ANNI WASHINGTON

ARTIST

As a Painter

I was born and grew up in Sydney, but moved to Brisbane after the floods in 1974.

In 1984, after meeting well known Western Australian artist, Leith Angelo, I began my first art lessons conducted by this wonderful and gentle man, using watercolour paints.

I was amazed by his talent, captured by the challenging watercolour medium and soon seduced by its magic qualities. The excitement and spontaneity goes (for me), far beyond any other medium. The watercolour medium is a hard and sometimes an unforgiving task master but yet a surprising and when successful, hugely rewarding one also……

the challenge of “making it work for you” keeps one enthralled as it has done so for me ever since I first fell under its spell.

My first solo exhibition was held in 1987 at the newly established Red Hill Gallery in Brisbane…….and I am still exhibiting there.

I moved to Tenterfield in the New England Ranges of NSW in 1988 and continued my passion for painting the Australian landscape in watercolours.extending to other mediums, including ink, acrylic, crayon, rock ochres and well as tools such as razor blades(carefully) and other scrapers, toothbrushes, sponges, tissues, bamboo pens or even twigs from the garden to express foreground texture….you can fashion a credible tool from almost anything at all!

This led to “textures” that “man” leaves on the landscape……old sheds, houses and dairies, rusty rooves, timber yards and fences, growing old, repaired and weathered.

And anything else really, that “man”, in his gift to the artis….… leaves behind.

I started drawing with soft pastels and found a new, vigorous medium.the tactile feel being very different to working with a brush. They are excellent for portraying the people of the land, farmers, graziers, dairymen, timber getters and bush workers.

My interest in “the face” has also led to more contemporary figurative works of my own imagination rendered in the impasto style of the pastel medium.

I had been using oil paints recently and found them ‘creamy and luscious’. I like the effect of the ‘brush marks’, that are possible with the opaque paint with no loss of beautiful colour.but, at the same time, I wondered how this experience would change my journey with watercolour……...it sets an artist off on a new and adventurous journey into creativity.

I have experimented using oils and other mediums with watercolours in my work………….

Coming back to watercolours after a time with oils,,I found that my approach to watercolours and my style had changed significantly. I became more free in style and wanted to emphasise, in my paintings, the qualities and effects in technique that make watercolour, the most spontaneous and exciting of mediums……transparency, light and luminosity, bold colour,‘wet on wet’ techniques, use of ‘wax’, oil crayons and other media to vary the effects of water and pigment on paper………variation in brushes and brush marks and use of other ‘tools’ to show texture in the landscape……….

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