

The Majlis Gallery



The New Orientalists
Landscape and Beyond



The Majlis Gallery, the first Fine Art Gallery in the UAE is a haven for artists and art lovers. The gallery founder Alison Collins came to Dubai in 1976 to work as an interior designer, and fell in love with the country and especially with the architecture and ambiance of the old wind tower houses in the Bastakiya. In 1978 she secured the lease on villa number 19, Bastakiya, Bur Dubai. It became her family home and over the next ten years she hosted many informal soirees introducing artists both professional and amateur to a somewhat culturally bereft community. In 1989 the family moved out and the house became a permanent gallery. The gallery's vision was and still is to bring to the UAE artists of international repute, we call them the New Orientalists. We support them and National artists in their exploration and interpretation of the Middle East, into visual forms.

A Majlis is defined as a meeting place or common ground. Over the years, The Majlis Gallery has more than fulfilled that description. It has hosted countless exhibitions, seminars and cultural events, fulfilled many prestigious projects and formed a model for the feasibility study that ultimately led to the restoration of all the remaining buildings in the Bastakiya, now known as The Al Fahedi Historical Neighborhood and its emergence as a cultural centre for Dubai. The galleries reputation extends way beyond the United Arab Emirates.

Orientalism

“Orientalism” is widely used in art to refer to the works of the many, mostly European, 19th century artists, who specialized in “Oriental” subjects. They travelled mainly as addendums to larger groups of archeologists, scientists, traders and explorers, hired initially in these pre photography days to record the sights and general exotica of the Levant eventually travelling onward into the Middle and Far East.

The “lone” traveller painters of the early nineteenth century were often accompanied by an entourage of servants to carry bags and equipment, many of them such as John Frederick Lewis and Jean Leon Gerome set up homes in Cairo immersing themselves in the heat, the light and the eroticism of a culture far removed from the climate of Northern Europe. Paintings by Lewis, Gerome, Ingres, Delacroix and many others were a regular feature of the Salon Exhibitions in Paris from 1847 and from 1894 onwards an annual exhibition of Orientalist painters took place in Paris greatly influencing the younger artists of the day.

The great David Roberts was instrumental in opening the eyes of Victorian England to the epic architecture and vast vistas of The Holy Land, Syria, Arabia, Egypt and Nubia but by the turn of the century interest in things Oriental was in decline however in the last quarter of the 20th century Orientalist painting soared in value spurred on by “oil money” coming into the art market

Works produced in the first half of the 20th century were usually attributed to official war artists such as Henry Lamb or to those working more with a camera than a brush such as Wilfred Thesiger and Ronald Codrai. They were among the first of a new generation of Orientalist artists for whom the changing face of The Middle East as it moved from the mystical to the masterful is still a subject of great visual interest. The early works of many of the artists in this catalogue are already of great historical importance. Paintings from before the camel track moved down the Al Ain road before the Souk and the Bastaklia were restored, when Jumeira Beach was wild and goats roamed the streets of Bur Dubai. These artists are just one more step in the long tradition of Orientalism and in time will be equally collectable.



Alexander Creswell
 Ben Hubbard
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 Kevin Dean
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 Louis Jansen Van Vurren
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 Spencer Tart
 Sylvia Woodcock Clark
 Tim Scott Bolton
 Tom Cross
 Trevor Waugh



Alexander Creswell

Alexander Creswell's early years as the son of a diplomat instilled in him a love of travel and the observation of diverse cultures, observations that he recorded intuitively in sketch books and on scraps of paper. Largely self taught he has become one of today's most revered and collectible watercolour artists. He is noted above all else for his splendid series of commissions carried out for the British Royal Family and for his haunting paintings of and books on "The Silent Houses of Britain."

His artist-traveler lifestyle takes him literally all over the world From New York to the Great Wall of China but he is often drawn back to Oman and the UAE to record the fast disappearing evidence of, as he puts it, "past footsteps" Alexander's paintings so vividly capture the light and atmosphere of the Southern Gulf. In his words "you have to really understand a place before you can expect to paint it convincingly." He spends countless hours wandering looking absorbing and recording his visual and emotional experiences in his own inimitable style. A style that owes much to his in depth understanding and command of the craft of watercolour painting.



Dubai Creek - Watercolour

Ben Hubbard

Born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, Ben was introduced to art an early age through his artist father, Lew Hubbard. Greatly influenced by his father’s masterful work and surrounded by images of paintings by Sargent, Homer, and N.C. Wyeth the young Ben spent many hours drawing and painting.

