will be provided. Studio and workspace is available.

All workshops are open to all levels of experience. Painters, photographers, writers, and potters welcome.

Most workshops will last 5 days of your visit and in general, follow this schedule: exploring in the field 2 days. Studio time 3 days

October full moon fiesta of colors, colors, colors

13th – 20th Oct 2008

Get ready for amazing color, sparkling skies and rich earth tones that will sing a melody so sweet, your canvas will revel in the symphony of the flowers of fall. We will travel to the cool mountain village of Tapalpa (which means land of colors) in the first part of October to see the flowers that abound in the mountains surrounding Guadalajara. This workshop begins in the bustling city of Guadalajara where we will all meet to embark on this conservation inspired journey. From the consumer driven city we will shift gears and slow down as we work our way through the valleys to the floral covered mountains. We will drive up hill to a mesa around 7000 feet elevation. Here we will find that the village people still honor the traditional ways of life and almost without noticing it, practice ecological conservation, a dramatic contrast to the busy city below. We will stay in a 16th century hacienda in the magical village of Tapalpa. The rural country feeling is sure to inspire the best of your creativity as you quietly journal or take pictures. Your sketch book will fill with pictures. The full moon of October is a special moon in this village full of surprises.

While in Tapalpa we will have studio space for painting. Or if you prefer, your paintings can be small ideas of what you can do in your own home studio on a larger scale. We will be here 3 nights and 3 days before going back to Guadalajara. As we traverse down the mountain road, keep your camera handy for more flower-filled shots. Of course, the final destination brings you full circle back to the 15th century city where the murals of Orasco and Rivera are at their best. The music, dance, and history are colorful and invigorating. Dan our guide will share the riches of this ancient city as we are able to go places and do things a regular tour can't do. On our tour we can take detours to places we have always wanted to see and spend the time it takes to really see it and capture it on film and notebook.

Keeping the peaceful memories of the previous days guarded inside you and remembering the simplicity of the old ways, you can now shop and explore in Guadalajara with a new consciousness and become aware of how the past has been preserved so future generations will still be aware of Mexico's rich diversity.

Schedule: 7 nights, 8 days Grand Tour of Arts and Artisans of Guadalajara and Tapalpa.

Mon	Arrive in Guadalajara. Get together that night for Mariachi, Thanksgiving and more....
Tues	Travel to Tapalpa
Weds	All day in Tapalpa exploring and painting
Thurs	Spend most of the day in the countryside around Tapalpa
Fri	Return to the old town of Guadalajara to explore the history cathedrals Museums governors' palace, ride the horse drawn carriage around town visit the old cantina for a needed drink.
Sat	Museums and cathedrals artisan factories of ceramics, pottery, glass, pewter in and around Tlaquepaque
Sun	Visit Tonalá the artisans center of Mexico
Mon	Return home

Each day will provide time to paint in the afternoons.

Turtle Town Adventure

December 6th – 13th 2008

This experience features a unique sea-turtle sanctuary located on a slice of land about two hours from San Patricio. This Men's Co-op working in conjunction with the University of Guadalajara and SEMARNAT and a private firm whose mission is studying and protecting the endangered Olive Ridley turtle population. This spot isn't available to the general public and you will be allowed here only with our special invitation. This truly exciting event will take us to the isolated sea-turtle camp. We will travel by boat across a lagoon in the afternoon where we set up a palapa covered camp near the beach by the ocean. Here we will share dinner together while waiting for night to come. When darkness engulfs us late into the night, we will have the opportunity to behold the mother turtles coming ashore and laying their eggs. Additionally, we will have the chance to assist new baby turtles as we release the hatchlings back into the sea.

Filled with wonder and patience of birth and life, you will gather many great images as you find wonderful things to write about and draw in your journals. Throughout the evening we will have many opportunities to do watercolor and pencil sketches of the area. This will provide us with many ideas which we may decide to bring forth when back in the studio. This is an all night adventure-sleeping in tents and eating in our palapa camp site near the beach; boating to the location across a lagoon. In the morning we will return home to our nice clean accommodations in San Patricio. The following days we will have time to finish 3 paintings documenting our experience. As always, in the studio we have all the necessary facilities to paint large if you wish. This will be a week you will never forget...and neither will those who you share your art with!

Schedule:

Sat / Sun	Arrival day, Sat. or Sunday a day to familiarize yourself with Melaque and San Patricio is a good idea.
Mon / Tues	Workshop Days – visit to the protected turtle sanctuary. This is an all night camping adventure into the life of the Olive Ridley sea turtles.
Weds / Thurs / Fri	Painting and processing concepts in the studio.
Sat	Final day if you are here for the week. You will have plenty of time for packing up and saying Adios - Your week will be something to remember.

