

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SIG WATERCOLOUR

will be held on

Wednesday 22nd June

instead of the planned 21st June

7:00pm to 9:30pm

at the AGRA Galleries Camberwell

During this session :

1. We are going to do a follow up on last month's make-over's, and a discussion on composition, its principles and when to ignore them!
2. We all enjoyed an exercise on some of the noted Australian artists as JJ Hilder, etc last year. This month we have selected four highly respected, "living" artists. *Details will be issued directly to our SIG members and we invite your interpretation on how you would handle your chosen painting!*

Please come along it will be a lot of fun, if you are interested in wishing to receive a copy of the special session details, please email jan.lowe@camberwellart.com.au

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

AAL WINTER COMPETITION

Now closing Saturday
24th June 2011

You are invited to enter this online competition.
Finalists will have their entries showcased online
for the rest of the 2011-2012 season.

Send your images to
jan.lowe@camberwellart.com.au
entry forms at www.agra.org.au



Painting in North Vietnam

By Tony Walker

Artists who avoid 'greens' and follow rigorously the dictum of limiting the palette, will probably want to readjust their approach if they visit Northern Vietnam. Rural landscape there is generally a vibrant range of greens punctuated by rich earth colours and the pervasive blues of lakes and distant mountains. The Vietnamese urban landscape can be an exciting ceaselessly moving montage of colour, motorbikes, ambient traffic noise and life.

Many Australians travel to Vietnam, but for those unfamiliar, I can report that in my recent painting trip I found a fascinating variety of landscape and a very friendly and hospitable people. And by the way, the food is sensational. The country is easy and economical to get around, both in the cities and in the backblocks, which enabled me to produce quite a number of small plein air watercolours. I will mention a few of these by way of showing some of the diversity.



The high mountain country adjoining the Chinese border is a major tourist destination and for good reason. Take any of the minor roads up here then just walk off the side onto the narrow paths and tracks that wind up the precipitous slopes between amazingly engineered rice paddy terraces and forested land. Forget the camera – *it just can't cope!*



In the valleys and lowlands, water seems to be everywhere in the lakes, rivers and rice paddies. Like the land, the water is endlessly farmed in various ways. In localities *around Ninh Binh the 'crazy mountains' that you see in some Chinese art, balance on otherwise flat terrain creating unique subject matter.*



Villages and urban centres including Hanoi are a fascinating concoction of shapes and colours. Painting here is generally easy because although you may attract a small crowd of onlookers they are appreciative and in no way a nuisance.



I found the coast around Harlong Bay area inspiring. It is easy enough to sidestep the plethora of tours offered and get amongst not just the unique seascape, but also genuine un-spoilt fishing ports like the one on Cat Ba Island.



Vietnam has a great deal to offer the artist, both culturally and visually. Like other Asian countries it would perhaps attract a slightly more adventurous spirit than a trip to European destinations like South of France and Italy. Tony Walker May 2011

We may be lucky to see Tony's beautiful paintings later this year as he is thinking of an exhibition in Melbourne featuring plein air paintings from Vietnam and some from Oman, India and remote Australia is planned for later in 2011'. Watch this space!

STOP PRESS!

**HAVE YOU HUNG YET—NOW THERE IS AN
OPPORTUNITY**

The Gallery Manager advises that there is
gallery space now available for

July 20 - 31 2011



We invite you to have your exhibition in the lovely
AGRA Galleries, it is the best time of year offering the
biggest crowds.

Call Vicki and discuss today— 03 9882 5859

Vicki is also taking Gallery bookings for 2012—
plenty of time to prepare and reserve your space now.

“DAYS OF 100 PAINTINGS”

Paint-out weekend at Goulburn Valley

Friday 14th October to Sunday 15th October

Contact Rob Knight Ph 5964 9307

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