

Tom Francesconi news, tusa, wcu

Watercolor Impressions



Chicago Theater (Private Collection of CNA Insurance)

NEWS!!

Tom recently had paintings accepted into 3 national exhibitions: the 12th Annual Watercolor Missouri National; Watercolor II: Paper and Pigment at the Foundry Art Center in Springfield, MO; and the 44th Watercolor West International Exhibition in Brea, CA. Tom's painting, "Meilleurs Amis, Honfleur", was awarded the Founders Award at Watercolor West.

Tom was commissioned by the CNA Insurance Company to create a series of watercolors depicting iconic images of Chicago. These paintings will hang in the Board Room of the CNA Insurance building in downtown Chicago.

Watercolors on Exhibit at...



The Poison Cup is a charming wine shop located at 1128 West Armitage Avenue. I am exhibiting paintings along with a painter friend, Bill Bartelt. Please join us **this** Saturday, January 12, 2013, from 6-8 pm for an evening of watercolors, good conversation and, of course, wine and cheese! I look forward to seeing you.

The show runs through spring.

Below is an excerpt from a recent Poison Cup newsletter.

New Art from Tom Francesconi

If you missed his last showing, you can stop in for a glimpse of this Master Watercolorist's work with the pieces he has on exhibit. Tom is a nationally respected watercolorist who teaches classes both in Chicago and throughout the country. He has written articles for various publications and he has exhibited in numerous national exhibitions. We are thrilled to have more of his work up and will be adding a few more pieces as he has them available. Please stop in and be inspired by his brilliance.



Korcula, Croatia

In September, I conducted a plein air workshop on the Island of Korcula in Croatia. It was a fabulous experience in an enchanting land. My students and I enjoyed painting in different locales, offering a wide array of subjects. It was all so inspirational!

From the quiet harbor of Racisce to the seawall of Korcula Town, our group of painters spent eight days painting the allure of this magical place. While enjoying the faces and places of Korcula, we dined on local cuisine and enjoyed savoring the wine born from home grown grapes. I have been invited to return to Korcula in 2014. If you would like to be a part of my next Croatian workshop, please contact me at info@tomfrancesconi.com or for more information, go to www.slikamilina.ca.



As the sun set on our last day, spent in the medieval, walled city of Dubrovnik, it marked the end of a very special trip. "Thank you" to all who were a part of this memorable painting experience.



Keeping an Open Palette

Having recently returned from an overseas workshop, I thought I would share a bit of what I brought back with me, aside from dirty laundry! Most notably, I renewed my appreciation for plein air painting. Don't get me wrong, I am as happy as a lark in the comfort of my studio, but I do not believe that it can compare to the heightened sense of awareness and of pure joy of the moment that comes with painting on location. Certainly plenty has been said about the trials and tribulations of plein air painting, but I feel the rewards of putting yourself "out there" make it all worthwhile.

There always has been a risk associated with the use of the photo as source material, that is, the temptation to succumb to its rule. While on location, the thought of trying to duplicate what lay before me never was an option. Faced with a limited amount of time and a plethora of visual information, I was forced to capture the spirit of my subject and convey it in its simplest terms. This required thoughtful consideration and an unwavering focus on the objective. This process challenges the painter to be succinct, as well as creative.

Since returning from my trip, I have found that looking at a photograph has me wanting for more. Gone are the sounds and smells that filled my senses at the quiet harbor, near the village church, in the bustling market or the sunlit vineyard. Gone are the inquisitive eyes that gathered around my easel while painting along a seaside promenade. Gone is the visual profusion of a boundless expanse that tempted me and that challenged my discretion. And most notably, gone is the light, that magnificent light that beckoned me to fill my paper with it as if it were the only thing that mattered. Yes, I think that plein air, for pure inspiration, trumps the photo. Does this mean I will abandon my cozy abode for the life of a nomadic plein air painter? No, I am still comfortable in a studio setting, but I do have my gear packed and ready by the door.

Demonstration

In November, 2012, I demonstrated a figure painting for 50 or so members of a local organization affiliated with the Art Institute of Chicago. The demonstration was conducted in my home town with a very special person in attendance--my Mother! In all the years I have travelled the country conducting workshops and demonstrations, I never have had "Mom" in the audience. I have to admit that, at first, I was a bit nervous but it did not take long before I was "off and running"! It was a very special day and one I will never forget. What a blessing and a privilege! Thanks, Mom, for everything!!

2013 Workshops

February 24, 2013 9am-4pm One day Figure Workshop, Old Town Art Center, Chicago, IL www.oldtowntriangle.com Contact Leslie Wolfe at (312) 337-1938.

Join Tom for his annual figure workshop in Chicago. The focus of this watercolor workshop will be a simplified approach to painting the clothed figure. Tom will demonstrate his painting process, while covering a range of topics that relate to the figure. Learn how Tom creates paintings that are rich in color and resonate with emotion. Students will work from their own reference photographs. Painters of all levels are welcome.



