

Lori Putnam Close to Home

LeQuire Gallery / Nashville, TN
October 16th–December 31st, 2021

Special thanks to Alan and Andrée Lequire and to Elizabeth Cave of LeQuire Gallery for hosting this solo exhibition, and to my loving husband, Mark, for always believing in me.



Art in the Open, Ireland



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Putnam Fine Art Studio

Director's Message

Planning for a comprehensive exhibit of paintings by Lori Putnam spanned two years, affording the artist the luxury to explore and contemplate a new series. The result is not only a reminder of the beauty found in "our own backyard", but an extended study of larger tracts of land and the lovely Tennessee vistas that surround Putnam every day.

We have partnered with Lori Putnam well over a decade, during which time we've had the privilege of witnessing the steadfast trajectory of her success and international notoriety. She has become one of most recognized and respected American Contemporary Impressionist painters, with demand for her work and multiple awards as testament.

The remarkable rhythms and harmonies Putnam instinctively captures *en plein-air*, or may creatively explore in the studio, offer the viewer the best of two different painting techniques the artist experiments with and interchanges effortlessly. This practice has become synonymous with Lori Putnam, and cements her place as a leader and influencer

Even though she typically gathers inspiration from traveling the world, Putnam's new series, **Close to Home**, delivers the richness and diversity for which her home state is famous. Tennessee's ever changing weather patterns and four distinct seasons offer a plethora of subject, color, and texture that Putnam clearly researched and beautifully conveys in this well executed exhibition.

Elizabeth Cave
Gallery Director



Close to Home

In the initial planning stages of this exhibition, I set aside an entire year without travel or interruption to work on all new works. Rather than bits and bobs, this and that, I wanted the time to plan a show of cohesive paintings. That one year turned into two.

My packed travel schedule for the past 15 years gave me little opportunity to enjoy my own home. Rural Tennessee is so incredibly beautiful. We really are like three, distinctly different states. From West Tennessee's lowlands to East Tennessee's mountains is almost an 8-hour drive. I live in the very middle, surrounded by rolling hills, rivers, lakes, and streams. After much consideration, I narrowed my focus to include only my every day surroundings. In fact, the painting *Crisp Air*, is the view from the end of my driveway.

Growing up in the countryside, not far from where I now live, once seemed so long ago and a lifetime of travel away. But as I began to paint, childhood memories came flooding back. The perfume of Spring rains growing vibrant greens brought promise and renewal. Quickly consumed by thick, Summer heat, I smiled thinking about me as a little girl, skipping down our dirt road to spend the day at a nearby creek, chilling my RC Cola in the cold stream, and enjoying a baloney [bologna] sandwich. Fall had its own fragrance. Waking to the scent of tobacco smoking in the barns meant chilly mornings ahead. While I loved the rich gold, red, yellow, and orange leaves, their glory lasted only a few weeks. Heavy rains would come and cover the ground with them. The crunch of fallen leaves marked the end of the season. That is when I began to wish for a snow-filled winter. We used to get snow, often as much as 12 inches at a time. We also had ice storms, and lost electricity for days or weeks due to heavy-laden tree branches breaking and damaging power lines. Winter seemed long to me back then.

Our seasons all have such different colors in the sky, the ground, and the trees. When our dogwood and redbud trees began to bud in Spring, their blooms taught so much about the gentle shifts in tone and color. Summer's air is thick. That humidity is what I wanted to paint, the density itself. It has been a rich blessing to have had the time to paint by clear, rushing creeks in Fall, and to watch the colors literally change before my eyes. In Winter these days, Tennessee may get one snow ("if we are lucky," says the little girl still in my heart). Winter days here are fickle. It was *Tee Shirt Weather* on February 24th, after having snowed eight inches on February 19th.

As a painter of landscapes, I feel I am documenting our ever-changing weather patterns, the geography, and the development of our world. Most of the farms that ran for miles are gone, replaced by shopping malls and chain stores. Many historic barns have fallen into ruin. It is incredibly important to paint places like these before they no longer exist.