Wild-crafted Coffee

17th – 24th January 2009

Our adventure into the world of **self-determination and sustainability** starts with a community based Women's Co-op - home to a shade grown coffee plantation located in the hills behind us. We will drive up to the plantation one day and back home the next. We will stay the night in a hotel in the small village near the plantation. As we begin our journey in this rustic environment, you will want to shake off the world of fast food and fast living. We will travel through beautiful countryside, orchards, farms and small villages climbing to an elevation of around 1,800 feet to an old growth forest where the coffee plants have been left to grow wild. Here you will meet the 16 women who have formed their Co-op. They share some of the finest wild-crafted coffee, and other organically grown products.

Known as the preferred method in obtaining the highest quality food, wild-crafting is increasingly popular among epicureans who favor organic, nutrient rich products. Wild-crafting is basically the art of gathering food, spices and medicinal plants which grow all on their own without human cultivation or influence. The popularity of seeking and finding wild food as well as discovering hidden "patches" is often written about in leading environmental publications.

During your experience, you will tour the wild coffee groves, meet the intergenerational group of native women who have found a self-sustaining niche and have the unique opportunity to take pictures of some of Mexico's rich culture. Relaxing in the evening, you will have time to sit on the veranda and write in your journals or sketch ideas to bring to life later on. Nancy says, "Meeting these women and seeing what they do inspired something in me that touched my artistic core and it comes through so amazingly when I paint". We know it will do the same for you.

Schedule:

Sat / Sun	Arrival day, Fly into Manzanillo and familiarize yourself with Melaque and San Patricio
Mon / Tues	Environmental exploration of the women's coffee plantation and Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve.
Weds / Thurs / Fri	Painting and processing concepts in the studio
Sat	You will have plenty of time for packing up and saying Adios. Your week will something to remember.

Mangrove Mystery

March 21st - 28th 2009

This gem of our local eco-tour art workshops will be a trip through the Mangrove woven lagoons that abound in our area. Mangroves are ancient tropical plants that start as tiny shoots in brackish or salt water. They grow without fresh water into thick forests of winding and bending trees. In some elite nurseries, young Mangroves are set artistically in table sized planters and actually trained to intertwine to form a deliberate horticultural sculpture.

In our workshop, however, we will see how nature has trained these mysterious plants to form their own unique fabric adorning a tranquil lagoon. We will travel to an environmentally protected mangrove ecosystem to observe the mysterious and illusive iguana along with other wild life found only in this native habitat. Here you can wander through and sit and sketch and shoot. This journey into the mystery of endangered life along the Mexican coastal edge will give you a new prospective on the necessity of environmental preservation especially the fragility of life in and of the mangrove. We will discover the shadows and shades of green that fill the lagoon with color as we float through several lagoons observing the various bird life and plant life. We might even encounter a "croc" or two! Traveling through the lagoon will afford lots to photograph and much to record and sketch. Our boat, a Mexican panga, will take us on a lost lagoon adventure.

Schedule:

Sat / Sun	Arrival day, Fly into Manzanillo and familiarize yourself with Melaque and San Patricio
Mon	Tour the mangrove lagoons, visit the beach of Tenacatita, and finish the day with a trip through the raicilla fields and processing factory.
Tues	Time will be given to special projects on tile or wood.
Weds / Thurs / Fri	Media painting. Projects and processing concepts in the studio.
Sat	You will have plenty of time for packing up and saying Adios. Your week will something to remember.

La Paloma Art Adventure Painting Series is sponsored by renowned artist Nancy Lennie who lives, and loves to paints in her Mexican village of San Patricio. Located in the beach of Barra de Navidad, Nancy brings her gentle, fun and knowledgeable experience to each art workshop.

Our Eco-tour guide with the complete knowledge of each environment we will adventure to is Daniel Patman. He is a marine Biologist with a keen interest in our Ocean paradise. Teaching us the ways of nature will give a new perspective of what needs to be said in our paintings and journalings. You will not be disappointed, nor leave without lasting memories that will keep you inspired for many more paintings to come. Registration fees and materials lists are posted in the link below. Space is limited so sign up early. For more information or pictures please go to our website at: www.mex-ecotours.com

Prices

The price for each workshop is listed below:

October - Full moon fiesta (price includes all lodging)	\$850U.S.
December - Turtle Town adventure	\$400U.S.
January - Wild crafted Coffee	\$400U.S.
March - Mangrove Mystery	\$300U.S.