Tom Francesconi Watercolor Workshop



Tom's passion for watercolor and his love for teaching combine to create a dynamic workshop experience that is enjoyable, informative and inspirational. Tom's watercolor workshops focus on the importance of concept and how to bring an original idea to fulfillment with paint. Tom will discuss such topics as value relationships, planning the painting, design principles, and usage of color. A variety of daily demonstrations allow participants to see how Tom approaches a work from concept to finish. The demonstrations include a range of subjects from landscapes to figurative. Students work from their own references as they are presented each day with new challenges intended to promote thought and encourage exploration. Ample opportunity is provided for everyone to paint with individual direction/guidance a priority. Group critiques allow everyone an opportunity to learn from the works of others.

Painters of all levels of experience are welcome.

WWW.TOMFRANCESCONI.COM

**CLASS FEE: \$350 NON-MEMBER \$300 SUMMIT ART MEMBERS
(50% DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO RESERVE SEAT)**

DATES: MARCH 4TH-8TH 2013 (9AM-4PM)

**WORKSHOP LOCATION:
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE PLAZA.
4601 MAIN STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64112**

**TO REGISTER CONTACT WORKSHOP COORDINATOR: BARBARA NETH
EMAIL: HNETH@KC.RR.COM OR PHONE: 816-347-0390**

This will be my 3rd workshop in Kansas City and I am honored to be invited to return. It has become a favorite of mine. The beautiful Country Club Plaza with its myriad of fountains and lovely architecture in the flavor of Seville, Spain, is only a couple of blocks from the workshop location. Also nearby are two wonderful Art Museums, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. I always will remember my first trip to Kansas City

where I was greeted by the gorgeous white blooms of spring.



Country Club Plaza

- **May 20-24, 2013** Door County, WI
This is my annual spring workshop near my home in Ellison Bay. Door County is known for its charming lakeside villages and picturesque landscape. It has long been a special place of retreat for my family and me. It is a wonderful environment for the painter and I look forward to sharing it with you. (See next page for information)
- **June 18-20, 2013** L'Atelier Art Studio, Janesville, WI. Contact Claudia Fitzgerald at cfitzartist@gmail.com or call (608) 754-3358.
This will be my 4th workshop in Janesville, located in a historic train depot. The nearby Rotary Gardens are simply gorgeous and are a perfect place to rejuvenate the spirit. The focus of this workshop will be exploring the figure in watercolor. Bring your enthusiasm!
- **August 23-25, 2013** *Painting the Figure* LaGrange Art League, LaGrange, IL. www.lagrangeartleague.org Contact Sarah Rehmer at info@lagrangeartleague.org or (708) 352-3101.
The LaGrange Art League is situated in beautiful downtown LaGrange, IL . With a gallery downstairs and classroom space above, it is a wonderful place for creative inspiration and education. Last year's workshop was quite full so sign up early to avoid any disappointment.
- **September 23-27, 2013** Beach Art Group, Panama City Beach, FL
Contact Helen Ferrell at beachartgroup@att.net (850) 265-0460.
Panama City Beach rests on the Gulf of Mexico coast. It long has been a popular vacation destination due to its unique sugar-white sandy beaches. This will be my 1st visit to Panama City Beach and I am looking forward to it.

- **Tentative dates October 7-9, 2013** Manhattan Arts Center, Manhattan, KS
- **2014 Dates TBA** McComb, Mississippi

For specific information about any of these workshops including availability, description, registration, tuition, location, accommodations, etc., please use the contact information provided. Otherwise, please contact Tom at: info@tomfrancesconi.com.

Old Town **2013** Classes



Tom is entering his 8th year of teaching a Saturday morning class at the Old Town Triangle Center in Chicago. Classes are generally 10-week sessions that run winter, spring, summer and fall. The Art Center is located in a charming, historical neighborhood, just 2 blocks from the acclaimed Lincoln Park area and the Lake Michigan lakefront. The Center is easily accessible and the parking is free! More information about this class can be found by going to:

www.oldtowntriangle.com Scroll along the red headers to **Art and Fitness Classes**. A drop down menu will appear. Click on **Art Classes**. Scroll down to the bottom to find more information about Tom's classes and any upcoming workshops.

Tom Francesconi NWS, TWSA, WW Door County Watercolor Workshop



Where: Ellison Bay Community Center, Ellison Bay, Wisconsin

When: May 20-24, 2013 9 am - 4 pm

Contact: Tom Francesconi (708) 799-8161 info@tomfrancesconi.com

Situated along the shore of Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, on the beautiful Door County peninsula, this workshop will offer the student a wonderful learning opportunity as Tom shares his methods for painting bold, loose and interpretive watercolors. Along with discussions that cover a range of topics, Tom will do a complete painting demonstration each day. Subjects may include landscapes, urban scenes, and the clothed figure. Students will work from their own references as they explore new ways to approach their paintings. Each class day will end with a group critique. *Tom welcomes all painters.*

One day, a shore lunch will be provided for everyone. On Thursday evening, there will be a wine and cheese gathering at Tom's Ellison Bay home.

Tom Francesconi (708) 799-8161 info@tomfrancesconi.com www.tomfrancesconi.com