

Martin Swan RSMA Profile

'I paint them..... others can talk about them'



Martin is well-known as an artist on the Isle of Wight, especially his marine paintings and in more recent years his landscape and abstract work. He is a regular exhibitor at Quay Arts, sometimes jointly with his artist wife, Melanie. Martin was introduced to the Bistro last year and will be the feature artist in March 2013.

Martin was born in 1951 in Newport on the Isle of Wight. He was educated at Carisbrooke Grammar School and went on to study Environmental Sciences at the New University of Ulster, Northern Ireland and later read Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Wales, graduating in 1981.

Turning his back on an academic career, Martin chose to focus his attention on his passion for drawing and painting.

He quickly gained a reputation as a landscape painter but increasingly so as a marine artist, inspired by his native surroundings of the Isle of Wight and his particular interest in the history of the Solent and the great yachts of the inter-war years.

In 2003 Martin was elected Associate Member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists and now regularly exhibits with them at the Mall Galleries in London.

Alongside his landscapes and Marine paintings Martin also shows a love of abstraction. He is inspired by the abstract qualities of the boats and quaysides ie. The shapes, lines, angles and colours. His use of colour is consistently serene and subtle in all of his work, whether it is a landscape or an abstract; they all have a very calming quality about them.



Martin works both in watercolour and oil paint. He says he prefers to mix the colours on the painting rather than on the palette as it gives his paintings a softer look. Each painting starts with a doodle, a way of working out the composition followed by a half-size drawing, finalizing the composition and establishing the correct proportions. This is then copied full-size onto watercolour paper or a canvas and the painting begins.

For further information go to www.martinswan.com

Education

- 1951 Born on 14th April in Newport, Isle of Wight
- 1976-9 BA Hons Philosophy, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth
- 1980-1 Postgraduate Certificate in Biblical Studies PGCE, University College, Abertswyth
- 2003 Elected as an associate member, Royal Society of Marine Artists
- 2005 Elected full member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists

Exhibitions:

- 2008 Location, Quay Arts, Newport, Isle of Wight
- 2006 One man show, Quay Arts, Newport, Isle of Wight
- 2004 onwards Royal Society of Marine Artists regional exhibitions National Maritime Museum, Greenwich Portsmouth Cathedral, St. Davids Hall, Cardiff, Little Gallery, Mousehole, Cornwall
- 2004 Inside/Outside, Quay Arts, Newport, Isle of Wight
- 2003 Johnathan Grant Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2000 onwards Royal Society of Marine Artists Annual Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London