

A Painter's Perspective on Beauty

*The Principles and Methodology of
Impressionism for our Contemporary Times*

DMITRI WRIGHT

Artist/Master Instructor/Judge

Olmstead Impressionist Plein Air Invitational
April 22, 2022

Beauty

*“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science.”*

Einstein

“The artist’s domain is in the mystery”

Anonymous



*“A flower does
not use words to
announce its
arrival to the
world;
it just blooms”*

Matshona Dhliwayo

Beauty

“Oh, beauty ever ancient, ever new”

(St. Augustine)

“The heart has reasons the mind knows not of”

(Blaise Pascal)

“The eyes to see, the heart to feel, the soul to speak”

Anonymous



“The flower is the stem’s cry of beauty to the universe”



“There are times when I paint en plein air,
I sense the entire universe has been loved into existence.”

Dmitri Wright

To be an Impressionist

Painting from the eye,
simply makes one a
camera

Painting from the heart,
makes one a poet

Painting with the
intellect, merely makes
one a philosopher

Painting from the soul,
creates the artist

Principles

Impressionism is the personal expression of the beauty and essence of a moment captured

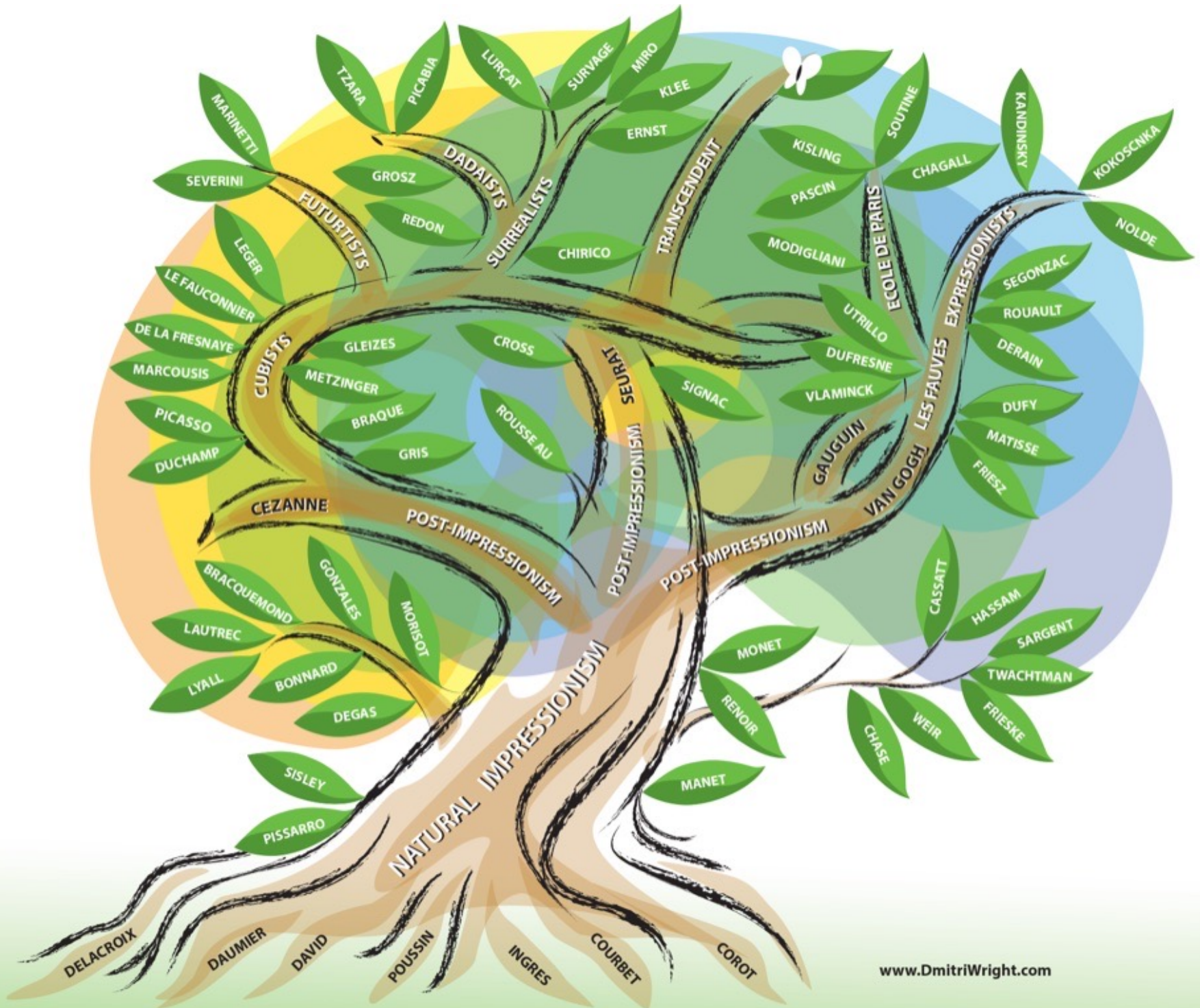
- **Openness** - of all the senses
- **Listening** - for the subject to speak
- **Awareness** - of your sensations
- **Reflective** - on perceptions (*values and beliefs*)
- **Courage** - to paint the essence impression (*abstracted*)