The paintings in this catalog are listed chronologically starting with Spring, so that you may think of Tennessee as I do. I am extremely grateful to have had this time **Close to Home**.

Lori Putnam, October, 2021



Teaching, Yorkshire, England



Spring Fever

18x24
Spring / March 22nd
St. Paul Road, Charlotte, TN



Big Red

36x48
Spring / April 9th
South Harpeth, Nashville

[Click Here to View](#)



Dogwood Winter

11x14 / plein air study for *Tennessee Spring*
Spring / April 19th
Putnam Property / Breeden Road, Charlotte



Tennessee Spring

24x30

Spring / April 19th

Putnam Property / Breedon Road, Charlotte, TN

[Click Here to View](#)



White Peonies

8x10 / plein air study

Spring / May 16th

Putnam Property / Breeden Road, Charlotte



A Generous Gardener

18x14

Spring / May 23rd

Putnam Property / Breeden Road, Charlotte

[Click Here to View](#)



Hot Rolls

11x14
Summer / June 26th
Hillsboro Road, Brentwood



Fowl Play

10x12

Summer / June 30th

Nolan Rd, Cumberland Furnace

[Click Here to View](#)



Moon Shine

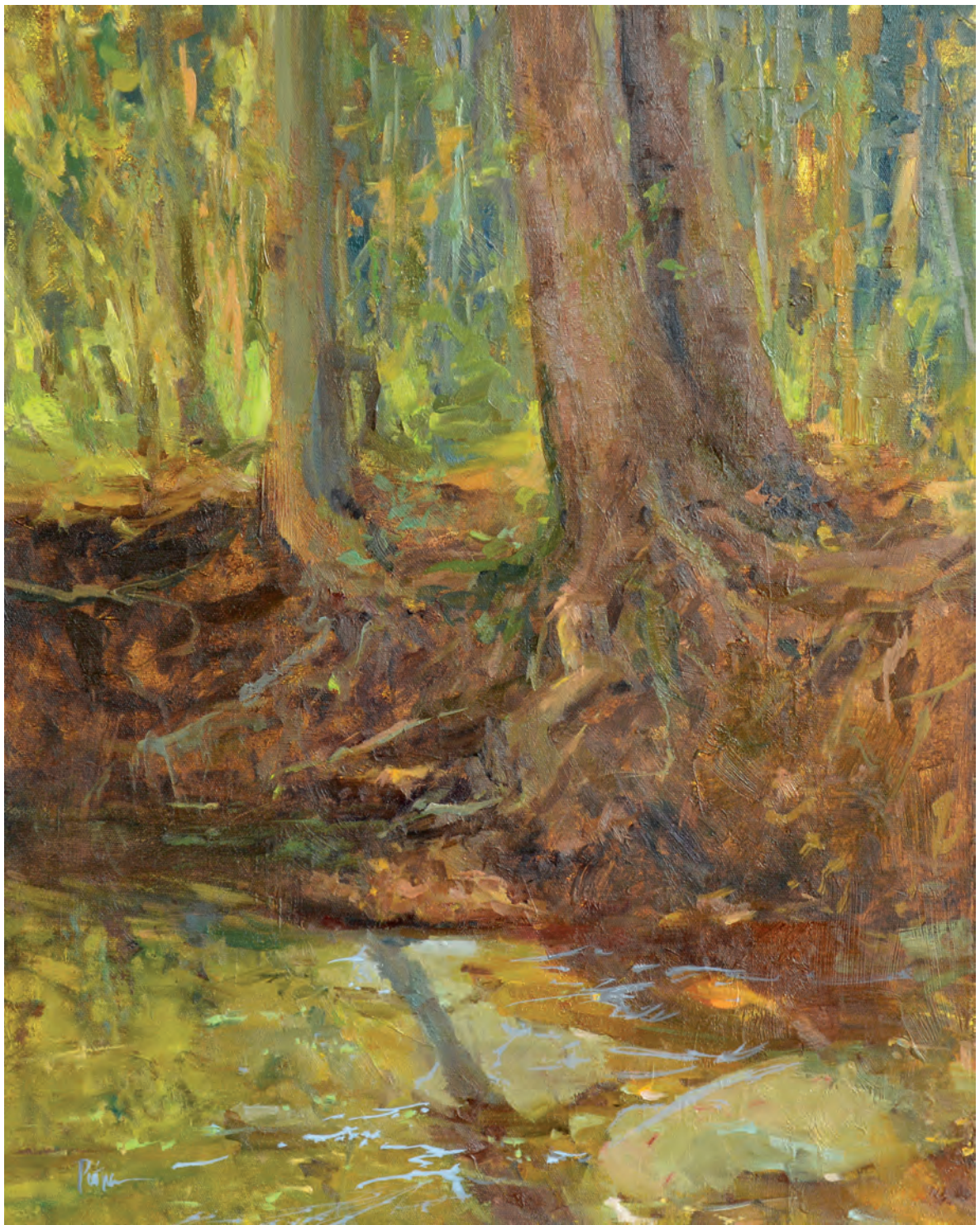
14x18
Summer / July 11th
Petty Road, Charlotte



