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EXTRA

Competition Spotlight artists are chosen from competition finalists. View winning entries from our 26th Annual Competition at www.artistsnetwork.com/article/2009winners.



Gathering at the Masterpiece (oil, 30x30) was a finalist in the Portrait/Figure category of the 26th Annual Art Competition.

Pauline Roche

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MY EARLY ART TRAINING was in the studios and ateliers of Melbourne, Australia; I've also studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Florence Academy of Art in Italy.

I fell in love with John Singer Sargent's *Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* (1882; oil, 87½x87½) many years ago. I visit Boston annually, and I always stop by the Museum of Fine Arts and stand in front of this painting for a while. While doing just that, I became fascinated with the changing scene in front of me,

with people moving into the gallery, pausing to look at the art. I liked capturing people of today enthralled by a masterpiece of the past.

At the museum, I took some photos and sketched rough gesture drawings and thumbnails of the people who came into the space. On location, I'm painting the piece in my mind. I would love to paint a scene like this from life, but it's not always possible in a public setting. So while I'm there, I put myself in the painting frame of mind, and then I return to the studio with a clear vision and

a feeling about the mood and color scheme.

I like to work all over the canvas rather than finish one spot at a time. With this method, I can see the entire picture and keep the concept in mind as I go. The painting gradually comes into focus, becoming sharper and more vivid. I feel this approach helps the painting have a harmony as a whole in the end because it was painted as a whole from the beginning. ■