He studied both Fine Art and Illustration in college under accomplished artists such as Ron Mazellan and Rod Crossman. Whilst at college, learning the importance of observation, faithfully representing the patterns of light and shade which he sees as fundamental to structure of a painting. Intrigued by the legendary western American landscape he eventually moved to northern Nevada. He excitedly began pleinair painting in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. While in Nevada, he married his wife Kallie and the two of them moved unexpectedly to Al Ain, UAE, Ben soon realized the blessing of being able to paint in the UAE. Supported by his wife’s career as a teacher he has been free to focus on his craft. He has enjoyed the privilege of exploring some of the hidden treasures of Arabia, ones that have remained largely unseen and unpainted. Though studio paintings are important, painting on location is his forte, here he is able to experience much more than is possible indoors. He often hikes far into the wilderness to paint the quiet majesty of a mountain or the rapidly changing colors of the sand, all to the glory of their maker



Hajar after the rain - Oil on Canvas

Budour Al Ali

Budour is a extremely versatile and energetic young artist. Based in her home city of Abu Dhabi but very widely travelled she brings to her art a mature understanding and knowledge of her cultural background, a modern Emirati who can share a visual story about the UAE people. It was her grandmother who encouraged her at a very tender age to draw and paint. This same grandmother did not discourage her from owning and training horses and participating in endurance racing nor from being an avid football fan and supporter of both of Real Madrid and of Manchester United.

There is also a philosophical contemplative side to her nature, it is refreshing to spend time in the company of a person who truly believes that; " Along our paths, numerous obstacles will inevitably appear; try to view them as part of the adventure in this journey of life. Every situation and interaction is an opportunity to open our hearts and share a sense of compassion for every human being and all walks of life."

She has exhibited in The United States, The United Kingdom, Morocco, Singapore, Switzerland and of course throughout the United Arab Emirates. She is a true cultural ambassador with a very promising talent



Originality - Oil On Canvas

Daniel Wegera

Born in Paris, Daniel Wegera spent part of his youth in Algeria. Impressed by the beauty of the Mediterranean architecture and landscaping - a source of inspiration for many renowned 19th century painters (Delacroix, Corot and Chasseriau), he developed a passion for art as a self-taught painter.

During his stay in the Far East, in the nineties, he produced a number of paintings, which were exhibited in Jakarta and Singapore.

He is particularly attracted to the Middle East traditions and has been living in the UAE since 1999. He has explored, through watercolour and oil paint the harmonies of colours and architecture so characteristic in the Southern Gulf. His "Vanishing Dubai" Series portray an unashamed romantic view of the UAE.

He has an eye for details and ability to portray realistic scenes, highlighting the typical views that are vanishing slowly in the building frenzy of vertical modernity. His limited edition prints have been shown at The Majlis Gallery for many years.

Most of the 'Vanishing Dubai' series paintings have been reproduced in book 'Inspiration Dubai', published in July 2015



The Textile Souk - Watercolour

David Paskett

Renowned Worldwide for his telling depictions of all that is China, David has found fresh inspiration in the United Arab Emirates

“I was drawn to the waterways and quay sides of the Creek, the Souks and bazaars, the elegance of the Al Fahedi Historic Neighbourhood with its sunlit courtyards and dramatic shadows. I often found myself looking down from balconies and through narrow alleyways upon daily tasks being performed with both old buildings and modern architecture as a backdrop.”

Elected to the Royal Water Colour Society in 2001, David became Vice-President in 2007, and served as President from 2009 to 2012.

David has won several awards for painting and his work is in many Collections in the UK and China, a country he has lived in and been inspired by for many years. His patrons include HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother; Standard Chartered Bank, Freshfields, Hargreaves Lansdown and The Hong Kong Jockey Club. He is well adept at working to commission and has a wealth of reference material from his recent visits to Dubai and its environs.



Dubai Wall - Watercolour

John R Harris

After a classic art school training at Cardiff College of Art John spent 25 years in art education in Wales, Malawi and England, becoming a full time painter in 1986. His wife Stella and both his sons are also artists. A member of The Royal Society of Watercolour Artists and past winner of The Welsh Artist of the year and The Elgar Prize John is based in Worcestershire but spends much of his time travelling overseas, anywhere where he can find wide open spaces.

About 20 years ago a friend of a friend suggested to John that The UAE was worth a visit. A chance meeting with Alison Collins who had just set up The Majlis Gallery led to his first one man show in 1989. He has returned annually and despite the immense changes still finds exciting subjects to paint.

Vast vistas, atmospherics and changing light fascinate John. Working swiftly he makes skillful use of the happy accidents that occur in water colour painting, waiting patiently for layer upon layer of wash to dry. He feels completely at home in the Emirates and Oman where he explores, renews friendships, savors the sights and sounds (as well as the curries and well timed sporting events) His work clearly reflects a deep understanding and love of Arabia its country side and its people.



Wadi Bih - Watercolour

John Raynes

John Raynes A.R.C.A., R.I. who was born in Australia in 1929, he has been resident in England since the thirties. He studied art at both St Albans School of Art and The Royal College of Art between 1951-57. He lives in Falmouth but still travels widely in Europe.

John made many visits to the UAE in the late 90's and early in the new millennium. He painted prolifically both portraits and landscapes in a variety of mediums. He is particularly adept at capturing light and likenesses and reveled in the subject matter he found in the various souks.