50 Shades of Green

18x24
Summer / July 20th
Old Charlotte Road, White Bluff

[Click Here to View](#)



Nature's Wisdom

20x16
Summer / August 30th
Sulphur Fork Creek, Charlotte



Here Kitty, Kitty

36x48

Summer / September 7th
Promise Land Road, Charlotte

[Click Here to View](#)



Tennessee Ford

36x48
Fall / September 23rd
Peabody Branch, Charlotte



Torso

14x11

Fall / October 18th

Sulfur Fork Creek, Charlotte

[Click Here to View](#)



Showing Off

40x30
Fall / October 30th
Sulfur Fork Creek, Charlotte



Goldilocks

20x24

Fall / November 5th

St. Paul Road, Charlotte

[Click Here to View](#)



Branches

14x18
Fall / November 9th
Heard Road, Charlotte



Better View

18x24

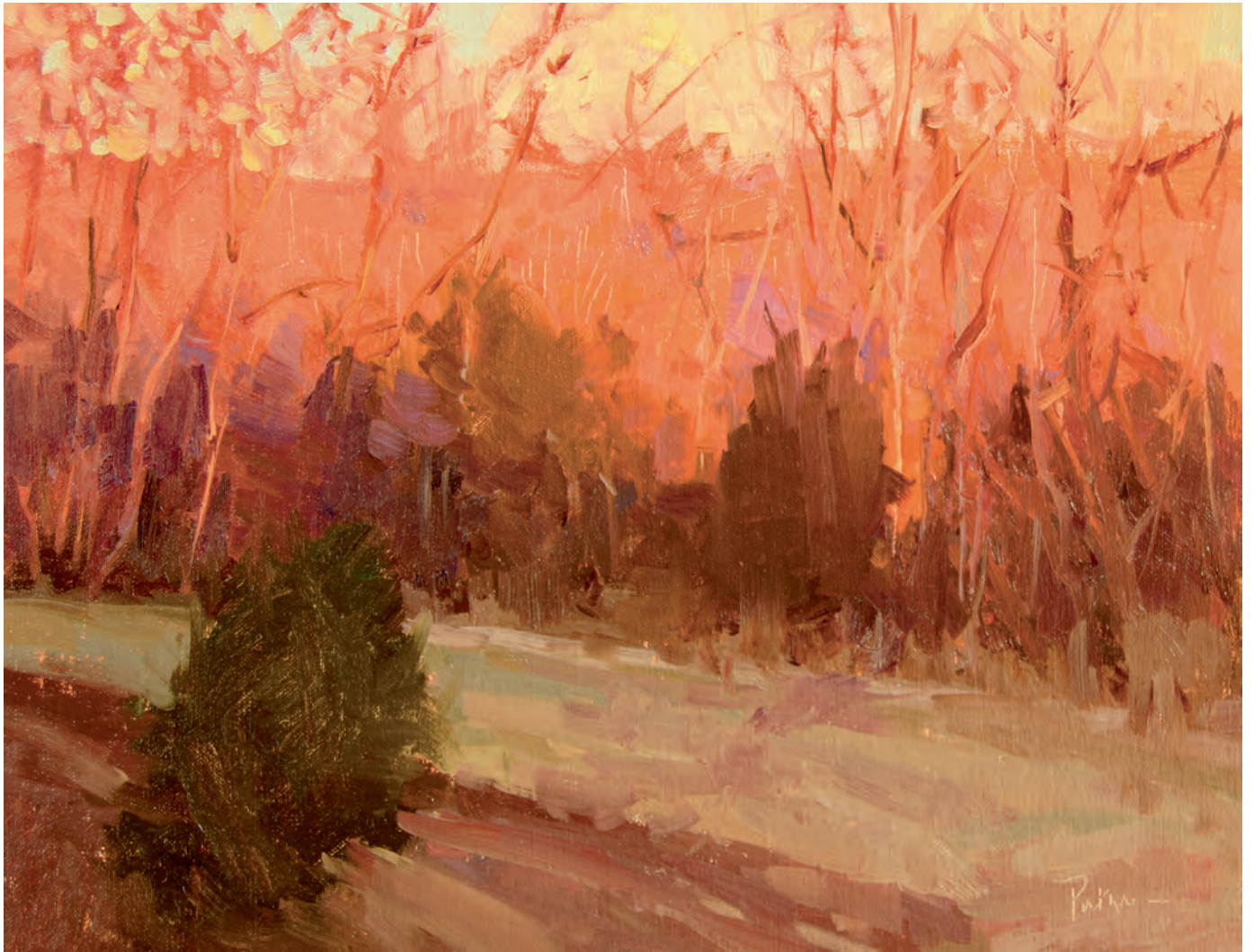
Fall / November 14th
Scenic Harpeth Drive, Kingston Springs

