

## **MISSA 2010**

### **Watercolour – Clive Powsey**

We will probably be working out of doors for a part of some days (amount depends on your own interest in doing so), so you should bring:

- Windproof and even shower proof jacket, and if you have them, pants.
- Wool or pile sweaters/jackets
- Sunhat and even a toque for cooler conditions
- Appropriate footwear for the out of doors. This could include rubber boots or hiking boots to keep sand and mud off the feet.
- A portable easel if you like to use one
- A stool if you don't want to stand or sit on driftwood
- A vacuum flask for tea or coffee and container to put a snack in. You might also want to have a water container to keep hydrated in the sun.
- A backpack that will accommodate most of your excursion items. We won't have to go far to find interesting things to paint, but some mobility for yourself and your materials would be useful.
- Participants should bring all their regularly enjoyed watercolour paints, brushes, papers and drawing materials.

If you need a clear guideline of watercolour and drawing materials the following might be helpful:

A portable water container. A large ice cream bucket with a handle works well. You can also buy smaller chambered containers which allow you to segregate cleaner water from used water.

Palette: The large 11x15 light plastic ones with a lid are particularly useful.

Brushes: sable, or the more affordable synthetic sable, watercolour brushes #8, #10, #12, #14. Chinese brushes are also useful. A 2" flat sable brush is useful; a house painting brush will suffice and be cheaper.

Graphite pencils, carbon pencils, conte or other types of crayon for stand-alone drawings, or to lightly sketch under your watercolours.

Watercolour paints: If you are fairly new to watercolour the list below should be helpful. (\*indicates non essential. All artists have their own preferences; please bring yours and share with us why you like them!)

- Cerulean Blue
- Cobalt Blue
- Ultramarine blue
- Winsor Green
- Olive green
- Cadmium yellow medium
- Lemon yellow

- Cadmium red light
- Alizarin crimson
- Yellow ochre
- Burnt sienna
- Burnt umber
- Payne's grey\*
- Lamp black\*
- Cobalt Green\*
- Oxide of Chromium (green)\*
- Cadmium yellow deep (orange)\*
- Raw sienna\*
- Sepia\*

Winsor and Newton, DaVinci, Holbein, and Stevenson all make excellent paints.

Bring plenty of your favorite watercolour paper. All the large manufacturers make superb products. If you are at a loss as to what to bring, a 140lb Cold Press (medium) paper would probably be most versatile, and Arches Bright White 140lb Cold Press is both reasonably priced and very flexible. The bright white surface helps intensify colour and the effects of glazes. The 'front' has some tooth on it, and the 'back' is smoother and also makes an excellent drawing surface. Bring more than enough materials to supply yourself for 2 full days of painting. Anything extra can be used after the course.

A large board to accommodate a full sheet of paper if you intend to paint large. A board to accommodate a half sheet if you intend to paint smaller. A couple of smaller boards are also useful for excursions if you also wish to do some smaller paintings on excursions and want to put them in a backpack.

Stretching watercolour paper:

Many watercolourists use the traditional soaking and stretching to affix watercolour paper to a drawing or painting board. This prevents wrinkling and buckling while painting and drying. This can be done with brown 'butcher' tape, also known as 'packing' tape, and is available at art supply shops that cover watercolour materials. A stapler is also a useful tool to have in the event there is slippage as your paper and tape dries and stretches. You can also stretch the paper after soaking it by stapling it to the board. Remember you will need a tool, for example a Swiss army knife, to carefully remove the staples after. If you use this method of securing your paper to the board bring the required materials.

If you don't soak and stretch (I don't) you must still bring some method of securing your paper to the board in what might be breezy coastal conditions. Bulldog clips, push pins, masking tape all work for different people, so bring some of these items as well.

A roll of paper towel might be useful for the painting process and also for stretching. It should be soft and not abrasive to avoid damage to the surface of wet paper.