An acclaimed academic, author and illustrator he has seventeen instructional books to his name and is currently working on the eighteenth. His incredible talent as a figurative painter led him to a long career as an illustrator of medical anatomy text books and ultimately as the illustrator of "The New Joys of Sex".

More recently he has focused on the Cornish landscape and figurative painting and still exhibits regularly.



H.H Sheikh the late Maktoum Bin Rashid - Pencil

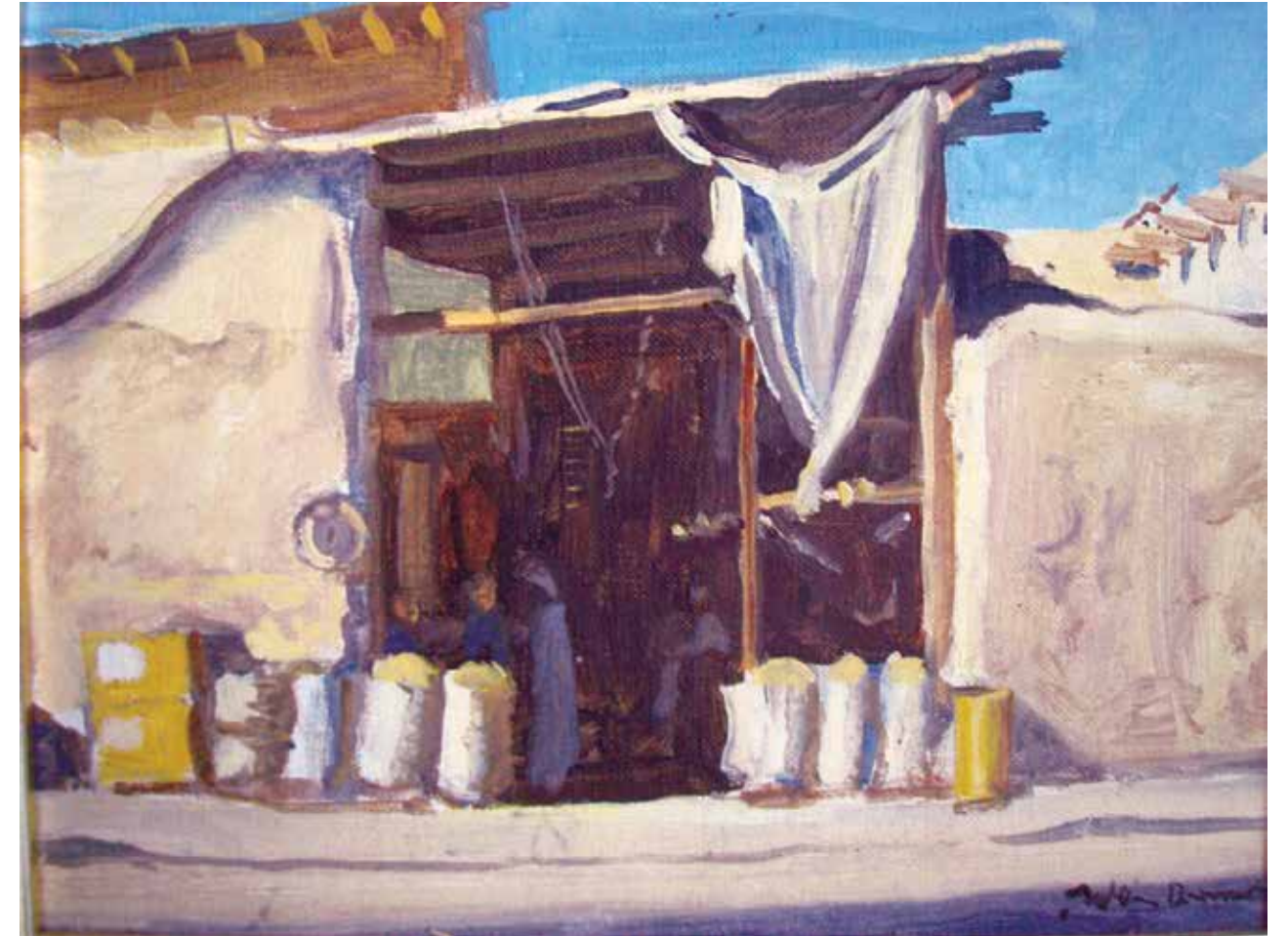
Julian Barrow

With out Julian Barrow there might not have been a Majlis Gallery. In 1979 he knocked on Alison's old front door in the Bastakia and introduced himself as a "traveler painter" looking for somewhere to show his paintings of Dubai. Alison was delighted to comply and so started not only a long exciting relationship with Julian but her relationship with art and artists that continues to this day.

Julian sadly died in 2013 but his legacy lives on his paintings, many of which were painted on his travels in the UAE and Oman. The paintings from the early 80's have special significance as they are a record of an era that was fast moving from tradition to modernity. Julian himself stopped visiting the region in the late 90's as for him it had lost some of its soul.

