



(TOP) *American River Parkway*, 2019, oil, 12 x 16 in., available from artist, plein air •
 (ABOVE) *Waves and Rocks*, 2021, oil, 9 x 12 in., available from artist, plein air

TATYANA FOGARTY

Art education: As a child, I excelled in school art courses — music appreciation, choir, pencil drawing, and beginner watercolor — which were all compulsory in Russia. But my art education has included a range of methods of study — from books, lectures, plein air conferences, and DVDs to workshops and masterclasses with acclaimed American artists, including Scott Christensen, Kevin Macpherson, and Kathleen Dunphy.

Painting style: I'd call it impressionistic optical realism: it's impressionistic representation without being photographic. I concentrate on rendering nature as it appears to the eyes, the way light shapes the landscape.

Favorite subjects: My favorite subjects include water, boats, bridges, and coastal scenes. My inspiration for painting water, with its rippling reflective surfaces, is partly born out of my longtime admiration of the dramatic marine scenes by 19th-century Russian artist Ivan Aivazovsky. I spent endless hours studying the large-scale paintings at his house-museum in Feodosia, Crimea, where I used to live.

Aha moment: There's been no "Eureka!" moment for me yet. It has been a slow, gradual progress over time, with almost daily painting and lots of studying of past and contemporary masters' works.

What I would do for a living if I wasn't an artist: My artistic journey started later in life. With a Master's degree in education, specializing in foreign languages, I earned my living in Ukraine teaching English and French to people of all ages. When I first came to the United States, I volunteered my time as an interpreter at UCLA Hospital in Los Angeles. Revisiting either of those pursuits would be interesting.

Favorite artists: I'm inspired by a wide range of work, from Monet and Rembrandt to Marc Chagall, Isaac Levitan, and Nicolai Fechin, but my paintings are mostly influenced and inspired by Joaquín Sorolla. I was a young girl when a picture of his painting *The Horse's Bath* in my schoolbook caught my eye. It was much later, when I saw his masterpieces in person, that I understood his exceptional talent and brilliance. I was dazzled by his use of color, particularly his infusing of whites with a rainbow of colors, both in shadow and in light.

The advice you wish you had received earlier in your painting career: Simplify; eliminate what's not crucial to the main idea; "move" mountains, trees, and other natural elements to improve the composition.

What's next: After such a tumultuous year and a half, I want to take small steps to returning to plein air painting, and to participating in live plein air events, in-person paint-outs, painting retreats, and exhibitions.

Price range: \$300-\$3,500

Representation: New Masters Gallery, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

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