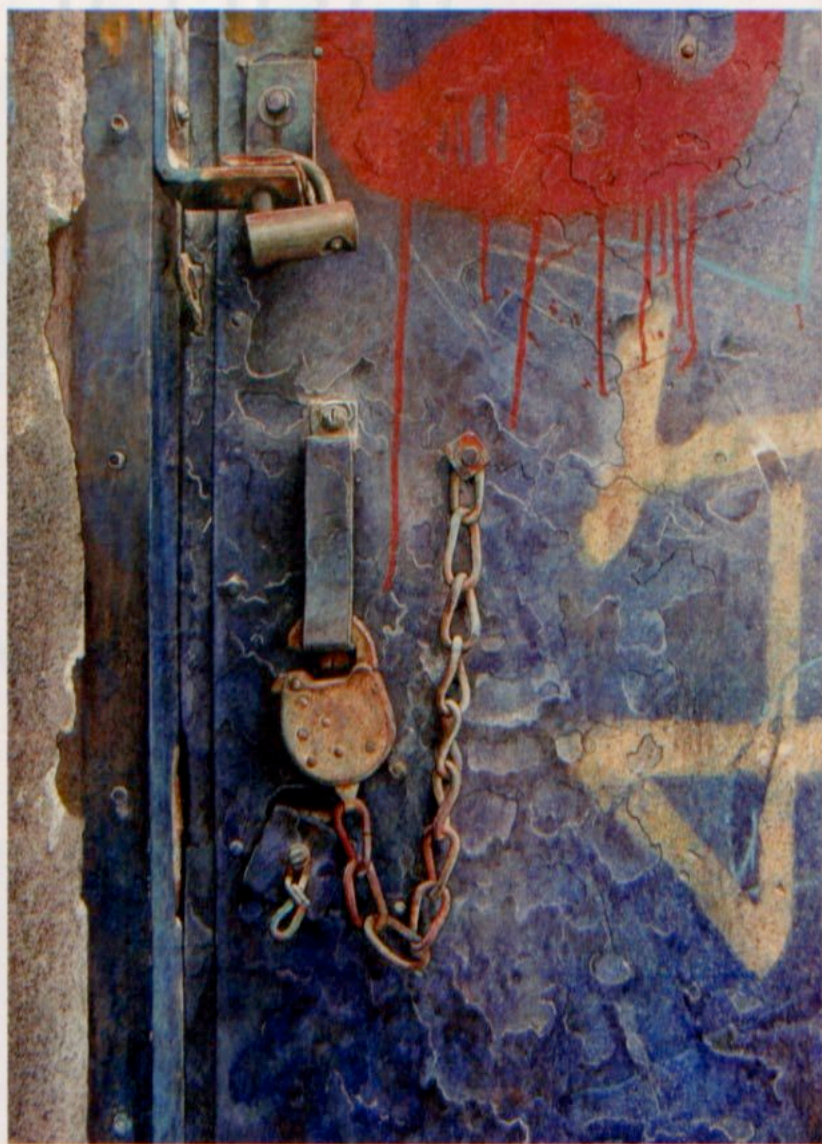


Reality Show

A new group of artists gets "real" with a watercolor exhibition on world tour.

Modern Realists Among the "Art of the Real" watercolors on tour are *Chain Reaction* (at right; watercolor on paper, 20x14) by Angus McEwan and *Road to Damascus* (opposite; watercolor on paper, 16x22) by Denis Ryan.



This year is a momentous one for a cluster of British watercolorists: Not only have they formed an artist group dedicated to realism, but they've organized a series of exhibitions of their paintings that's traveling around the world.

"Art of the Real" is both the name of the new group and the series of exhibitions hitting the United Kingdom, United States and China.

The talent includes David Poxon and Sandra Walker (both members of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours and featured in the October 2010 and April 2011 issues of *Watercolor Artist*, respectively) and Angus McEwan and Denis Ryan (both Royal Watercolour Society members). "And by 'real,' we mean objects and places that have some credibility, meaning not imagined

or concocted," says Poxon, one of the group's founding artists.

For Poxon, that translates to old workshop and engineering tools; fire escapes of New York City Bowery buildings and urban scenes of the past for Walker; for McEwan, textural subjects such as peeling paint, rusting hardware and shadowy interiors; and for Ryan, neon signs in rundown neighborhoods.

“Who told you that one *paints with colors?* One makes use of colors, but one *paints with emotions.*”

—Jean-Siméon Chardin



“The main criteria we set for ourselves was that our choice of subject material reflect a common interpretation of our world, and of course we are all fervent watercolor painters,” says Poxon. “To be able to convey something of the ‘real’ of my subjects, which are the commonplace, the overlooked, the places and work things of mankind, is a powerful and stimulating experience, a joyful and respectful thing.”

The kickoff exhibition in South Carolina features 40 watercolors. Learn more about the artists and the traveling show at <http://art-of-the-real.blogspot.com>.

Keeping It Real Featured in the touring exhibition are, from left to right: Denis Ryan, Angus McEwan, Sandra Walker and David Poxon.



Art of the Real TOUR DATES

April 6-30: M Gallery and Fine Art, Charleston, S.C. (opening reception: April 6)

April 7-22: Thompsons Gallery Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England

June 9-July 8: The Gallery at Roundtop, Roundtop, Texas

June 13-July 1: Thompsons Gallery Marylebone, London, England

September: OK Harris Gallery, New York, N.Y.

November 8-27: Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland

November 15-December 14: Quanhua Watercolour Art Gallery, Shanghai, China

inspired, not tired

When you enter an art museum on April 28, feel free to take your time. That's exactly the impetus behind **Slow Art Day**, an event created to increase museum and gallery goers' awareness of what they're actually seeing when they look at a work of art.

The event was conceived in 2009 by Phil Terry, founder of the nonprofit organization Reading Odyssey and CEO of Creative Good consulting firm. His goal was to obliterate the “eight-second rule”—the claim that when visiting a museum most people spend only about eight seconds at each piece of art and then leave “tired, not inspired.”

Now, each year on the same day around the world, volunteer hosts invite people to come to a local museum and view a small number of works of art for five to 10 minutes each. Afterward, everyone meets for lunch to talk about their experience.

Find out what's planned for Slow Art Day near you at www.slowartday.com.