

Glover Group Plein Air Paintings on Exhibit at the Orinda Library

By Andrea A. Firth



Pam Glover with a student

Photo Andy Scheck

Through her own work and the work of her many students, Orinda-based plein air painter Pam Glover has established quite a legacy. Glover has been teaching Lamorindans and others in the Bay Area the art of painting outdoors in a class offered through the Orinda Community Center for over twenty five years—one of the longest running classes the Center has sponsored. The work of twenty two of Glover’s intermediate to advanced level students will be showcased in an upcoming exhibit at the Orinda Library starting July 16th and running through August 12th.

“Some of my students have stayed with me for a very long time,” notes Glover. “And some have become quite professional painters,” she adds. Her students, which she describes as young, middle-aged adults, mostly women and a few intrepid men, meet weekly at locations throughout Lamorinda and the surrounding area to paint landscapes using oils. “We are always outside. My students don’t like painting indoors,” states Glover. Rain seems to be the only thing that keeps Glover and her students from their art. “With plein air painting, you’ve got to deal with the elements—the wind, the sun, but it doesn’t work in the rain. I just love it,” she states with a youthful exuberance that belies her maturity.

Born to English parents, raised in China, and evacuated to Australia during World War II, Glover made the move to the Bay Area with her husband in the early 1950’s. “I started painting in China with a Russian teacher when I was about 15 years old,” states Glover. “After studying at an art college in Sydney, I worked as a fashion artist for newspaper advertisers,” she adds. Glover then taught art briefly in

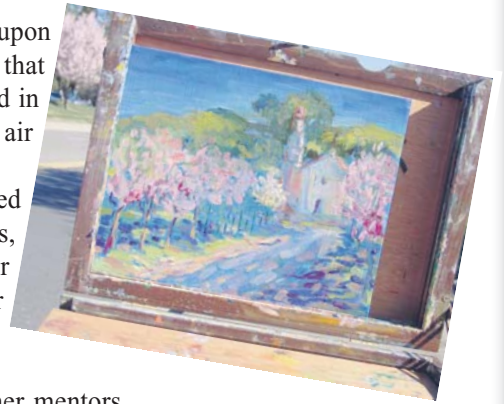
England, but it was upon arriving in Oakland that she became immersed in the world of plein air painting.

“Here I studied under the Siegriests, Lundy and his father Louis,” states Glover with a notable amount of respect and admiration for her mentors.

“Louis was part of the Society of Six that started the plein air painting movement in Northern California,” she adds.

Glover clearly had the talent for capturing the California landscape in the plein air style and has been displaying and selling her art for many years. She was represented by the Maxwell Gallery in San Francisco and held 19 one-woman shows. Today her work can be found in seven different galleries from Carmel to St. Helena. “I go all over to paint. I like the wine country best.” states Glover, who in addition to teaching, paints for two or three sessions each week.

Glover is kept company while she paints by her daughter, Anne Marie, who is also an artist and who also teaches at the Community Center. Glover seems thrilled with the fact that her daughter has returned to Orinda after living in Switzerland for 25 years. “The house is even more full with paintings now that [Anne Marie] is back,” states Glover, “And when it is time to paint, we just get into her van and go.”



Pam Glover at work outside

Photo provided