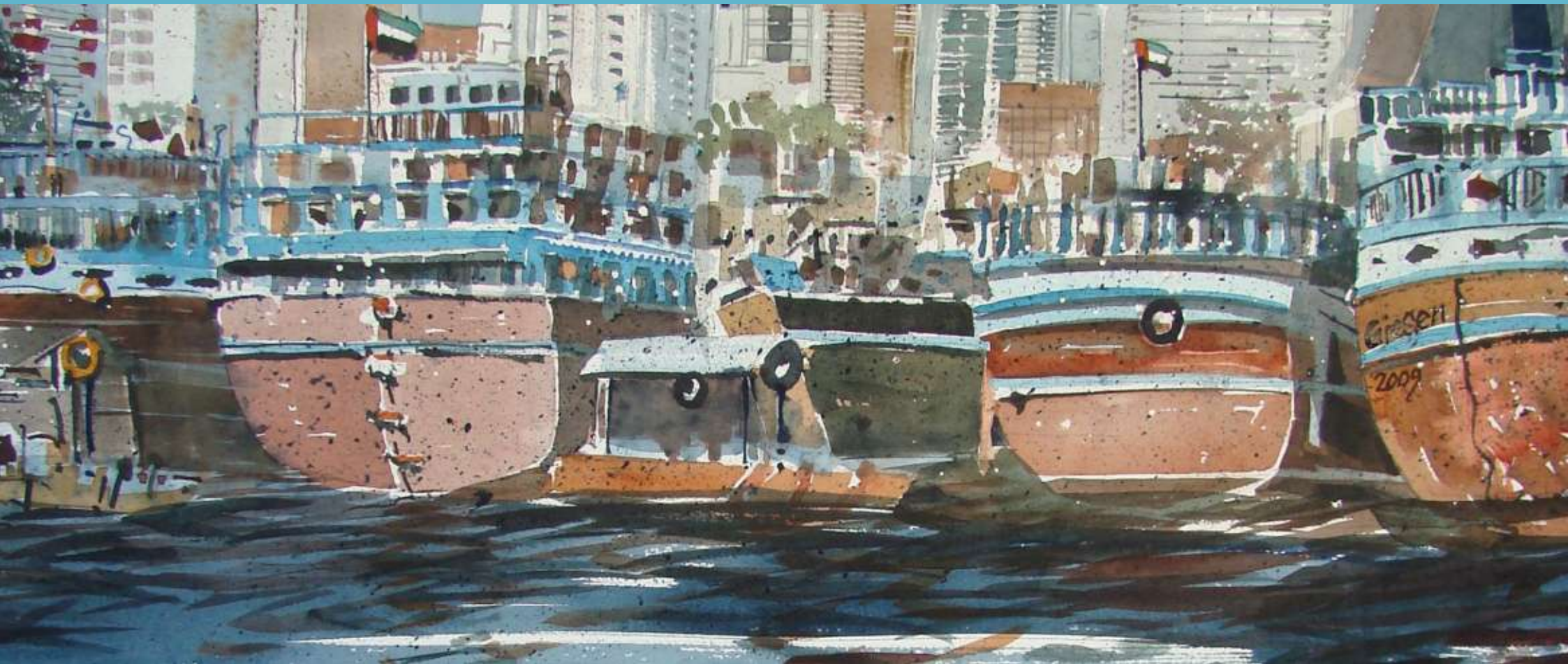




Seeking Al Seef
Works on Paper
by
Martin Giesen





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 water-color 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.