A prolific traditionalist who honed his skills under the tutelage of Pietro Annigoni Julian was as much loved for his humour, energy and love of all that life threw at him. He was a great practical joker who brought a "man in the street" flavor to his art.

When not travelling he could be found in his Studio in Tite Street London once the home and studio of John Singer Sargent. Fortunate is the person with a Julian Barrow in their collection.



The Spice Souk 1978 - Oil on Canvas

June Bartlett

June Bartlett first arrived in the U.A.E. in 1979 when she showed her work at a British Trade Fair in Dubai. Since then she has regularly exhibited at The Majlis Gallery.

She is known predominantly as a landscape painter but she is also highly regarded for her portraiture. In 1980 she was commissioned to paint the portrait of HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the U.A.E. and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and has since completed portraits of HH Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, (1983) and HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, (1995). In 2000 an extensive tour of Jordan was arranged by the Diwan – resulting in June painting twelve landscapes for the Royal Court, Amman. 2007 saw June taking off for Syria. A solo exhibition of her now historic Syrian paintings was held at The Mathaf Gallery in London in 2009. H.E. Sami Khiyami, Syrian Ambassador to the UK officially opened the exhibition.

June lived in Bahrain for several years and has visited Oman and the UAE on many occasions. She is now mainly based in the UK but returns frequently to the Middle East and her Gulf inspired work is shown regularly at prestigious galleries in London. Two of June's paintings of Syria are on extended loan to the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, Mayfair, London.

Renown for her wicked sense of humour and signature laugh June is a delight as an artist and a person



Omani Women - Oil on Canvas

Kevin Dean

Kevin Dean graduated from The Royal College of Art in 1982 he has illustrated numerous publications, designed textiles, murals and decorations for architecture.

His keen interest in the environment, flora and fauna is reflected in much of his work. Working with Fantini Mosaici of Milan, Kevin created the unique floral design for the marble floor of the 18,000 sq m Sahan or courtyard in The Grand Mosque Abu Dhabi. He has also designed other large floors and archways within the mosque in collaboration with the international architects Spatium, Milan. The Grand Mosque opened in March 2008.

An experienced teacher and lecturer, Kevin has taught at The Royal College of Art, The Eden Project and in schools and colleges around the UK and the UAE. He has lectured at The V&A and The Dulwich Picture Gallery. He visits the UAE regularly gathering reference for a body of work that grows in importance as his reputation as “The man who designed that incredible floor” spreads around the world.

A quiet thoughtful man Kevin lives on the south coast of England with his wife, 3 lively sons and a large collection of plants.



The Grand Mosque Sahan - Cut Marble

Louis Jansen Van Vurren

Prominent Cape Town artist and cultural worker, Louis Jansen van Vuuren is both an artist and a designer whose work has gained him recognition throughout South Africa and abroad. In addition to producing his very distinctive oils and pastels on paper, he has been actively involved in art education for several decades. He, himself, was awarded the Maggie Laubser Scholarship by the University of Stellenbosch, as well as the Cape Tercentenary Foundation Scholarship, in 1975. Louis divides his time between lecturing, restoring and designing wonderful houses, working in his studios and travelling between his two homes, one in South Africa the other in France often stopping enroute in the UAE.

He has a passion for Islamic art and culture, his Exhibition “Eastern Fragrances” at The Majlis Gallery in December 2014 was his first one man show in the region. We are delighted that his time here then has influenced a whole new body of work. Louis’ one man shows in Europe and South Africa are eagerly awaited by art connoisseurs and his work is to be found in corporate and private collections worldwide.



Autumn Fruits - Pastel on Cotton Paper

Lloyd Le Blanc

We first exhibited for Lloyd back in the late 1990's specifically at The New Orientalists exhibition sponsored by The British Council and The British Embassy in 1997. It is no mean feat transporting large sculptures around the world but here is an artist totally unafraid of big challenges. Alison especially likes the following description of Lloyd and his work written by Ken Ford who was also a tutor of hers.

"I have a high regard for Lloyd Le Blanc's many skills. His work is characterized by a fluid and versatile mastery of his materials. Not only that, but he is the complete sculptor in that he can handle every phase of his work from the clay or plaster of the modeling through all the many stages to the finished bronze sculpture. His surfaces are modeled in a fashion so that in certain light conditions they lose their structure to become almost photographic. This fulfils one of sculptures prime duties; to modulate light in a novel way. This change of perceptual direction will almost certainly be perceived unconsciously but even so will be felt as added reality."

On a personal level, Lloyd is well known among his friends for his dry sense of humour which often encapsulates a situation, a problem, or what needs to be done. This is significant, since humour, like art, through a slight of hand changes one thing into another, thereby allowing a resolution of apparent tension.

