



FIG. 1



FIG. 5



## ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

Diane Ainsworth

Nick Berry

James (Jim) W. Bruce, Jr., O.P.A.

Claudia Kates Doyle

Jody Ellison

Mary Anna Goetz

Joan LaRue

Jay O'Meilia, A.W.S., L.M.

Bruce Peil, O.P.A.

Derek Penix

Carla Perry

### FRONT COVER:

Diane Ainsworth, *Poppies*, oil on canvas,  
24 x 36 inches.

### FIGURE 1:

Nick Berry, *Paseo*, oil on canvas, 9 x 12 inches.

### FIGURE 2:

Claudia Kates Doyle, *Philbrook Fountain*,  
oil on canvas, 10 x 10 inches.

### FIGURE 3:

Derek Penix, *Docked in Cap Ferrat, France*,  
oil on canvas, 24 x 24 inches.

### FIGURE 4:

Mary Anna Goetz, *Queen Anne's Lace*, oil on board,  
12 x 24 inches.

### FIGURE 5:

James W. Bruce, Jr., *The Standing Empress and Jade*,  
oil on linen, 24 x 20 inches.



720 S. Husband St. | Stillwater, OK  
405-744-2780 | [museum.okstate.edu](http://museum.okstate.edu)

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*All exhibitions and programs are free  
and open to the public.*

# Vision of Impressionism: Paintings from the Oklahoma Society of Impressionists

Oklahoma State University Museum of Art

June 20 - August 6, 2016



FIG. 2

We are pleased to exhibit the work of the Oklahoma Society of Impressionists (OSI), an organization that was founded almost 30 years ago. In addition, key to our mission, the OSU Museum of Art serves an important role on campus and in the community through our support of art across the state.

OSI's existence is a testimony to the ongoing popularity of the Impressionist movement, which debuted in Paris in 1874. Today numerous artists groups, also identified as plein air, referencing the Impressionist outdoor painting process, exist around the country, at local, state and national levels. With organizations like OSI, Impressionism promises to have ongoing life as a vital art expression.

— Victoria Berry, Director



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

## ABOUT

The Oklahoma Society of Impressionists (OSI) was established in 1987 when a group of artists met at a Taos, New Mexico, workshop. The group was formed to represent and support Oklahoma artists painting in impressionist styles and to raise public appreciation for plein-air painting.

Members take their inspiration from the Impressionist art movement, which originated in the 1860s with a group of French artists in Paris. The movement was named after Monet's paintings entitled *Impression, Sunrise*.

Impressionism is characterized by a process of plein-air painting: painting outdoors to record the actual visual conditions. The artists employed a loose rendering style and bright palette to capture the momentary effects of light and atmosphere on their canvases. They had particular interest in optical effects, and favored scenes of modern middle-class life and the impact of different light conditions and seasons on familiar landscapes and sites.

An American variety of French Impressionism debuted in 1886 with William Merritt Chase's images of New York's new public parks. Other notable artists like John Henry Twachtman and Childe Hassam followed Chase in adopting the style.

The Oklahoma Society of Impressionists is a spinoff of the American Impressionist model of art colonies. These colonies flourished as groups of artists with common aesthetic visions and gathered in small communities that offered affordable living and abundant scenery for painting. The most important American impressionist artists spent time together at Cos Cob and Old Lyme, Connecticut, and in New York State, in Woodstock, on Long Island Sound, and in eastern Long Island at Shinnecock.

Members in OSI banded together based on their "Oklahoma roots" and focus on representational and impressionistic art. The artist members are Diane Ainsworth, Nick Berry, James W. Bruce, Jr., Claudia Kates Doyle, Jody Ellison, Mary Anna Goetz, Joan LaRue, Jay O'Meilia, Bruce Peil, Derek Penix and Carla Perry.

As art historian William H. Gerdts has observed in his book *American Impressionism* (1995), "Throughout the Western world and even beyond, no artistic movement has generated as much public appeal and acclaim as impressionism." The members of OSI continue to work with the techniques and purposes of our American impressionism forefathers. We are grateful to the Oklahoma State University Museum of Art for hosting our exhibition. We trust that it will expand appreciation of impressionism in Oklahoma and especially motivate young artists to contribute to the vitality of this movement in the state and nation.

— James W. Bruce, Jr. and Linda Howell, Guest Curators