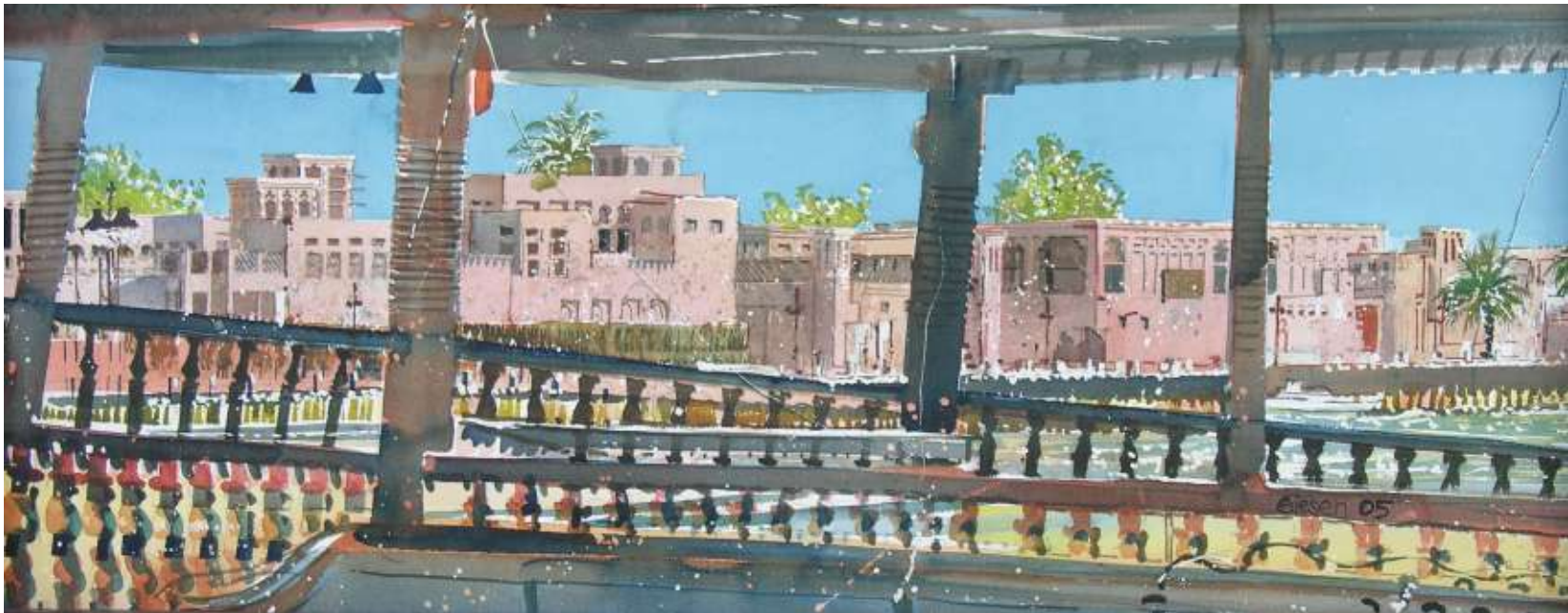
David Tannous, Washington corresponding editor for Art in America, called Giesen a “contemporary orientalist”.

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 environment at a specific time, much more than just visual, illustrative records.