[Click Here to View](#)



Tipping Point

11x14 / plein air study
Winter / December 27th
Breedon Road, Charlotte



January Sunset

11x14

Winter / January 19th

Putnam Property / Breeden Road, Charlotte

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Blackberry Vines

18x24
Winter / January 22nd
Putnam Property / Breeden Road, Charlotte



Close to Home

18x24

Winter / February 1st
Petty Road, White Bluff

[Click Here to View](#)



Crisp Air

36x48

Winter / February 19th

Putnam Property / Breeden Road, Charlotte



Tee Shirt Weather

30x40
Winter / February 24th
State Highway 49, Charlotte

[Click Here to View](#)

Lori Putnam (b. 1962 –
Nashville, TN

Notable

2021

\$15,000 Grand Prize, Plein air Salon 10th Annual Awards
People's Choice, Plein air Salon 10th Annual Award
3rd Place, American Women Artists' Spring Online Showcase
3rd Place, January Bold Brush Competition

2020

Best Use of Light and Color, National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society
Spring International Online Exhibition
First Place Best Floral, Plein air Salon
1st Place Overall, Safe Harbor, October Plein air Salon Competition
1st Place Overall, Safe Harbor, November Plein air Salon Competition

2019

Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. Award, Salmagundi Club Annual Members' Exhibition

2018

Award of Excellence, National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, Small Paintings Exhibition
Land Management Corp Award, Maui Plein Air Painting Invitational

2017

Finalist, Still Life, Portrait Society of America, Members Only Competition
4th Place, Landscape, Portrait Society of America, Members Only Competition

2016

Plein Air Magazine Award of Excellence, American Impressionist Society National Juried Exhibition
Artists' Choice/Best of Show Award for Permanent Collection, Forgotten Coast Plein Air Invitational
Third Place, Quick Draw, Forgotten Coast en Plein air
First Place, All Along the Sierra Exhibition, California
Irvine Museum Award, Maui Plein Air Painting Invitational

2015

Best Landscape, Plein air Salon
5th Place, Landscape, Portrait Society of America, Members Only Competition
Judge and Keynote Speaker, Door County Plein air Invitational
3rd Place, Oil Painters of America Summer Online Showcase
Best Depiction of Water, Plein Air Salon
High Museum Award, Olmsted Plein Air Invitational
Top 5, Annual Grand Plein Air Salon
Plein Air to Studio Award, Best Buildings Plein Air Salon