Characteristic Features

1. Present tense - Moment
2. Personalized the Subject - Impression
3. Asymmetrical Composition - Snapshot
4. Flat Design

Characteristic Features, CONT.

5. Shape and Form gives way to Light and Color
6. Personalized Color - Limited Palette
7. Pure Color - Optical Mixing & Simultaneous Contrast
8. Broken Spaced & Signature Brushstrokes
9. Ratio of Science and Poetry



Academy Impressionists

Painting in the Academy
was the historical or the
mythical – past

Old Master
compositions were more
symmetrical

arrangement for unity,
proportion, and balance

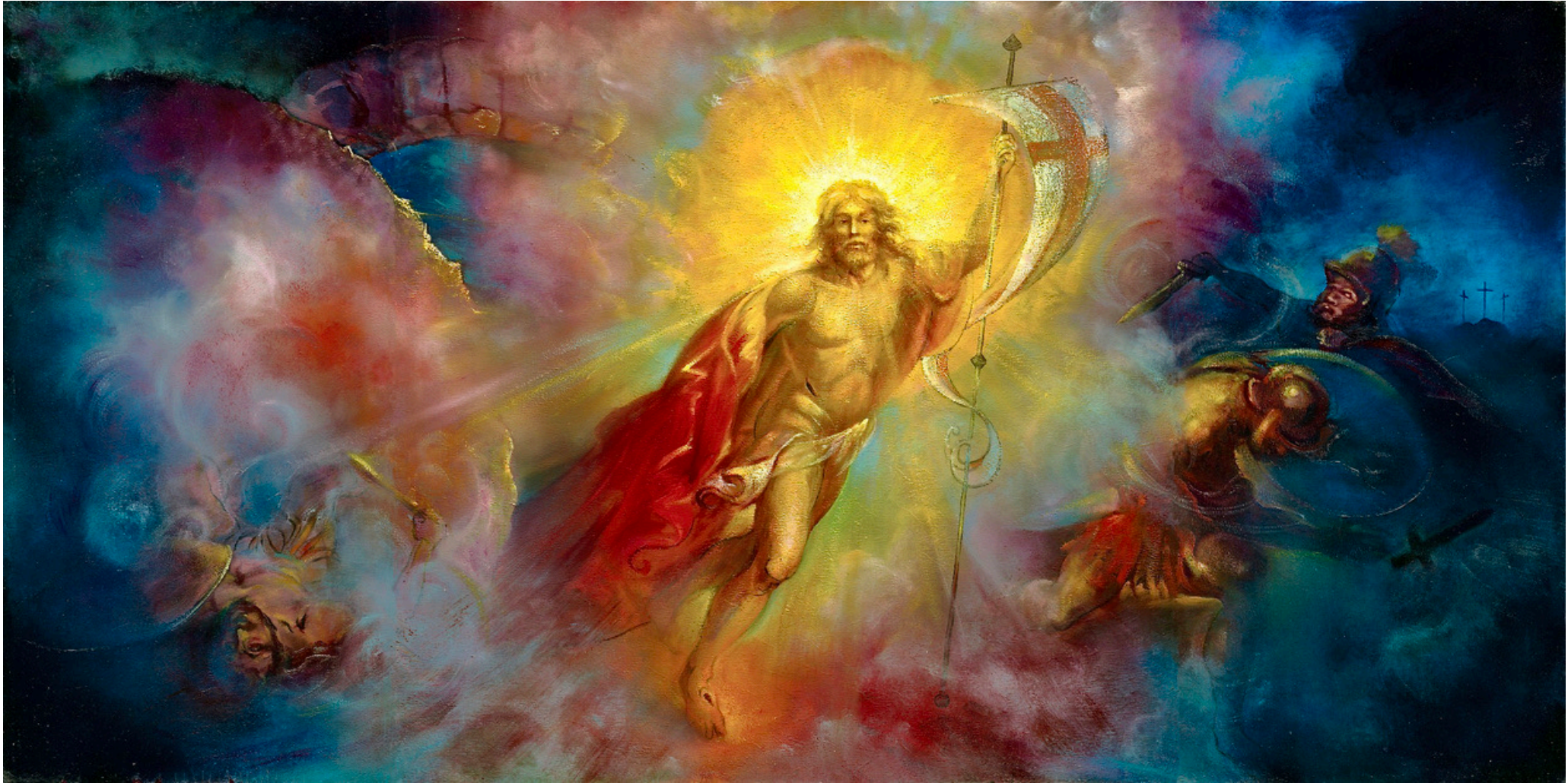
Painting for the
Impressionists was with
one's personal history –
present