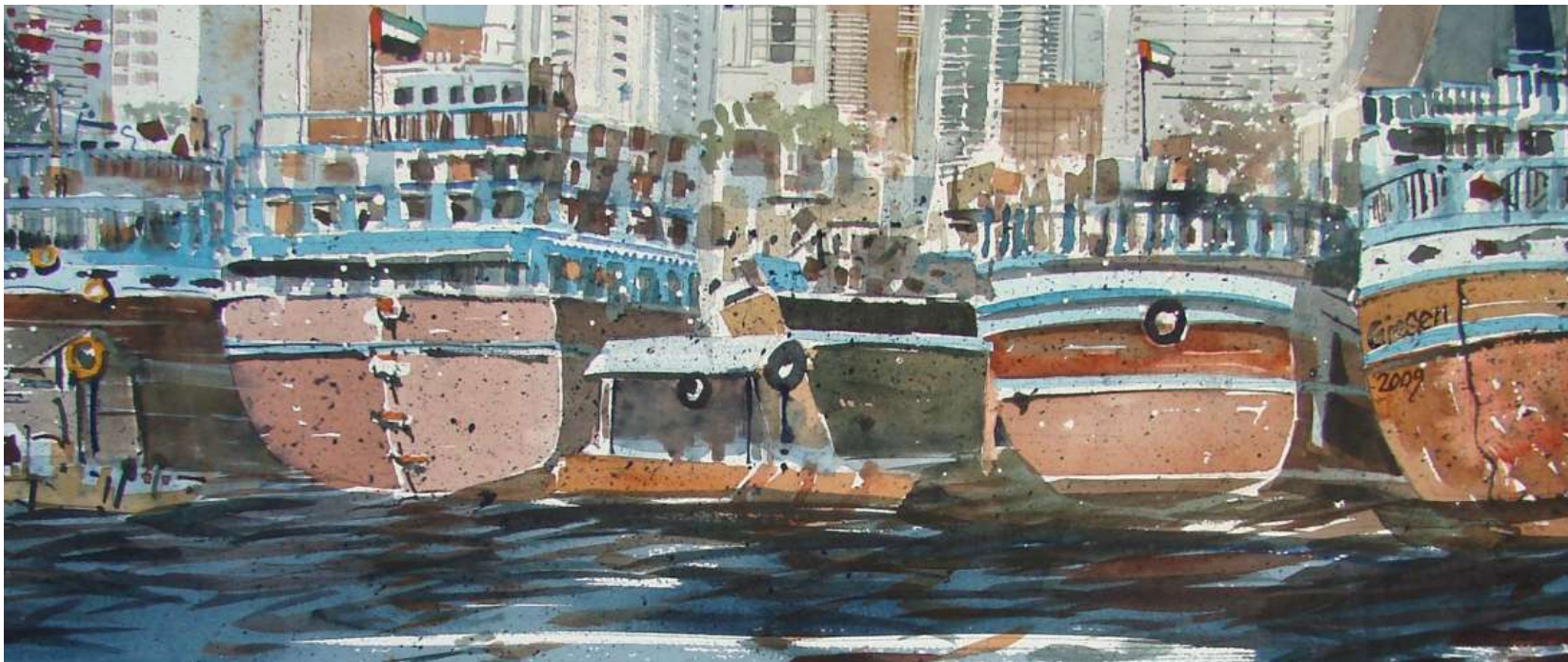
If you travel along Al Seef the stretch of waterfront along Dubai's creek, you could be forgiven if you thought you were in a his-toric neighborhood. Wind tower houses, narrow alleys, restaurants and shops all seem grown organically over decades into a port community on the Arabian Gulf. In reality, Al-Seef is a typical Dubai project: brand new and unabashedly geared towards commerce. It utilizes the Venice-like appeal of a city on the water. It boldly appropriates the historical appearance of 19th century regional architecture but constructs this nostalgic tableau with contemporary building technology. The result is a 1,8 km long neighborhood with invisible underground parking, upscale hotel and event facilities, all hidden behind the stage set of an artfully aged and romanticized market town of merchants and pearl fishers.

Memorable art always tells at least two stories: The story of content and the story of form. The content story of Dubai reflects our contemporary dilemma. We demand universality and equality but insist that identity is a treasure. We seek global integration and witness a shrinking planet but aim to safeguard cultural authenticity.

Seeking Al-Seef celebrates the Creek: an example of an economic system that fosters commerce, engages in human dignity and tolerant diversity, and presents to the world a microcosm of a sustainable lifestyle with remarkable efficiency.