The fauna of The Middle East is a subject Lloyd de-lights in sculpting



A Pair of Oryx - Hot Cast Bronze

Lynette Ten Krooden

Lynette ten Krooden is often categorised as a “landscape artist.” This narrow definition, of this well travelled and scholarly artist is perhaps too restrictive.

Lynette’s works penetrate deeper than mere representations of landscape and become vehicles for her exploration of symbols and spiritual dwellings with a metaphysical quality. Twentyfive years of travel and research into fossil life, ancient civilisations, their petro glyphs and cultures has resulted in Lynette forming a universal mythology which she utilizes as a forum for discourse. Within this context, she often explores microscopic and macroscopic aspects of nature as a reflection of human communication with the earth, with each other and with their gods.

The artist’s footprints stretch all over the world from her homeland of South Africa to the Southern Gulf onward to Petra and the Jordanian desert; Timbuktu and many more magical destinations. The exquisite use of textures, layers and a unique gold leaf process forms a cohesive visual vocabulary that elevates her paintings to visual feasts of spiritual manifestations. Multiple layering of rich colours, overlaid in some instances with sharp graphic line work, add a depth to her paintings which is uniquely her own.



Shorelines - Mixed Media on Canvas

Martin Giesen

Born and schooled in Germany, Martin Giesen started to paint at age 15. After school he studied art history at Heidelberg University. For a year he interned at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York followed by the completion of a PhD.

With marriage and children, Giesen entered into a career of university teaching. He has taught in Lebanon (AUB 1973-85), Saudi Arabia, Canada, and since 1997 in the UAE, where he was founding dean of the School of Architecture & Design at the American University of Sharjah. For some 35 years, Giesen has produced and exhibited watercolor paintings documenting the impact of development on the environment. His paintings produced in Lebanon during the years of the civil war received critical acclaim. His work has been shown in solo exhibits in Lebanon, Germany, Canada and the UAE. David Tannous, Washington corresponding editor for Art in America, called Giesen a “contemporary orientalist”.

Martin has the ability to “get under the skin” of a place and a culture. His paintings have spirit telling a story of a specific enviroment at a specific time, narratives that are more than just visual, illustrative records. His paintings are to be found hanging in many prestigious collections around the world.



After The Rain - Watercolour

Michael Rumsby

Michael F Rumsby (UK, 1968) has painted since childhood. After an international career in business he decided in 2010 to focus on painting and 'release the colorful muddle that is my mind'. He also travels extensively in search of external inspiration.

Born and raised in rural, coastal Suffolk (UK), Michael forged his distinct relationship with color, and its role for him as an escape mechanism, at a very young age. That relationship has since manifested itself in works that bring a refreshing dynamic and narrative to the canvas.

In 2014 Michael came, for the first time, to Dubai in pursuit of new inspiration. Fascinated by the region's richness and constantly evolving environment, Michael now splits his time between France and Dubai. His work continues to take on a vibrant and fluid hue that interprets the rich landscapes of two such diverse places.

Michael's work hangs in private collections in Europe, The Middle East, the United States and Australia.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Trustee of charitable arts organization The Charlotte Miller Project (www.cmap.org.uk) which works with disadvantaged young people, using art as a means to reintegrate them into society.



Marina 1 - Acrylic on Canvas

Nick Bashall

Born in England and raised in Zimbabwe, Nick Bashall studied law at Cambridge University where he was also a Boxing Blue. After several years as a practicing lawyer in The United Arab Emirates where he exhibited as a “Friday painter” with The Majlis Gallery, he changed career and spent five years in Mallorca, studying portrait painting under Joaquim Torrens Llado.

In July 1999, under armed protection, Nick Bashall painted the landing of The First Parachute Battalion in Pristina. He stayed on in Kosovo at General Jackson’s request to paint a group portrait of the NATO, UN and Kosovan Liberation Army command groups in meeting. The pictures required a total of seventyfive individual portraits all painted from life. In 2002, Nick was the first and only foreign artist then allowed into Afghanistan. The paintings were the subject of an article in The Telegraph and exhibited at the Arndean Gallery, Cork Street. Nick Bashall’s popularity as a portrait painter continues to grow and his work currently hangs in private and corporate collections around the world. He has drawn and painted various members of the UK and The UAE Royal Families



H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid - Charcoal on paper

Paul Wadsworth

For Paul, painting is just as much concerned with the physical and sensuous properties of the paint itself as it is with expressing a personal response to things felt and seen. Inspired by the coast and landscapes of Cornwall and The Middle East, his work is essentially about capturing moments, feelings and emotions rather than meticulously depicting a particular view of place. In order to respond and create in this way, he prefers to complete as much of the painting as possible on site, where he is surrounded by the elements that consistently motivate and energize his work.

