

# NEWS & HUES

## *Watercolour ~ Bold and Loose!*

THE PAINTING NEWSLETTER OF DAVID WEBB ~ WINTER 2010/11



'Sea Tractor, Burgh Island' watercolour 8 3/4" x 12" ~ David Webb

**Happy New Year to all my Readers!  
Welcome to the Winter edition of my newsletter.**

The painting above shows the sea tractor on its way to Burgh Island, off the coast of South Devon. At low tide the island can be reached on foot via the causeway. However, high tide cuts off the island and this unusual vehicle is used to transport people to and from the island.

I began by painting a 'mood wash' across the entire surface of the paper, using cobalt blue and alizarin crimson, to get that misty effect.

I then painted the island and the hotel in one go. I wasn't concerned that the outline of the hotel would bleed into the hillside, as I had intended to keep the background soft.

The tractor was also painted in one go, once everything else was dry. I also sharpened up the roof of the hotel to make it stand out more.

The initial wash has created the mood, which permeates the entire painting. In this example, the wash is quite cool but a wash of, say, raw sienna would have created a much sunnier feel to the finished painting.

I often apply a wash to the paper, before I start on the detail, as it has a way of uniting everything in the painting.

On February 26th this technique will be the subject of my one-day workshop at Collaton St Mary (*see overleaf*).

### **New Year Resolutions**

We all make them, and they all seem to be forgotten by the end of January! However, the new year presents a good opportunity for artists to try something new or maybe something that you've been putting off.

My programme for 2011 seems to be packed with courses and workshops, many more than last year, which I will be running throughout the UK.

This leaves less time for my own painting but I would like to exhibit more of my own work this year. If you're thinking of showing your work there are endless possibilities. How and where you show your work depends on your current level of ability and confidence.

There are several open exhibitions held throughout the UK, inviting entries from members of the public.

Some of the more well-known include the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour, the Royal Watercolour Society and Sunday Times/Smith & Williamson Watercolour Competition to name but a few.

A word of warning though; entering these competitions & exhibitions can be an expensive venture. To begin with there is the cost of framing to consider. Then there is often a submission fee (for each painting) for the bigger exhibitions, which is not returned if your works are not accepted.

Of course, there are also the rejection blues to consider. Nobody likes to read that their work hasn't made it through the selection process. Everyone gets rejected sometimes. Although that's small consolation when it happens to you.

Mmm. I'm not really selling this to you, am I?

Another alternative is to join a local art society. Most towns throughout the UK have at least one and most clubs hold an annual exhibition to show members' work.

This is a great way to get your work seen as you'll be showing your work as part of a group and, if you're at all nervous about the prospect, it can be less daunting than having a solo exhibition.

If things go well, you may feel more confident about entering something into one of the larger, more well-known events in the future.

Of course, it may be that simply visiting an exhibition is something you've been meaning to do. Again, there are the major societies to consider but there are also local galleries and local artists to discover.

I'm determined to exhibit my own work in one way or another this year. Whether it's in a national competition or exhibition, or something more local (or both) remains to be seen. However, before I do that, I'd better paint something!

Whatever I decide, I'll let you know in future newsletters.



'Old Fergie' watercolour 9" x 13" ~ David Webb

Both the paintings on this page are of mechanical subjects. The one above being slightly less pristine than the examples shown below right.

I've painted this old Ferguson tractor on several occasions, sometimes as a demonstration as it is always popular. The tractor lives outside the Watershed Studio, St Osyth, one of the painting venues where I run my workshops.

Although it's seen better days, it still makes a good subject for watercolour. On this occasion I began with an all-over wash, painting the sunny colours first. Burnt sienna and light red were used to portray those lovely rust colours. I used a combination of light red and ultramarine for the cooler shadows.

You can see how I've used that big, dark shadow of the shed to create the negative shape of the lighter edges of the tractor.

The painting opposite, *Beetles*, was painted slightly different. For this one I didn't start with an all-over wash, as I wanted take full advantage of the whiteness of the paper to highlight the bright, chrome bumpers.

I painted everything using a direct technique, with one wash rather than a build-up of several layers.

The grass was painted in a wet-in-wet technique, allowing phthalo blue and raw sienna to mix on the paper. This colour is also reflected in the chrome and white paper was left for the highlights.

**Tip:** phthalo blue is a staining colour. Don't use it when you're wearing white trousers, especially during an art society demo!

### Exhibitions & Competitions

A brief list of forthcoming exhibitions and competitions. Please contact the organisers for more details.

#### MATISSE:

##### DRAWING WITH SCISSORS

35 lithographic prints of his famous cut-outs.

8th Jan-6th Feb

Royal West of England Academy,  
Bristol BS8 1PX

Tel: 0117 973 5129

Email: [info@rwa.org.uk](mailto:info@rwa.org.uk)

#### PRIMARY COLOURS

An annual exhibition of artwork by local primary school children.

29th Jan-16th Feb

Harbour House, Kingsbridge, Devon

Tel: 01548 854708

Email: [info@harbourhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@harbourhouse.org.uk)

#### PURE GOLD: 50 YEARS OF THE FBA

Significant works selected from the 9 societies of the Federation of British Artists.

9th-19th Feb

Mall Galleries, London SW11 5BD

Tel: 0207 930 6844

Email: [info@mallgalleries.com](mailto:info@mallgalleries.com)

### One-day Watercolour Workshops in Paignton, Devon, with David Webb

I have some dates, for 2011, for my themed one-day workshops at the Parish Rooms, Blagdon Road, Collaton St Mary, Paignton, Devon TQ3 3YA ~

Jan 15: *Boats & Water*

Feb 26: *Creating Atmosphere & Mood*

Mar 19: *Townscapes*

Apr 30: *Trees in the Landscape*

All my workshops are aimed at beginners and improvers so there's no need to worry that you may not be good enough to take part.

Although each watercolour workshop has a theme, I cover most techniques in each one. I think that demonstrating each technique is the most effective way of showing students how to get to grips with the medium.

Just bring along your usual painting materials plus plenty of paper... big as you like but no smaller than 15" x 11" as it's difficult to paint loose on a post-card. We start at 10am and finish at 4pm. The room where we work is at the top of a flight of stairs.

Bring along a packed lunch too, but tea and coffee are freely available all day.

Workshops cost £25 for the day. To book, just phone or email me.

'til next time ~ Happy Painting

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'Beetles' watercolour 13"x 9" ~ David Webb

To add/remove your name from my mailing list please get in touch via the contact details below:

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