0525 Shindagah Morning 32 x 76 8,250



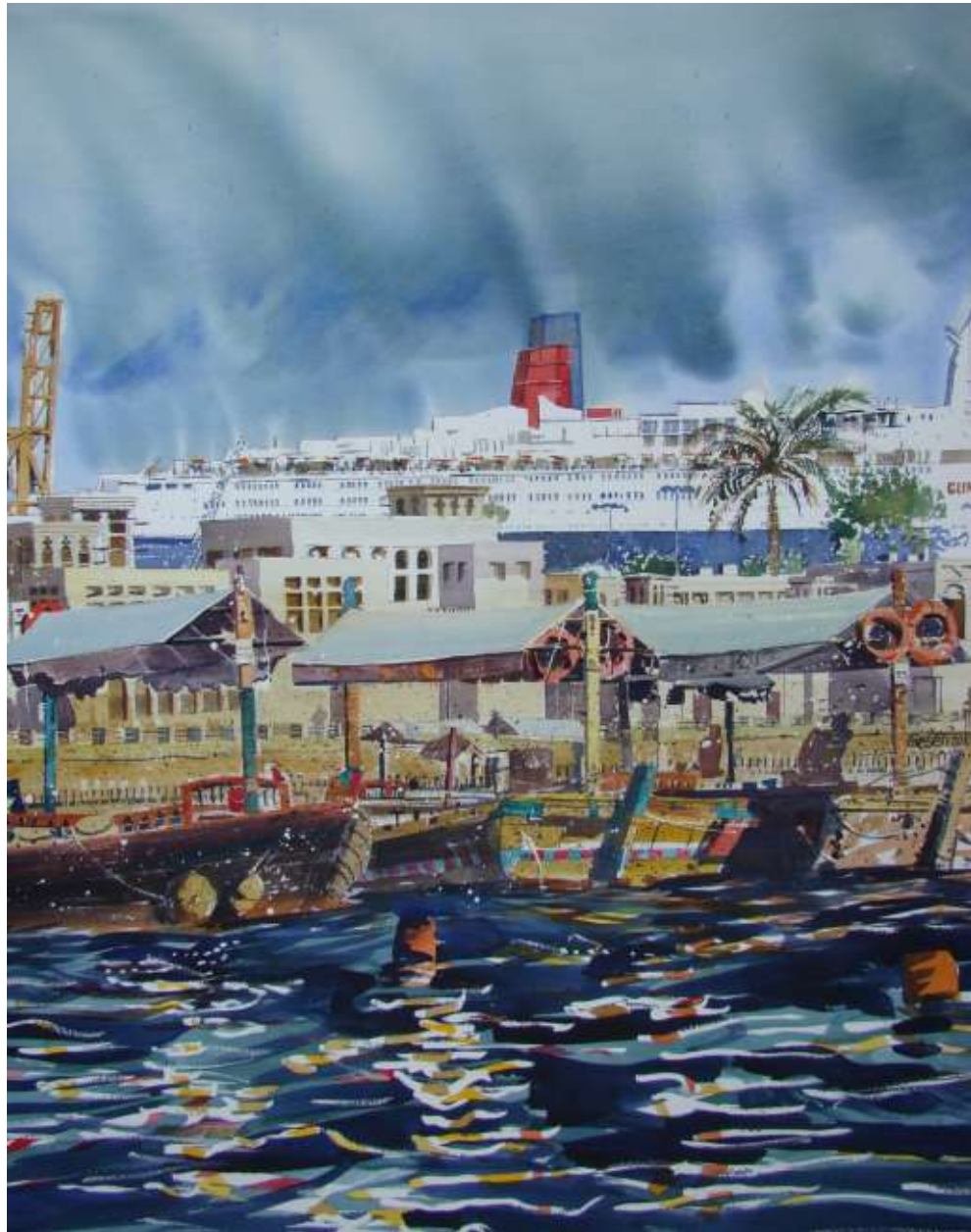
0925 Wharf at Dusk 30 x 75 8,200



0927 Port Textures 99 x 60 14,000



1201 Bastakia from the Air 114 x 75 19,000



1003 QE 2 in Dubai 108 x 88 20,000



1508 Al Gaffal Boat Race 52 x 72 12,000



1510 National Day Regatta 52 x 72 12,000



1607 Dubai Creek at Dawn 54 x 73 12,000



1824 Fishing Fleet 19 x 27 2,900



1601 Al Khor Dubai 77 x 48 11,700



9909 Dhow Reflection 76 x 56 12,800



1611 Fishing Port Dawn Dubai 74 x 53 11,000



1619 Al Rigga Dubai 84 x 49 13,000