The desert landscape surrounding Dubai and the lush Hajar Mountains inspire many of the works; particularly the small, coastal enclave of Oman, the Mussandam with its stunning rock faces that through the process of time have produced a diversity of patterns, colours and shapes. Painting out in the landscape is a great inspiration; the moods of the sea, the big skies, deserts changing colour through the day. Paul uses brushes, pallet knives, large paint scrapers and quite often his hands. Paint is applied and often scraped off then reapplied until he can feel his way into the painting. This process can sometimes take awhile before something starts to happen on the canvas. He aims not to start a painting with too many preconceptions thus allowing for the work to change and develop with as much freedom as possible. He has a strong following in the UAE with his Middle Eastern work also finding critical acclaim in Europe.



Dubai Creek - Mixed Media on Paper

Spencer Tart

Spencer W Tart (also known as Bill) was born in Chesterfield, England. He qualified as an architect and worked for many years in Canada and the USA before returning to Bath, England where he now lives.

In 1980 Spencer was invited to work as an architect on a conservation study of the historic city of Old Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. This was his first introduction to the Middle East, which has remained the main subject matter of his work. Whilst sketching and painting was always a small part of his work as an architect, this quickly became more serious and interest in his watercolour paintings grew quickly during the 1980's. His continued explorations have taken him to many different regions across the Middle East, where the different architectural styles and spectacular geographical features have provided constant inspiration. His work has become a valuable record of the architectural heritage of Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E. and the Oman.

Many of the Suks, landscapes and street scenes in Dubai, Bahrain, Riyadh, Jeddah and Muscat have been recorded by him His style of watercolour contin-ues to be admired wherever he exhibits, and his pictures feature in many private collections of discerning buyers around the world. Many are now an accurate historical record of a bygone age.



Omani Dhows - Watercolou

Sue Casson

Sue traces her love of the outdoors and wildlife to Kenya where she was raised and lived for twenty three years. The Public response to exhibitions of her work in the Kings Road, Chelsea encouraged her to take up art as a career in 1972. In order to refine her technique, she studied painting in oils under Robin Goodwin who also instructed David Shepherd. In the mid 70's she returned to Kenya. Here she had the ideal opportunity to paint and observe animals at close quarters. Since 1980, Sue has been based in the Cotswold's, England, making frequent trips abroad for exhibitions and to gather material. She now concentrates on Arabian subject matter, portraits, wildlife, dogs and landscapes. Her drawings are in conté chalk, ink and watercolour.

Although she no longer paints in oils, her oil paintings can be found on the walls of art collectors worldwide. Sue has had a long association with the Majlis Gallery in Dubai and has made many trips to UAE over the years finding endless sources of inspiration: desert scenes with spectacular lighting, shady wadis, camel camps, and beached dhows, fishermen bringing in their catch, the colourful souks and the ex-otic atmosphere of the entire region. In March 1997 Sue was one of 35 British artists invited by The Majlis Gallery to exhibit in the first New Orientalist exhibition held in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.



The Fisherman - Conte on Paper

Sophie Walbeoffe

British born artist Sophie Walbeoffe has painting in her veins. Her French great grandparents were both painters living in Antibes, France during 1920s. Her great uncle established the Courtauld Institute of Art. She studied painting at the Wimbledon School of Art.

Sophie arrived in Dubai as a painter in the late 80s, drawn by stories of the desert landscapes and the Bedouins who have gracefully managed to maintain their traditions. Whilst painting in Dubai for two years she learnt about British explorer Wilfred Thesiger, and subsequently in 1988 when she was the official artist for Operation Raleigh in Kenya, she met Wilfred and painted his portrait.

After the initial culture shock of living in tents in the bush for weeks, she not only fell in love with Africa, but also met her future husband Piers Simpkin, who was living with the Samburu warriors of the Northern Frontier District. The next 10 years were spent painting in the north of Kenya, It is the timelessness of Kenya, the people, the wild beasts and the landscape that attract her most, but Sophie often returns to paint in England and Europe enjoying the challenge of contrasting landscapes. Recently Sophie was drawn back to the souks, spices and the exotic world of the Middle East, spending several months painting in the deserts of Oman and the Gulf. A recent "deployment" to Jerusalem resulted in a sell out show in London.