Impressionists'
compositions were
asymmetrical

arrangement for unity,
proportion, and natural
balance



Conte on Handmade Paper
Dmitri Wright



Triptych 36" x 72" Oil on Panel
Oil
Dmitri Wright



Life Model One Session @
Salmagundi Club
197
Oil
Dmitri Wright

Impressionists → Post Impressionists

Color as Light

The natural-impressionists were concerned with light and space as it related the aerial and mathematical perspective

Color as Personal

The post-impressionists displayed a flat design and abstracted space within the picture plane

The Science and Poetry

Impressionism is a **blend of Science and Poetry** where your creativity is formed from your perceptions, values and skills.

The **Science focuses on** accurate representation of reality

The **Poetry centers on** passion within that reality

Science of Impressionism

THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS:

1. Formal vs. Informal - The Snapshot
2. Elements of Light & Color
3. Palette
4. Flat Design/Perspective
 - Composition: Asymmetrical
5. Technique Application
 - Brushstrokes
 - Optical mixing
 - Simultaneous contrast



Claude Monet



Poetry of Impressionism

1. Personalized Subject Matter
2. Capturing moments
 - Experience/Sensations
3. Personalized Color
4. Technical Application
 - Brushstrokes





Personalized Subject

Impressionists' subject matter was based upon the content of their personal lives – the ordinary became extraordinary for them.

For the Academy artists, it was historical or mythical figures as their subject.



My Mother Ruth – “Look to the sky, my son.”

Thank you, Miss Brown!

Hello, Jon Gnagy!



- Uncle Melvin (Montford Point Marine)
- Samuel Brecher (Newark School NSFIA)
- Donald Brown (Newark School NSFIA)
- Rueben Tam (Max Beckmann Scholarship Brooklyn Museum)
- Will Barnett (Cooper Union)
- Wolf Kahn (Cooper Union)
- Mom and Dad (Love)
- My Wife Karen (52 Years)
- God (Amen)









The Elements Of Light

1. High Light
2. Direct Light
3. Shadow
4. Reflected Light
5. Cast Shadow
6. Transparent Light
7. Translucent Light

Color & Light

Color and Light

are

One and the Same

in the

Impressionist's

Eye-Brain

“When you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have before you, a tree, a house, a field or whatever.

Merely think here is a little square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow, and paint it just as it looks to you, the exact color and shape.”