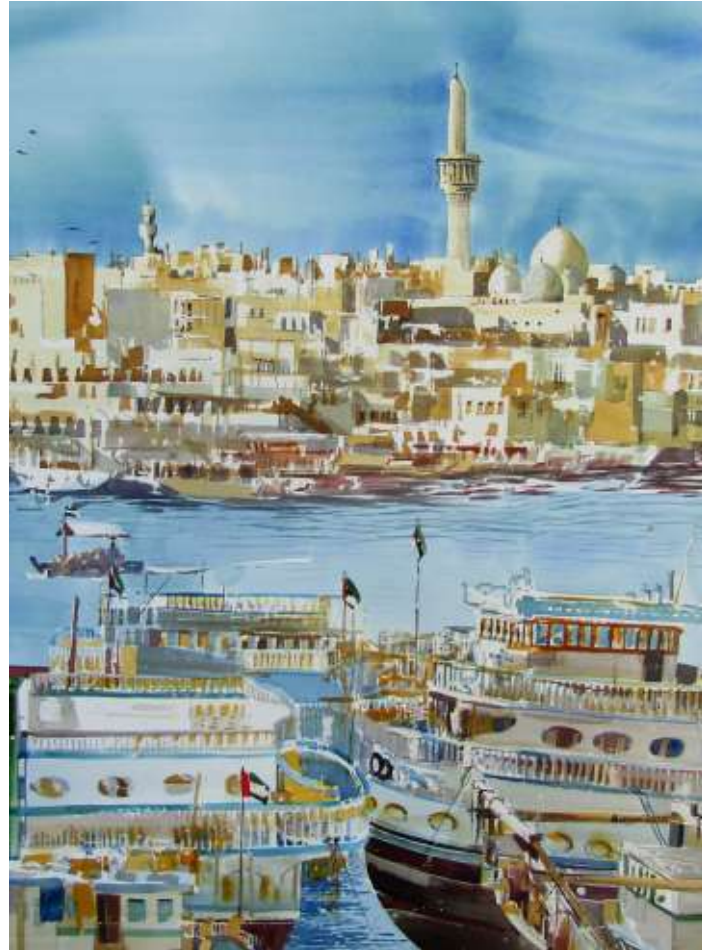
1709 Deira Textures 54 x 35 7,900



1801 Gulf Dhows 73 x 54 12,000



1602 Dhow Gathering 70 x 48 11,000



1625 The Creek with Ali Bin Abi Taleb Mosque 96 x 70 16,000



1830 Deira Dawn 72 x 53 12,000



1803 Trolley Parking 55 x 37 8,200



1628 Bicycles 58 x 43 8,300



1804 Home Delivery 55 x 37 8,200



1812 Deira Abra Station 102 x 65 16,000



1813 Al Seef Constructing Nostalgia 72 x 53 12,000



1821 Creek Sonata 1 71 x 52 12,000



Creek Sonata 11 71 x 52 12,000



1629 The Restaurateur 58 x 43 8,300



