

Tom Francesconi news, tusa

Watercolor Impressions



Port en Bessin

This is the maiden voyage of my new newsletter! The intent is to provide recent news and upcoming events. This newsletter owes its existence, in part, to my continual considerations of how to improve upon my website as a means of “getting the word out there”. A lady named Edith, of Maryland, is the other entity to whom this newsletter is indebted. I recently received an email from Edith inquiring about my workshops and suggesting that I put out a newsletter. “Voila!” I thought. Thank you for the gentle prodding that has led to the inspiration and fruition of:

Watercolor Impressions .

I do hope that you, and all who receive this, will enjoy!

NEWS!!

Tom's figurative piece, Andrew, has been awarded **First Place** in the 43rd Annual Watercolor West International Exhibition. This marks the 4th consecutive year that one of Tom's paintings has been selected for inclusion in Watercolor West and the 3rd time he has been an award winner. The show runs through December 18, 2011, at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center in Brea, California.



Andrew

France 2010



Tom demonstrates in Bonnieux

In September of last year, I conducted a workshop in southern France. Our group of 18 painters settled in the small, picturesque hill town of Bonnieux. Here, we painted the people, streets and buildings of this lovely town and also spent time painting in other wonderful locations such as Arles and

Rousillon. On our last day together, we arrived in Paris where we capped off our trip with dinner in the Eiffel Tower. Thank you to all who contributed to making this a memorable painting experience!

My wife and I, along with our youngest son, stayed in Paris for a couple of days before we headed to the Normandy coast and eventually to Belgium. Since that time, I have completed a number of paintings inspired by the people and places encountered during our travels, two of which are included in this newsletter and all of which are available for sale. More images will appear in the next newsletter. Further information can be had by contacting Tom at: info@tomfrancesconi.com.



Bonnieux Church

Watercolor 11x15

2011

In February, as a faculty member of the Palette and Chisel Academy of Art in Chicago, I was invited to be a part of a very special exhibit hosted by Hillsdale College in Michigan. Hillsdale College is a small college with a big academic reputation. A friend of mine once referred to it as a “diamond in the rough”. Thanks to Sam Knecht, Professor and Chair of the Art Department at Hillsdale, and to all who were involved in putting on such a show. And, thank you for inviting me and providing such a wonderful gallery space for exhibit.

Demonstrations

In March, I demonstrated a figure study for the Wayne Art League in the charming town of Wayne, Illinois. I like to think of Wayne as the little village that time forgot. The name of the church where the demonstration was conducted certainly seems appropriate as “The Little Church by the Wayside”.

In June, I was invited to conduct a demonstration for the Illinois Watercolor Society at the Dick Blick store in Wheaton, IL. I have demonstrated here on a number of occasions. Thank you to everyone who came out to watch on that hot summer day!



On October 13, 2011, I conducted a morning demonstration for the Lakes Region Watercolor Guild in Grayslake, Illinois. It was so much fun to see so many familiar faces. Thanks to all for coming out and sharing your morning with me.

Workshops

Earlier this year I was in Phoenix to judge the Arizona Watercolor Association’s Annual Exhibition and conduct a workshop along with a demonstration for the membership. One evening I was dining in a Phoenix restaurant with Jeremy Jones, an architect, fellow painter and my contact person for the workshop. After enjoying our meal, the waiter brought us a delectable dessert--a dessert we never ordered! You can imagine our surprise! We were told it was compliments of a gentleman sitting in a nearby booth. It turns out the gentleman was Mr. Graham of M. Graham paint!! Indeed, it is a small world. Apparently, he had overheard our conversation about watercolor. We invited him to our table to share a delightful evening of art talk.

A Special Workshop in Door County, WI



Two years ago I began teaching what has now become an annual workshop in Northern Door County, Wisconsin.

Situated along the shore in Ellison Bay, our workshop location is set back from the road in a small park that provides a lovely view to the waters of Green Bay.

The facility offers us a full kitchen, a large

sitting/eating area, bathrooms and a spacious room in which to paint. Here, all enjoy the view of the bay that the surrounding windows so graciously provide.

This workshop is different from most workshops in a number of ways. Although primarily an indoor workshop, we do go outside for at least one day of plein air painting, depending on the weather. One day during the week my wife, Barbara, and our boys cook a shore lunch for all the students. And, one evening of the week, we host a wine and cheese get-together at our nearby home. The beauty of Door County and its relaxed atmosphere provide a perfect setting for an unforgettable painting experience. Thank you to my family and to all the students who have helped make this workshop such a great success!

In September, I flew to Kansas City for a second visit where I conducted a week-long workshop. The weather was beautiful and it was great to paint with so many wonderful people. I even was treated to dining at, as well as to enjoying the collections of, two Kansas City museums, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Throughout the week, we all worked hard and shared our enthusiasm for painting. Many thanks to all who attended and helped make my stay so special!

In October, I was in Montana, where I served as juror for the 2011 Montana Watercolor Society's National Exhibition at the Bigfork Museum of Art & History. I also conducted a workshop at Flathead Valley Community College. It was wonderful to return to Montana and see some of the friends I made from an earlier visit as well as to make new ones. I also was fortunate enough to get into Glacier National Park for a short, yet rewarding visit. Thank you to all!

Classes

I continue to teach a Saturday morning class at the Old Town Art Center in Chicago. The classes are generally 10-week sessions that run winter, spring, summer and fall. The Art Center is located in a charming, historical neighborhood, just a few blocks from the acclaimed Lincoln Park area and the Lake Michigan lakefront. The Center is easily accessible and the parking is free. I started teaching there five years ago to a small group of students. Now, my class has grown to the point that we are busting at the seams! The opening of my most recent session found me with 21 students in class. I call it a "class" but experience will indicate it is more of a "family", with the outpouring of kindness and generosity that is exhibited by all. What a wonderful atmosphere to teach and to learn! I am very grateful to all my students for their continued interest and I look forward to another creative and enjoyable fall session. More information about my class can be found by going to www.oldtowntriangle.com



For the 3rd year in a row, I will be teaching a one-day figure workshop in Chicago at the Old Town Art Center. The workshop is scheduled for November 6, 2011. For more information go to www.oldtowntriangle.com or call Leslie Wolfe at 312 337 1938.

Looking Ahead to 2012

- I will be teaching my 3rd annual Ellison Bay workshop in Door County, Wisconsin. This workshop will be held May 21-25. All levels of painters are welcome.



A view from Ephraim on the Door County Peninsula

- October 10-12 I will be in Dallas, Texas, to conduct a 3-day workshop for the Southwestern Watercolor Society.
- I have been invited to teach on the Island of Korcula, Croatia. I hope you will consider joining me September 1-10 for a plein air painting excursion like no other. This looks to be a sensational trip! For more information, please go to www.slikamilina.ca. Thanks to all who have already responded to my early announcement.



www.tomfrancesconi.com info@tomfrancesconi.com (708) 799 8161

Three new workshops have been scheduled in the Chicago area!

- **January 27-29, 2012** Positive Strokes Art School and Gallery, Palatine, IL.
Positivestrokesartschool.com (847) 705 7130 posstroke@sbcglobal.net
- **March 16-18, 2012** DuPage Art League, DuPage, IL.
Lagrangeartleague.org (708) 352 3101
- **April 20-22, 2012** Positive Strokes Art School and Gallery, Palatine, IL.

These workshops offer a great opportunity to spend a few days of concentrated study with Tom.

Happy painting!

If you would like to be removed from any future mailings, please send an email to: info@tomfrancesconi.com with "opt out" in the subject line.