

# BRAVURA!

by Micaiah Hardison



As you can imagine, moving my family from San Diego to Andalucia is quite an adventure! We are making huge adjustments to our lifestyle, living simpler and learning patience. We have been waiting 8 weeks for our phone line and internet while our container full of clothes, furniture, art supplies, books, easels, furniture and paintings is tied up in Customs. We are still living out of our suitcases.

I spend my days exploring the region with my wife and daughter, painting plein air in and around Arcos de la Frontera, Spain. I have a stack of small oil sketches that tell a wonderful story of a first



impression: rural farms, mountain ranges, rugged coastlines and famous 'Pueblos Blancos'. There is no end to the inspiration here, I hope to share this experience with all of you someday!

I have been able to enjoy some surfing on the Costa de la Luz and in Portugal and work on some "studio pieces", painted it outdoors in the shade while my 2-year old plays in the garden.

## Bravura Society

*We are all brothers in this artistic journey. Although off to a humble start, Bravura hopes that through this Society we can support, promote and encourage each other's achievements in painting whilst making our lives more enjoyable and meaningful.*

*We will provide painting tutorials, travel guides, artist interviews, product and book reviews, newsletters, and workshops for our fellow painters.*

*Paint with all you've got!*

Read more about the Bravura Society and its benefits at [www.BravuraAcademy.com](http://www.BravuraAcademy.com)

## INT'L COMPETITION:

Castle Chateau Des Reaux, France

To participate register at [www.chateaudesreaux.fr](http://www.chateaudesreaux.fr)

Prizes in each category (A, B, C, D):

- 1st Prize – 4,000 euros
- 2nd Prize – 2,200 euros
- 3rd Prize – 1,800 euros
- 4th Prize – 1,200 euros
- 5th Prize – 800 euros



This competition is part of the celebration of the six hundredth anniversary of the French castle Chateau des Reaux. Its owner, the poet Evgeny Yukhnytsya, invites you to participate in the creation of a Modern Art Gallery in the castle with the topic: 'Women's and Men's Legs in the Art of the Beginning of the Third Millennium'!

An illustrated catalogue of paintings will be printed in December 2008 and by February 2009 they will start open exhibitions in the castle and in Paris.

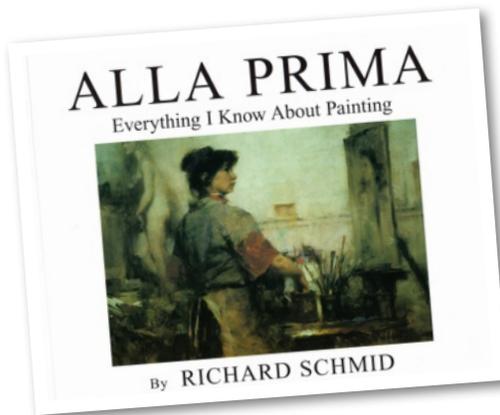


BOOK REVIEW: 'ALLA PRIMA' BY RICHARD SCHMID

Schmid opens up and humbly shares wisdom passed down to him from contemporaries of our heroes: Sargent, Sorolla and Zorn, along with conclusions he has reached during his 1/2 century of painting and teaching.

If you are looking for a book of tricks and shortcuts you must be warned that only through determination, study and practice will you build the skills needed to paint well. Beyond that, Schmid emphasized that the artists voice will become powerful only after reaching technical excellence, knowing thyself, and letting the 'magic' of your life experience transcend into the little shapes of color that make your painting. (all placed in the correct spot, being the correct value, with the correct edges)

Disregarding laws and formulas of composition, Schmid has his own freestyle formula that is quite liberating. He also admonishes students to patiently study their color charts to understand color harmony.



He often sums up his dialog into short lists of main points that we all need to memorize, especially his tips on problem solving your way through difficult paintings.

I appreciate seeing some of his 'starts' that his wife pulled away from his easel, as well as his insight into his monochrome approach. Luckily I had already resolved to never project and trace again before reading the section entitled "The Really Big Sin".

Everyone will appreciate him sharing his tools, palette, techniques, philosophy, as well as weaknesses he found in himself, students and peers.

I must now go to read it once again but I shall leave you with the an excerpt from the opening paragraph to the Chapter on Edges:

*"Think about edges the way you would think about kissing someone. How many are the ways-and what can you impart in the process? Think of edges as exquisite subtleties, as the means to transmit romance, as ways to make your dabs of paint whisper, or shout, and reach nuances beyond the range of color. Think of them as visual poetry oozing form your brush..."*

EVENTS IN APRIL: ANDALUCIA + CALIFORNIA

Andalucia, Spain:

**April 5th:** 3rd Annual Plein Air competition, hosted by the "Cultural Association of Garabato & Talcara"

**April 12th:** 2nd Annual Plein Air competition hosted by "Villa de Pizarra"

**April 20th:** 3rd Annual Plein Air competition hosted by "Villa de Trebujena"



Details at:  
[www.ElCaballote.com](http://www.ElCaballote.com)

California, USA:

**April 25th:** Submission Deadline. San Diego County Fair Juried Exhibit. Details at: [www.sdfair.com/entry](http://www.sdfair.com/entry)

California Arts Club:

**March 20th & April 17:** Paintout at Arroyo Seco in Pasadena from 10am to Sunset

**April 27th - May 18th**  
97th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition

**April 25th:** Collectors Circle Preview & Benefit Dinner

**April 26th:** Artist's Gala Reception

Details at: [www.CaliforniaArtClub.org](http://www.CaliforniaArtClub.org)

BRAVURA COLLECTION: RUO LI



Reaching the Land, Oil on Canvas 24x36"

Bravura Academy has recently acquired many paintings by living masters and outstanding artists and will expand the collection of original artwork to be displayed in the school house gallery in Arcos de la Frontera Spain, 2009. We have recently acquired this piece by Ruo Li through Situ Art Gallery in Laguna Beach, California.

Drool over his amazing seascapes at [www.ruoli.com](http://www.ruoli.com)

**SPECIAL OFFER:**

Four spaces are being offered at a special rate of \$2500 USD (\$350 discount) for Calvin Liang's Workshop-Retreat May 11-17th. These spaces must be reserved by April 1st to qualify for the discount. This is an all inclusive retreat including materials, equipment, meals, lodging, instruction and ground transportation. Make time for this unique opportunity to study under Calvin Liang with a small group in inspiring surroundings!



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2008 Bravura Calendar

**April 5-27th**

Atelier: Intro to Oil Painting Fundamentals

**May 11-17th**

Calvin Liang Workshop Retreat

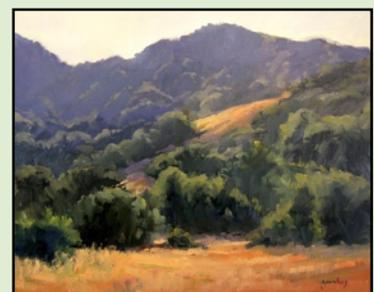


**July 6-12**

Retreat Paintout with Micaiah Hardison

**September 14-20**

Jacobus Baas Workshop Retreat



**October 12-25th**

Daud Achriev Workshop Retreat

**November 9-15th**

Daniel Greene Workshop Retreat