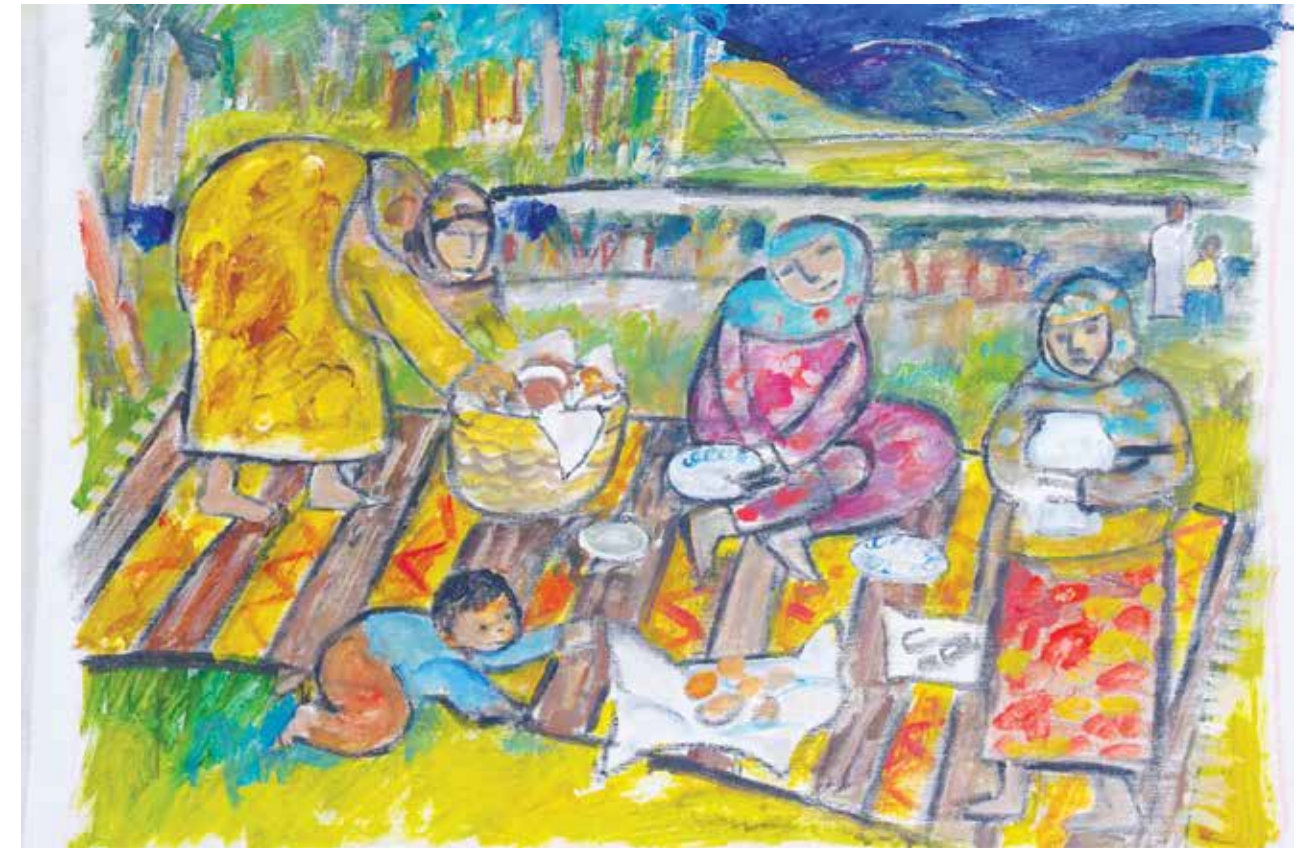
Remote Mussadan Village - Oil on Canvas

Sylvia Woodcock Clarke

A native of Scotland with a home in Cyprus and a strong affinity with the Middle East, Sylvia delights in capturing the extraordinary actions of ordinary people.

A very serious painter who strongly believes that art need not always be about serious subjects. She has an incredible capacity for visual recall, with a mind like a sketch book, full of moments witnessed and experienced, drawings and paintings flow in her bold fluid style, a product of years of working at her craft.

There are of course also many actual sketch books full to the brim with anecdotal drawings, young girls in a café, shisha smokers, a crowd watching cricket on a shop window TV, a dad at the zoo with his young children, a busy day on Dubai Creek nothing is too mundane or prosaic. An avid fisherman and story teller Sylvia is delightful company, her streetwise philosophy as entertaining as her paintings her company never dull. Her paintings are definitely in the collectable category with her Middle Eastern and allegorical pieces much sought after. She describes herself as “No Spring Chicken” but is if anything working even harder and with deeper insight in her latter years.