— *Claude Monet*



Claude Monet 86

The 8th Element of Light

1. High Light
2. Direct Light
3. Shadow
4. Reflected Light
5. Cast Shadow
6. Transparent Light
7. Translucent Light
8. Transcendent Light



The 8th Element of Light





Farnese Plein Air 6" x 8" Oil on Panel





Splendors of the Lovely



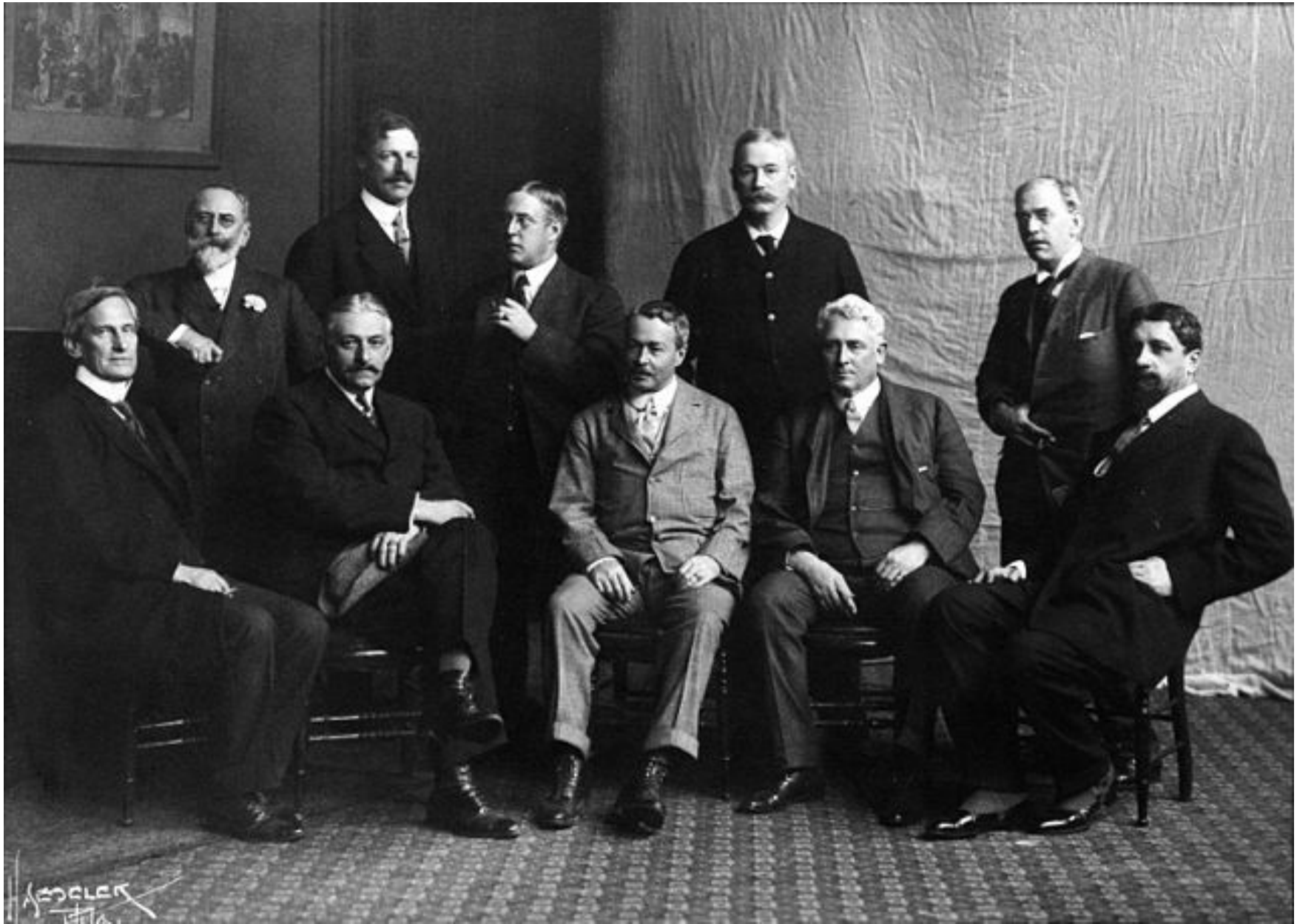
Quaver

5 Essentials

1. **Moment** – hold in surprise what we want to last
2. **Motive** – share what is certain and incredible
3. **Meaning** – transform the ordinary into the extraordinary
4. **Method** – capture the essence of the moment
5. **Message** – impart our awareness in our awe of the lovely