1721 Solitary Fishing 50 x 70 9,500



1710 Maritime Reflections 173 x 53 12,000



1719 Wrapped for Rain 32 x 47 6,200



1828 Dhow Triplets 1 19 x 27 2,900



1817 Going for Dinner in Al Seef 52 x 72 12,000



1829 Dhow Triplets 2 19 x 27 2,900



1825 Dubai Wholesale Mooring 19 x 27 2,900



1826 Dubai Grids 53 x 47 8,300



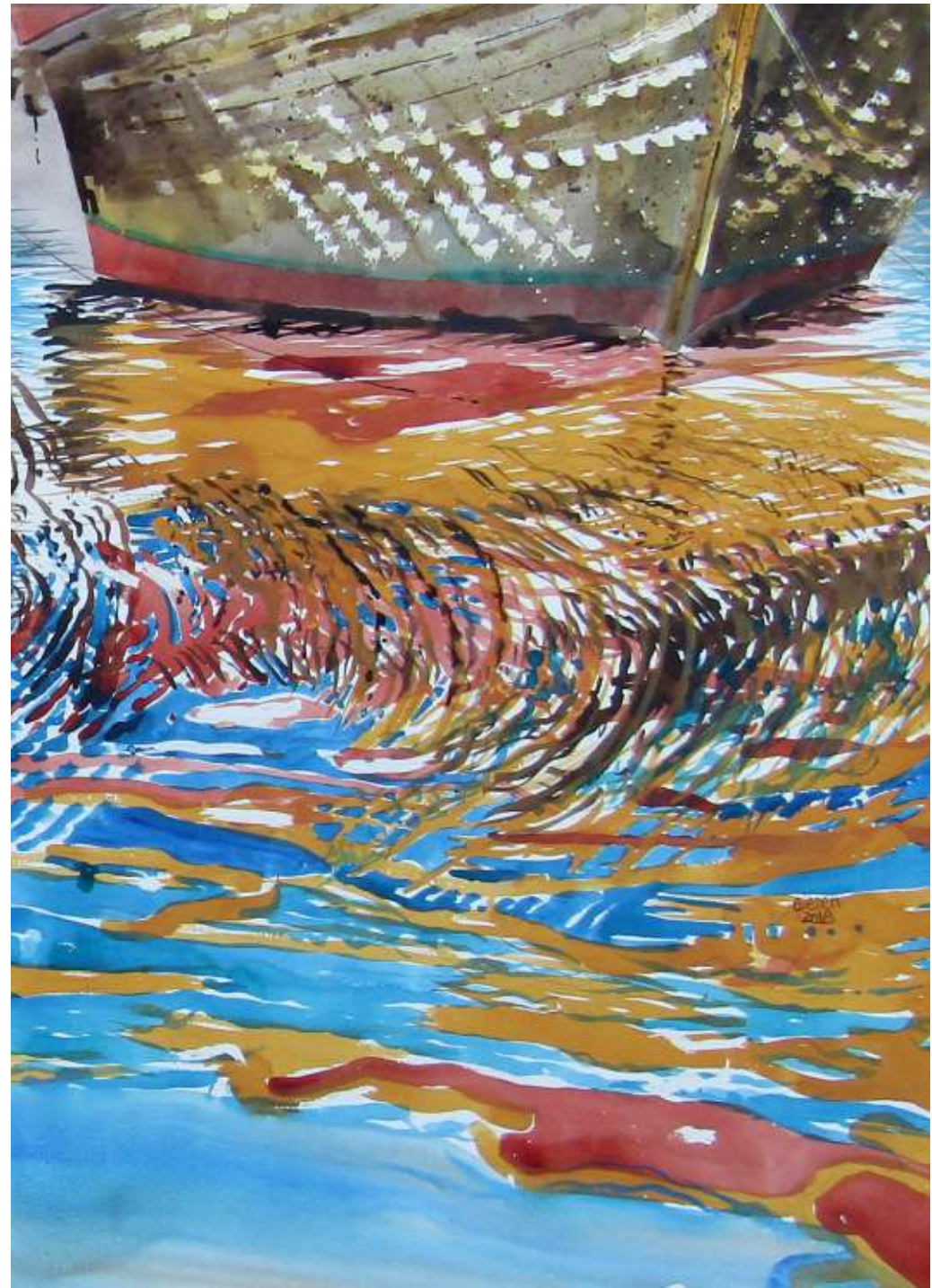
1723 Early Light Deira 73 x 53 12,000



1810 Morning Abras Dubai 79 x 127 20,000



1814 Maritime Reflections 111 70 x 52 11,700



1815 Maritime Reflections 1V 70 x 52 11,700