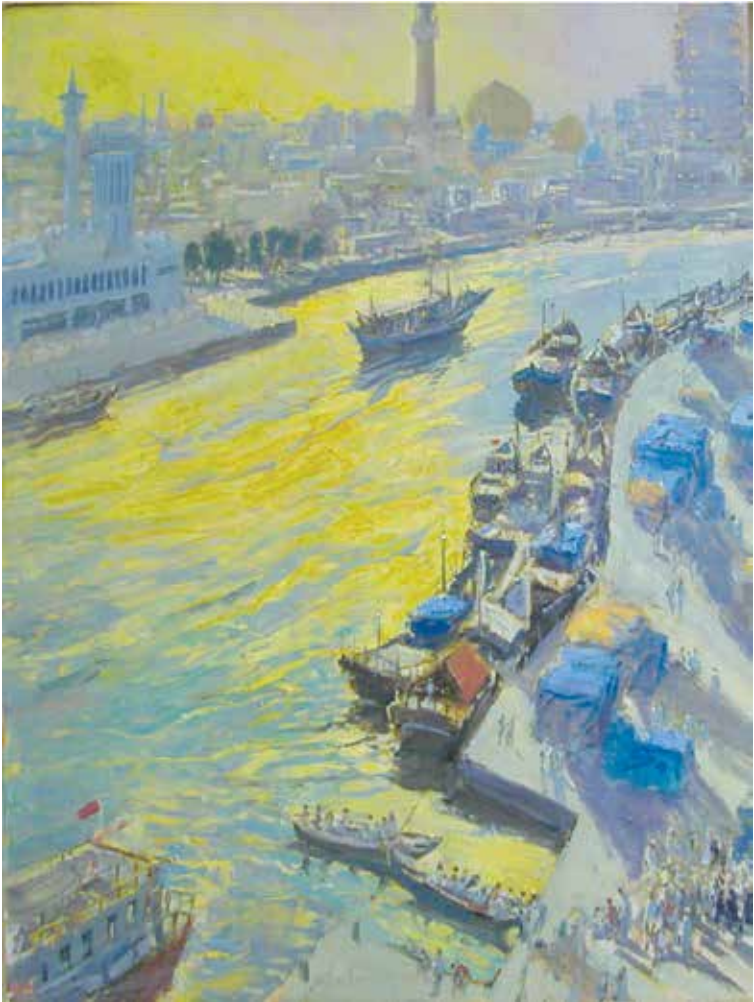
The Picnic - Oil Pastel

Tim Scott Bolton

Tim is regarded as one of the UK's foremost landscape artists, a fact reflected in the increasing number of commissions he has been awarded in recent years. Commissions from, among others, Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Devonshire. However his work is still very affordable with a recent Exhibition at London's well respected Mathaf Gallery a virtual sell out.

A naturalist and outdoorsman, Tim enjoys the challenge of walking to remote places to render panoramas that may never have been painted before. He works quickly and is thus able vividly to capture the subtleties of the landscape, as well as the wildlife that inhabits it. He has travelled widely in Africa, Asia and Europe, ever seeking scenes as yet untouched by modern day development. His insistence on painting from life imbues a refreshing spontaneity in all his work.

He is a regular visitor to the UAE and has a particular ability to capture the vibrancy of the Creek.



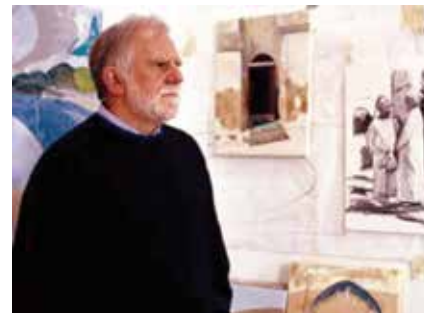
Dubai Creek - Oil on Canvas

Tom Cross

Tom Cross was an artist an academic a writer and an educationalist. From the very early stages of his career, travel was an important aspect of Tom Cross' development as a painter, beginning with a scholarship to the British School in Rome finishing at the Slade School of Art in 1956. A subsequent bursary from the French Government gave him the opportunity to live and work in Paris, and in the South of France, where he brushed shoulders with Picasso and Braque, and met Dubuffet. He returned many times to Italy, particularly the Marche, where much of his earlier work was executed. Venice was also a hugely important place for him; he was able to use a studio on the Giudecca and made many visits, his work showing the splendor of the Palladian churches and the canals.

From 1996 until his death in 2009 he made a number of visits to the Middle East at the invitation of the Majlis Gallery, painting the architecture, the old Arab houses with their Wind Towers, the Mosques, the vast desert landscape and the Hajar Mountains of Dubai and Oman. He was a major contributor to The New Orientalists Exhibition curated by The Majlis Gallery in 1997.

An artist with a great intellect Tom contributed so much to the international art world.



Wadi Ghafi - Watercolour and Gouache

Trevor Waugh

Born in London in 1952 Trevor studied at the Slade School of Fine Art from 1970 to 1974, amongst his tutors were Sir William Coldstream and David Hockney. He graduated with a BA in Fine Arts and then went on to study illustration under Ernest Jones at Croydon College of Art gaining a distinction. Obviously a tal-ented young man he then spent 9 years working as freelance illustrator for Penguin, Heineman, Cassell, Collins and the BBC returning to Fine Art in 1988 when he moved to the Cotswolds.

Alison and Trevor first met in 1995 when he was tutoring an art group in Cornwall He had just returned from a very exciting trip to the USA and had travel in his bones. He took the Middle East straightaway and was out painting on his first morning in Dubai. These early paintings focused on the amazing variation to the light values through the day. Many visits have ensued since all producing an abundance of sketches watercolours and oils and more recently books.

Trevor has a strong following both in the UAE and in the UK. His peregrinations around the world have included Morocco, Turkey, Venice, Egypt, Florence, Oman and India. He always finds time to pass his knowledge and skill on to others. He is the author of many books and holds regular workshops in his studio in Gloucestershire and at The Majlis Gallery. Trevor is a man who relishes in all things visual and stimulating he always has a trip in the offing.



Dubai Creek: Sunset - Watercolour



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