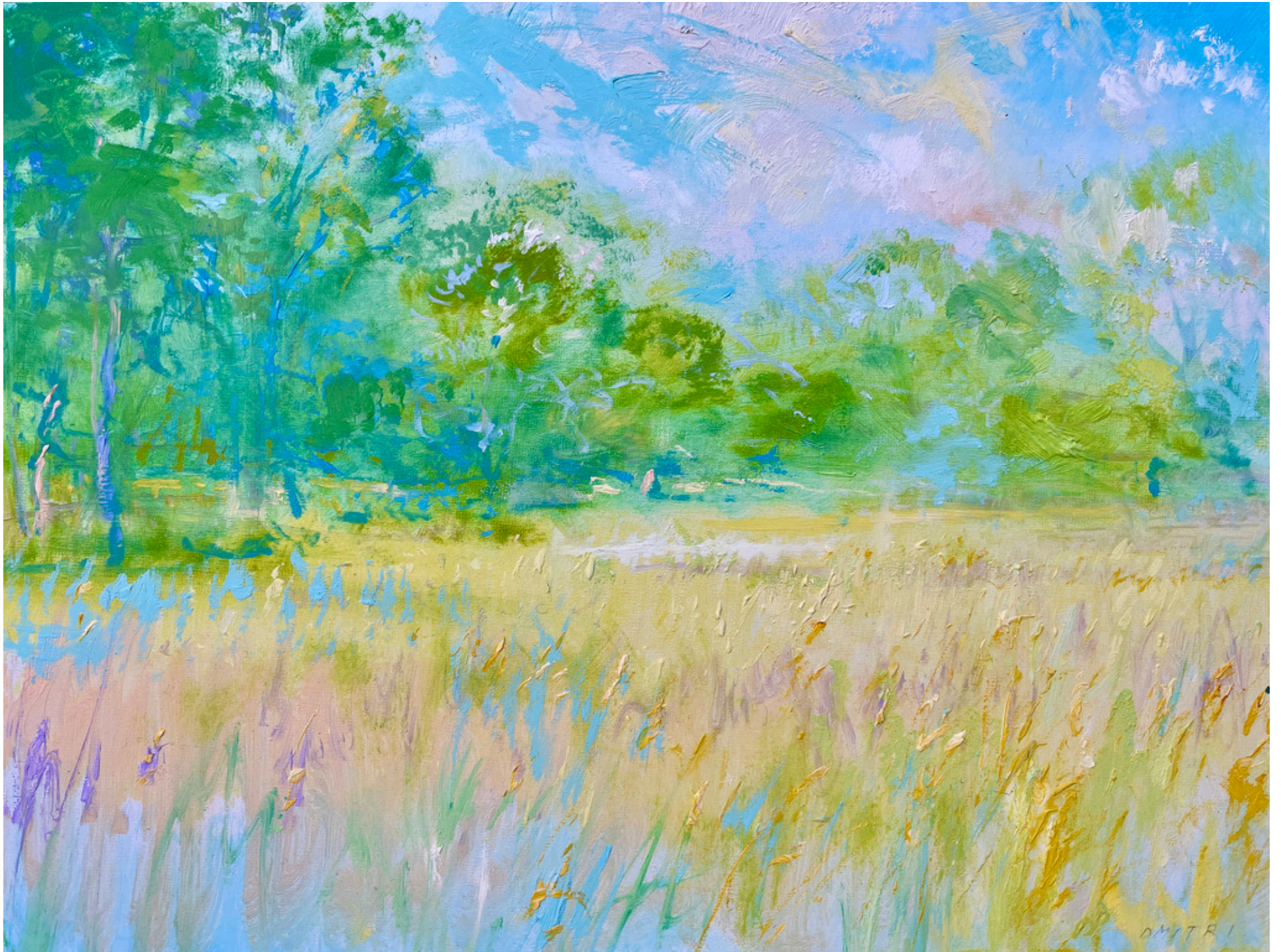
Farnese Meadow
DMITRI



Cafés Culture, Plein air excursions; Dinner parties; Art Colonies
The Ten

Weir Farm National Historical Park

