

Tom Francesconi ams, news, tusa

Watercolor Impressions



Cavtat Harbor Walk

NEWS!!

I have had paintings selected for exhibit into the Illinois Watercolor Society 2015 national exhibition, the Transparent Watercolor Society of America 2015 national exhibition, and the Watercolor Art Society-Houston international exhibition.

The Annual Student & Faculty Exhibition at the Old Town Art Center in Chicago is scheduled for May 23 – July 2, 2015 with an opening Reception on Sunday, May 31. This exhibit always coincides with the renowned Old Town Art Fair. If you are in the neighborhood, I invite you to stop in and peruse the works of my students.

I will be exhibiting new Chicago paintings and other recent works at the Orland Park Public Library, throughout the month of November, 2015. There will be a small “Meet the Artist” reception on November 6, 7-8 pm. Please consider joining me. I look forward to seeing you!

Orland Park Public Library, 14921 Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park, IL (708) 428-5100

Keeping an Open Palette

Ah, the loveable mat. I always keep a few of them handy in my studio. Whenever I have a piece nearing completion, I like to put a mat on it. It rids the neighboring space of distractions, helping me “see” as I work toward a finish. Of course, mats are used most often as a means for presentation, setting the painting apart from its surroundings and providing a more pleasing viewing experience. All of this is really nice, but let’s get to the truth about those mats. The real reason mats were invented was to help the artist make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear! Just kidding, of course. But let’s face it, how many of us have been frustrated with less than pleasing results from a painting, only to reach for a mat with a smaller window in the hopes of salvaging our efforts by making a “discovery” of something worthwhile within the beast? I know, because I have done it, but only under extreme protest. I realize that if I am tempted to reach for a mat that is smaller than originally intended, something must have gone wrong.

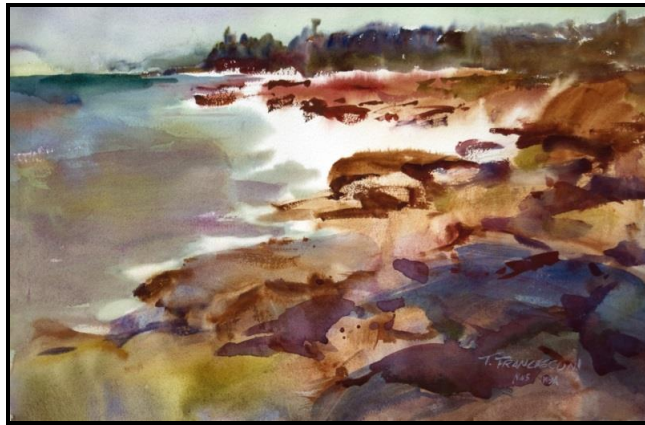
What I do not like about the whole idea is that it can become a crutch. Any painting that doesn’t work can just become a playground for the smaller mat—a process that I feel can “sugar-coat” a bigger issue. I certainly have had paintings resurrected by this procedure. However, they always seem to have an asterisk next to them, reminding me of my original unsuccessful attempt and that I was really nothing more than lucky to end up with something to show for my efforts. I never can shake that feeling and I don’t like it. I decided, once and for all, that I am done with that “last ditch” process. Now, if a painting displeases me, I take the time to consider why it does and make the appropriate adjustments. If it is too far gone to be adjusted, I move on, resisting the lure of playing Ouija board with a mat. What I am after is a good painting that is designed to the paper’s edge. I know that if I can achieve that, I will be happy. For me, there is no plan “B”. Therefore, once I begin painting, I try to remain focused and go after it with all guns blazing. If it doesn’t work, I reach for *white* paper.

Happy painting!

2015 Workshops

February 22, 2015 Painting the Figure, Old Town Art Center, Chicago
Thank you to all whose interest and enthusiasm have helped to make my recurring Old Town workshops a success.

June 1-3, 2015 Door County, WI Contact Tom: info@tomfrancesconi.com
(708) 799-8161 Join me for 3 enjoyable days of painting on the lovely Door County peninsula! Our painting location will be the quiet and picturesque Ellison Bay — a perfect setting for the painter. We will paint in a comfortable and spacious facility that has plenty of windows and looks out toward the bay. If a spring workshop in the “Cape Cod of the Midwest” sounds appealing, this workshop is for you! Registrations have already begun and this workshop is set to “go”. Contact me now to hold your place.



Surf at Toft Point



July 13-15, 2015 The B. Harley Bradley House, Kankakee, IL Contact Pat (815) 937-4933 or Carol (708) 921-3141. Situated along the banks of the Kankakee River, this Frank Lloyd Wright house will provide a beautifully unique setting for this workshop. Please go to www.wrightinkankakee.org for more information about this very special property and to see a brief video of a documentary in the making. I am honored to be the first artist chosen to conduct a watercolor workshop at this historic location.

August 16 and 23, 2015 Old Town Art Center, Chicago IL (312) 337-1938
This two-day workshop will explore the landscape and the figure. The first day of the workshop will focus on a simplified approach to painting the clothed figure. Day 2 will focus on painting an interpretive landscape. Enjoy 2 fun-filled days of painting in the charming Old Town neighborhood of Chicago. Street parking is free!

Tuscany, Italy!



September 19-26, 2015 Tuscan Renaissance Center www.ilchiostro.com
Don't miss this exciting opportunity to paint in the Chianti hills just outside of Siena in Tuscany, Italy. The Tuscany region of Italy is world renown for its pure scenic beauty, charming hill towns and, of course, its wine! Already proving to be my most popular workshop in 2015, this workshop has **only a few spaces left!** Sign up now to avoid disappointment.

October 12-14, 2015 Fort Walton Beach, FL Contact Theresia McInnis mcinnisjt@cox.net October is a perfect time to be in sunny Florida. Fort Walton Beach is known for its emerald green water and powdery white Beaches. This will be my first trip to Fort Walton Beach and I am looking forward to teaching there.

For specific information about any of these workshops including availability, description, registration, tuition, location, accommodations, etc., please use the contact information provided.

Additional information can also be found by going to www.tomfrancesconi.com

2015 Classes



Spring in Old Town is just beautiful and my spring class is in full swing.

Tom teaches 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 neighborhood street parking is free! More information about this class can be found by going to:

www.oldtowntriangle.com

As always, I welcome your comments.

info@tomfrancesconi.com

www.tomfrancesconi.com

If you would like your name removed from my database, please email me with “unsubscribe” in the subject box.

Thank you.