2014

2nd Place, Oil Painters of America Fall Salon Showcase
Best Nocturne, Plein air Magazine Salon
Judge, Southern Appalachian Artist Guild National Exhibition
Randy Higbee Gallery Award, Laguna Plein air Painters Invitational
Third Place, American Impressionist Society National Juried Exhibition
Judge, Fingerlakes Plein air Competition
Top 5, Annual Grand Plein air Salon

2013

Best Floral , Plein air Magazine Salon
Second Place, Plein air Artists of Colorado Annual Exhibition
First Place, Best of Plein air, Laguna Plein air Painters Association
Second Place, Richmond Plein air Festival, Fast and Fresh
Impressionist Award of Excellence, Oil Painters of America National Juried Salon

Most Original, Award of Excellence, Oil Painters of America 22nd Annual National Juried Exhibition
Judge, Women Painters of the Southeast National Juried Exhibition
Judge, Easels of Frederick, MD

2012

Best of Show, Los Gatos Plein Air Festival
1st Place Signature Member Division, Plein Air Artists of Colorado National Juried Exhibition
Judge's Choice, Women Painters of the Southeast
Judge, Ohio Plein air Painters Association Paintout
Juror, Judge, and Foreman, 88th Annual Hoosier Salon

2011

Artists' Choice Award, Los Gatos Plein Air Festival
First Place, Quick Draw, Callaway Gardens Plein Air Festival
Juror and Judge for Memphis Germantown Art League National Exhibition
Juror and Judge, 87th Annual Hoosier Salon, Indianapolis, IN

For a list of all awards including those prior to 2011, or for a complete list of past exhibitions, contact support@loriputnam.com.

Current Associations

Art Ambassador for a Colorful World, Vice President*
American Women Artists
Salmagundi Club, NYC
Oil Painters of America, Signature Member
American Impressionist Society, Signature Member, past Vice President, past Show Chair
National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, Signature Member
California Art Club, Out-of-State Artist
Laguna Plein air Painters Association, Signature Member
Portrait Society of America
California Plein air Painters, Signature Member
International Plein air Painters, Signature Member
The Chestnut Group, plein air painters for the land

Museums have also honored and acknowledged Putnam's work. Either through awards, exhibitions, or invitations to lecture, The Tucson Museum of Art, the High Museum in Atlanta, the Irvine Museum in California, The Hockaday Museum in Montana, The Brinton Museum in Wyoming, and the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, are just a few in a continually growing list. She has work in the permanent collection at The Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland, the collection of Plein Air Magazine, the University of California-Irvine Museum, and in private and corporate collections, and galleries worldwide.

When not traveling to paint, teach, or lecture, Putnam works in her studio in Charlotte, Tennessee.

Read more about the artist at loriputnam.com.

***Art Ambassador for a Colorful World** is near and dear to Lori's heart. This is a global, non-profit organization, founded by artist Kevin Macpherson whose belief it is that art has the power to change the world. Through AAFCW, thousands of children in Guatemala, China, and Mexico have been served. Lori and Kevin share joy in making the world a more colorful place and building communication across cultures; use art to engage kids in their education, to ignite their creative spark, and to unite communities; and offer scholarships to those willing and ready to become artists themselves. Lori and her husband Mark sponsor a Guatemalan girl named Julia so that she can go to school rather than work the cabbage fields. To learn more, make donation, or get involved, visit artambassador.org.



Antigua, Guatemala



“Experiments in color kindle my love of painting. If I have any gift, it is that of seeing so much of it. I want to share that vision using rhythm, shape, and intuitive mark-making. Not being drawn to one particular subject gives me the freedom to explore indefinitely. My work is life in real time, weaving in and out, rarely standing still. I work mostly in oil because of its sensuality, for the feel of it as it pulls off of my brush. Working both in thin and thick passages, my hope is to engage viewers, and to draw them in to look more closely. As if following clues to a mystery they become artists themselves, if only for a brief time.”

—Lori Putnam

Putnam