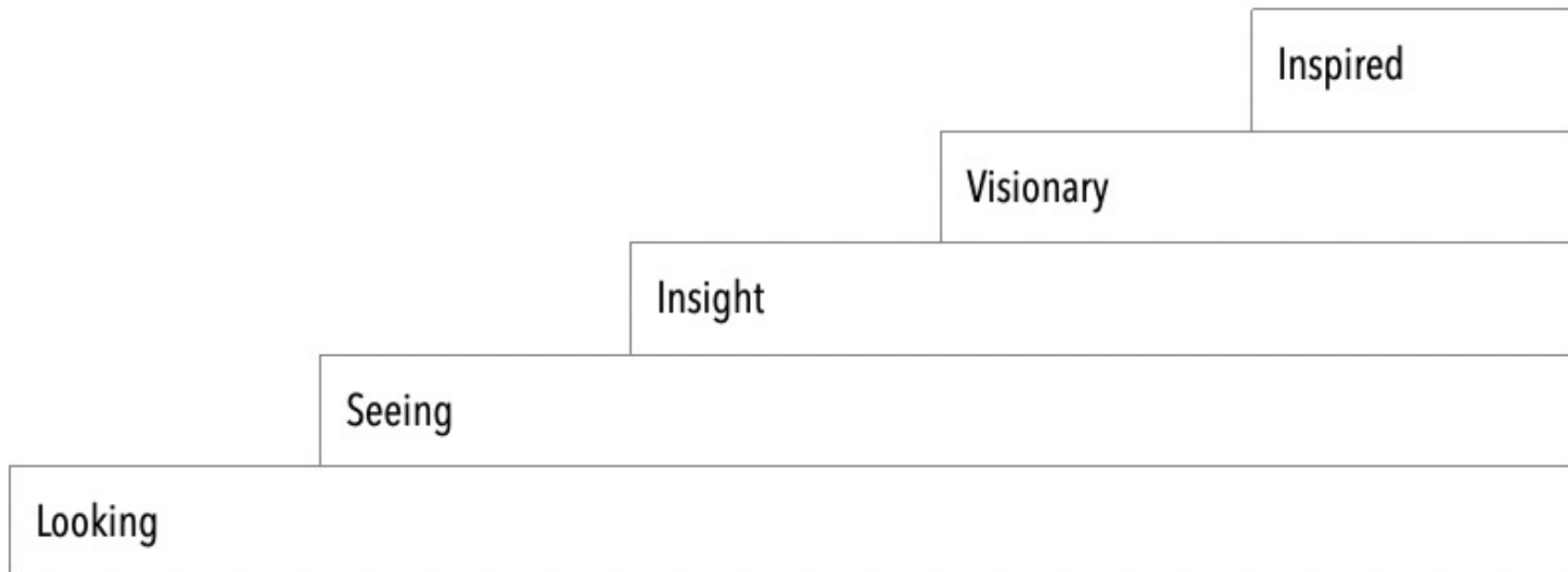




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The Ladder of Visual Perception





“And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils.”

