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Michele LaMontagne Hausman,

a **winner** in American Artist Magazine's annual National Competition.

Hausman was interviewed for an article published with the image of her award winning oil painting, *June Bloom*, an 18" x 24" painting created on linen canvas.



MICHELE LAMONTAGNE HAUSMAN

"I paint in oil because I enjoy its transparency and brilliance," declares California artist Michele LaMontagne Hausman. "Oil can be applied in several thin layers to create a glowing effect." The artist says she places her transparent darks first "to capture shadow and create the skeleton of the painting." She sometimes makes a transparent underpainting for the lights as well. Hausman then adds opaque colors, keeping the same values in the major shapes but varying the color. "I use more transparent layers than most other oil-landscape painters do," she says. "I feel it gives a painting more depth and atmosphere."

Hausman prefers to make small paintings on location before creating a larger studio work. "Looking at a scene for a few hours helps me memorize the feel of the place," she explains. She says that when she works outside, her paintings are influenced by the air temperature, as well as by all the smells, sounds, and colors of nature. *June Bloom* originated from a smaller piece painted in 2008. "I found the most breathtaking location," the artist recalls. "The wild yarrow

was in full bloom, creating pockets of gold in the meadow near the ocean. The gold color complemented the soft blues of the ocean and the rolling mountains in the distance. The blue-green sages and the grey-leaved branches of old plants added rich colors. I painted an 11" x 24" depiction of the scene, which I named 'Wildflower Coast.' When I reviewed my work from the year, this image stood out for a larger format. *June Bloom* was the result."

Hausman says she likes Utrecht paint for its strong pigment load and Rembrandt for its transparency. Her brushes are Utrecht teatle fibers and sablette flats. She prefers panels from New Traditions or RayMar, and stretched linens from Signature Canvas. She uses Gamblin's solvent, mediums, and varnish. Hausman is represented in California by ACCI Gallery, in Berkeley; Local Color, in Big Sur; Wild Heart Gallery, in Carmel Valley; and Wisteria Antiques & Design, in Sequoia.

For more information, visit www.michelahauman.com, or email michelahauman@icloud.com.

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- read the full article on page 20 of the July 2010 issue of **American Artist Magazine**