

THE RAINBOW

Box Art Group Newsletter - Friday 30th July

Written by and for the members of Box Art Group (No. 64)

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Outdoor Session 15th July

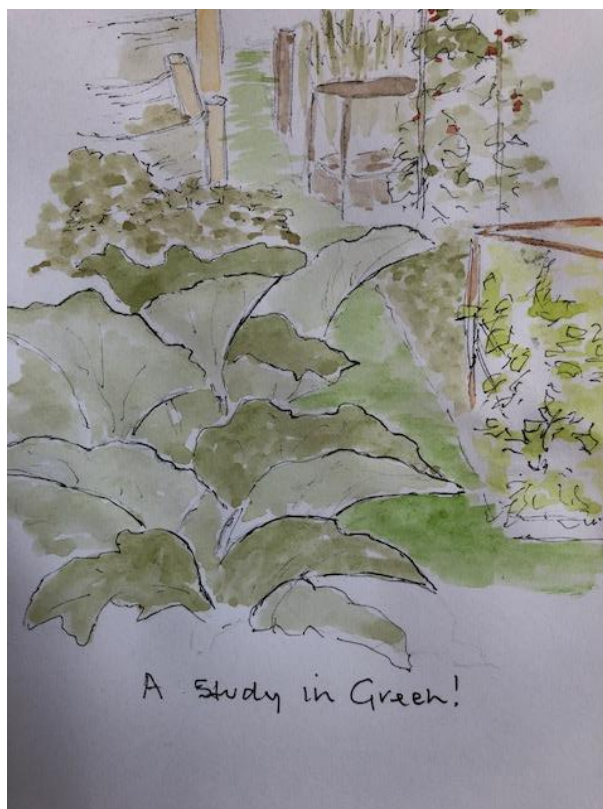
A few members met at Rose Barrow Allotments, Amberley, for a very pleasant afternoon's sketching led by local resident Brian Witcombe.

A Study in Green

Jill F

Whilst I have a study in oil - turmoil

Pete



From the allotments on Thursday 15th. It is done with pencil, coloured Stabilo pens and, when I got home, I filled in some colour with crayons.

Hilary K



Jill H



Jill H



Sunset over the Severn

Jose



Steven Townsend

(I had rather a surprise when I started to write the attached article and now know why no-one had heard of John Southern. I attach also the photo of my print of a wren and tried to copy a few from the website. However, these look very poor when enlarged, so it would be best to look at the website instead).

Some years ago on our way to Cornwall, we stopped at Dobwalls Adventure Park where there was a magnificent 10 inch gauge railway running in a setting similar to the Rocky Mountains. Sadly the Park no longer exists. It was once one of Cornwall's top visitor attractions but eventually closed for redevelopment and never re-opened. While there, we went into the art gallery, The John Southern Gallery of Birds and Animals in Art and were blown away by the amazingly detailed watercolours of birds, so perfect that they could have flown off the paper. I came away with a limited edition print of a wren perched on a fence and surrounded by morning glory.

I thought this article was going to be about the artist, John Southern - but no, It was only when I decided to research into these artworks that I discovered that the painter was not John Southern of the Gallery at all! The artist was one Steven Townsend. His paintings and prints are now so sought after that they change hands for over £3000. It surprised me that John Southern was not well known in this area; now I know why - but I am even more surprised that Steven Townsend is not a household word!

Steven Townsend was originally a printer who had earlier shown no interest in art whatsoever. At the age of 26, however, he became very ill with depression and to pass the time decided to paint a picture and he chose to copy a picture of a kingfisher. To his - and everyone's - surprise, he found that he could do so with ease and his new-found talent continued to flower, uninterrupted ever since. This was in the early 80s, but he went on to be voted Artist of the Year by the Fine Art Trade Guild in 1999. His remarkable skill started with birds but later he moved on into the field of big game, and he is still largely unknown in the West today.

I have now discovered that he moved to Lancashire and now specialises in animal portraits and oils of big game. His prints of birds still command high prices and have been sold for six figure amounts.

At the original Gallery, I bought a signed, limited edition watercolour of a wren, sitting on a fence, for something like £90. It is still hanging on my wall, but is now very faded and unlikely to be valuable!

I scanned a few of his bird, animal and big game paintings, but recommend looking at the Chelmer Art Gallery or Steven Townsend Artist websites for some more information.

Hilary K/Hilary misc/steventownsend



Challenge 33

Hello Everyone,

August 8th is National Lighthouse Day.....

...the challenge is – lighthouses

Please continue to support The Rainbow by sending photographs of your work as a jpeg to Pete Smith peter@lyonspace.co.uk. Thanks to all of you who have and are taking part in the challenges, sharing other art work carried out and interesting tidbits, and thank you Pete for editing it.

If you require advice about your artwork Roxy and Beth have both agreed to support us and are also part of this email group. It is not compulsory to do all the challenges or any of them, but if you do - anything goes regarding, media, style etc.! Let your imagination run wild! You might decide to make one challenge into a bigger project which might take weeks to complete or do as a 5-minute exercise.

If you can, take time out for your art on Thursday afternoons.

Stay safe.

Kind regards,

Lynne

Outdoor Session 29th July

Minchinhampton church car park at 2:00pm. There's a bit of shade if we need it!