William Wordsworth





Cathedral City at Weir Farm



3 Movements of Spring

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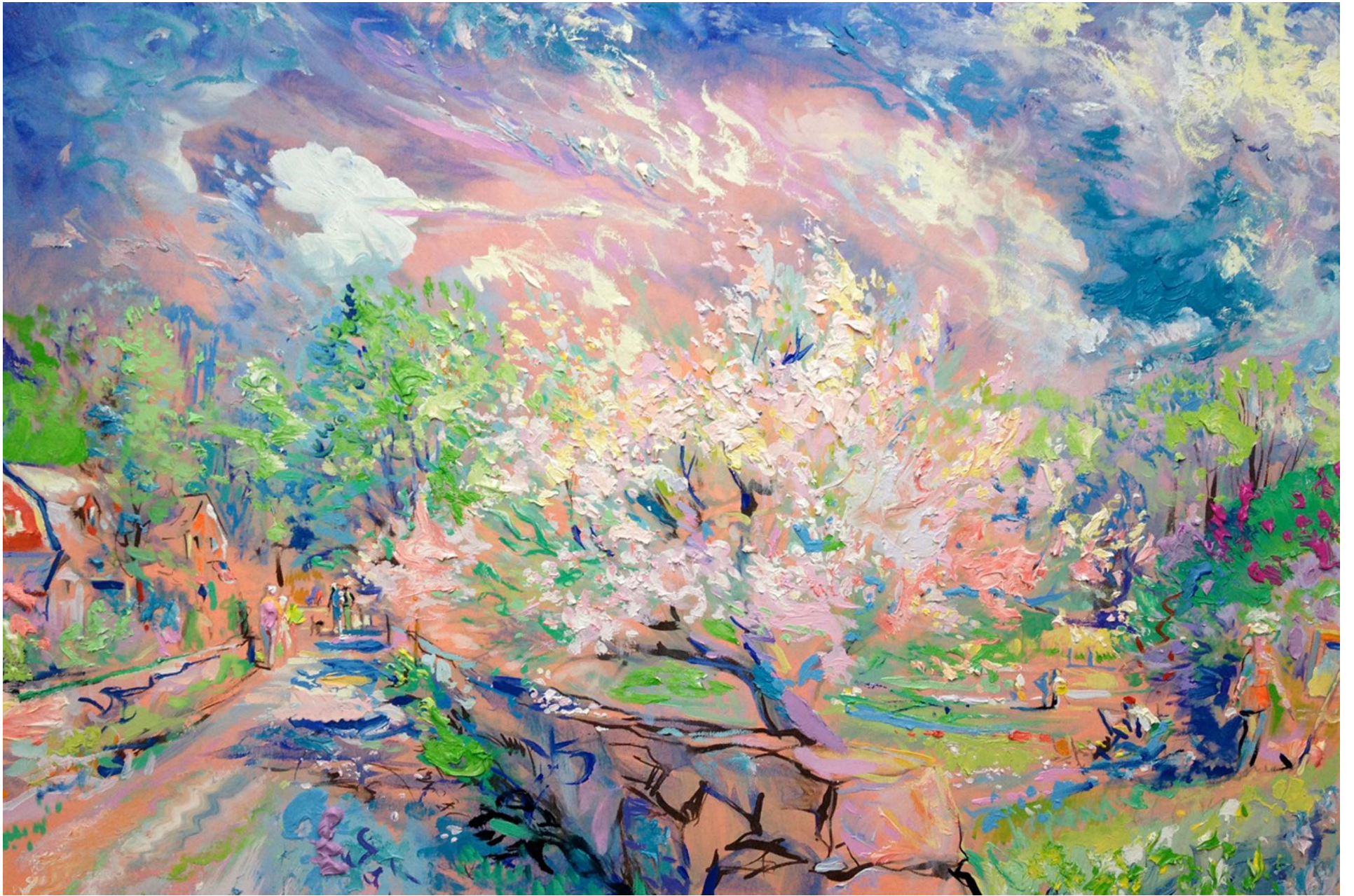


Go Gently Monarch & Blue Jay

Currently on exhibition at the Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum









Apple Blossoms









Currently on exhibition at the Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum





Currently on exhibition at the Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum



Before the students came









An Artist for All Seasons – 50 Year Retrospective

Florence Griswold Museum
American Impressionist Art Colony
Hassam Studio Site



National Park Week

April 16-24

<https://qrco.de/dmitri-nps>



Weir Farm National Historical Park Dedicated to Art

www.nps.gov/wefa

THANK YOU
The Olmstead Impressionist Plein Air
Invitational

Board Members, Collectors, Artists, & Visitors



www.DmitriWright.com