



Australian Watercolour Institute

P.O. Box 300 Broadway, NSW 2007 Australia



Newsletter

No. 1 2012

PRESIDENT: DAVID VAN NUNEN

SECRETARY: INGRID VAN DYK

AWI WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS



Congratulations to **Rick Amor** and **John Salminen**, guest artists in our *AWI 88th Anniversary Exhibition* at Gosford Regional Gallery, who were elected to membership by an overwhelming majority at the AWI General Meeting held on Sunday, 29 January 2012.

Rick Amor, Melbourne-based painter, sculptor and printmaker, is acknowledged as one of Australia's foremost contemporary artists. His penetrating portraits, particularly his numerous compelling Rembrandtesque self-portraits, are acutely observed and masterfully rendered. An adept draughtsman, he is renowned for his haunting, often disquieting, atmospheric urban landscapes evocative of the poetic space, metaphor and enigma that characterised the surrealist imagery of Giorgio de Chirico.

Rick Amor in his studio

Photo by Gavin Fry

Born in Frankston, Victoria in 1948, Amor obtained a Certificate of Art from Caulfield Institute of Art and subsequently studied at the National Gallery School, Melbourne. He has been the recipient of several Australia Council studio residencies, which have allowed him to work in London, New York and Barcelona. Since first exhibiting at Joseph Brown Gallery in 1974, Amor has held over 50 solo exhibitions, having shown annually at Niagara Galleries for the past 25 years.

Notably, in 1999, Amor was appointed official Australian artist to East Timor, the first war artist since the Vietnam War. A major survey exhibition of his paintings, curated by McClelland

Gallery in 1990, toured various regional galleries in Victoria and South Australia throughout 1990 and 1991. In 2007, Amor was recipient of the prestigious \$100,000 McClelland Award for Sculpture, Australia's most valuable sculpture prize. Currently, he is sponsor of the eponymous \$10,000 *Rick Amor Drawing Prize* at Ballarat Art Gallery, which was inaugurated in 2010. The artist is the subject of two monographs, *The Solitary Watcher: Rick Amor and His Art*, by Gary Catalano, (Miegunyah Press, Melbourne University Publishing, 2001), and *Rick Amor*, by Gavin Fry, (The Beagle Press, 2008).

A prominent American watercolourist with more than 195 national and international awards to his credit, **John Salminen** is a signature member of numerous art societies, including the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, the Watercolor USA Honor Society, the Transparent Watercolor Society of America (in which he has been honoured with Master status) and Watercolor West. Moreover, he is a fellow of the American Watercolor Society's Dolphin Fellowship and an honorary member of the Jiangsu Watercolor Research Institute, China.



John Salminen

Photo courtesy of Duluth News Tribune

Born in St. Paul Minnesota in 1945, Salminen moved to Duluth in 1963 to attend the University of Minnesota, from which institution he holds a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree. Although best known for his vivid, evocative realist urban landscapes, he has also garnered recognition for his mixed-media abstract expressionist paintings.

Among Salminen's numerous awards are the American Watercolor Society Gold Medal in both 2006 and 2010, the First Place Silver Star Award in the *National Watercolor Society Exhibition* in both 2005 and 2011, the 2009 Silver Medal with Honor from *Allied Artist* and the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Biennial Watercolour Exhibition* Award of Excellence.

After travelling to China in 2010 to receive the Biennial Award of Excellence, he was invited to China a second time by Professor Xinqun Feng to represent the United States in the *4th Lushan International Watercolor Festival*. Among the guest artists at the 2010 Lushan Watercolour Festival were AWI President, David van Nunen,

AWI member, David Taylor, who represented Australia, and AWI Honorary Member, David Paskett, President, Royal Watercolour Society, London, who represented the UK.

A frequent juror of national and international exhibitions, Salminen and his wife, Kathy, a teacher and photographer, live in a self-constructed log cabin surrounded by 40 arcadian acres of pine forest in Duluth, Minnesota.

TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION: TAIWAN-AUSTRALIA WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION

In another historic first, following our landmark joint exhibitions with the Royal Watercolour Society, London, and the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour in 2010, the Australian Watercolour Institute and the Taiwan International Watercolor Society will collaborate on a major exhibition to be held at venues in Taiwan and Australia.

Tradition and Transformation: Taiwan-Australia Watercolour Exhibition will be shown at Taichung City Cultural Center from 23 June until 26 August 2012 and subsequently at Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, in conjunction with the *AWI 89th Anniversary Exhibition*, from 1 December until 27 January 2013.

This major collaborative exhibition, **with 110 participating artists**, constitutes an important cultural exchange that will promote the relationship, and deepen the dialogue, between these two island countries of the Asia-Pacific region.



President David van Nunen, on behalf of the AWI Executive Committee, confers Honorary Membership upon Professor Chin-Lung Huang, President, Taiwan International Watercolor Society, at the opening of the *AWI 88th Anniversary Exhibition* at Gosford Regional Gallery

By showcasing the diversity of techniques in watercolour painting, this exhibition and the accompanying book will demonstrate how the tradition of Chinese painting has informed

Western contemporary art and, conversely, how Western art has transformed the tradition of Chinese painting.

With the additional space provided by Taichung City Cultural Center, **fifty-five** members of the Australian Watercolour Institute and **fifty-five** members of the Taiwan International Watercolour Society will participate in this exhibition, each being represented by one painting strictly measuring 56 x 76 cms in dimension for conformity of framing.

All AWI members have been sent by email or post the **Entry Form, Guidelines and Conditions** relevant to *Tradition and Transformation: Taiwan-Australia Watercolour Exhibition*. If you have not yet received these, please contact AWI Secretary Ingrid Van Dyk. **The deadline for CD submissions for pre-selection is close of business on Friday, 30 March 2012.**

Given the enormous popularity of the watercolour medium within the visual arts, we are assured of the broad appeal of this exhibition to the general public, Asian community and arts professionals.

During the past year, five of our AWI members were invited to participate in the *2011 Taiwan International Watercolor Exhibition*, which travelled to three venues in the USA and Taiwan – notably, the Robeson Gallery, Pennsylvania, Carrollton Cultural Arts Center, Georgia, and the Chung-Shan National Art Gallery, Taipei.

At the invitation of **Professor Chin-Lung Huang**, Director, Department of Fine Arts, National Taiwan Normal University, President of the Taiwan International Watercolour Society and Director of the *2011 Taiwan International Watercolor Exhibition*, AWI President, David van Nunen, attended the opening of the *2011 Taiwan International Watercolor Exhibition* at the Chung-Shan National Art Gallery in Taipei where he was honoured to deliver an opening address on behalf of the Australian Watercolour Institute.

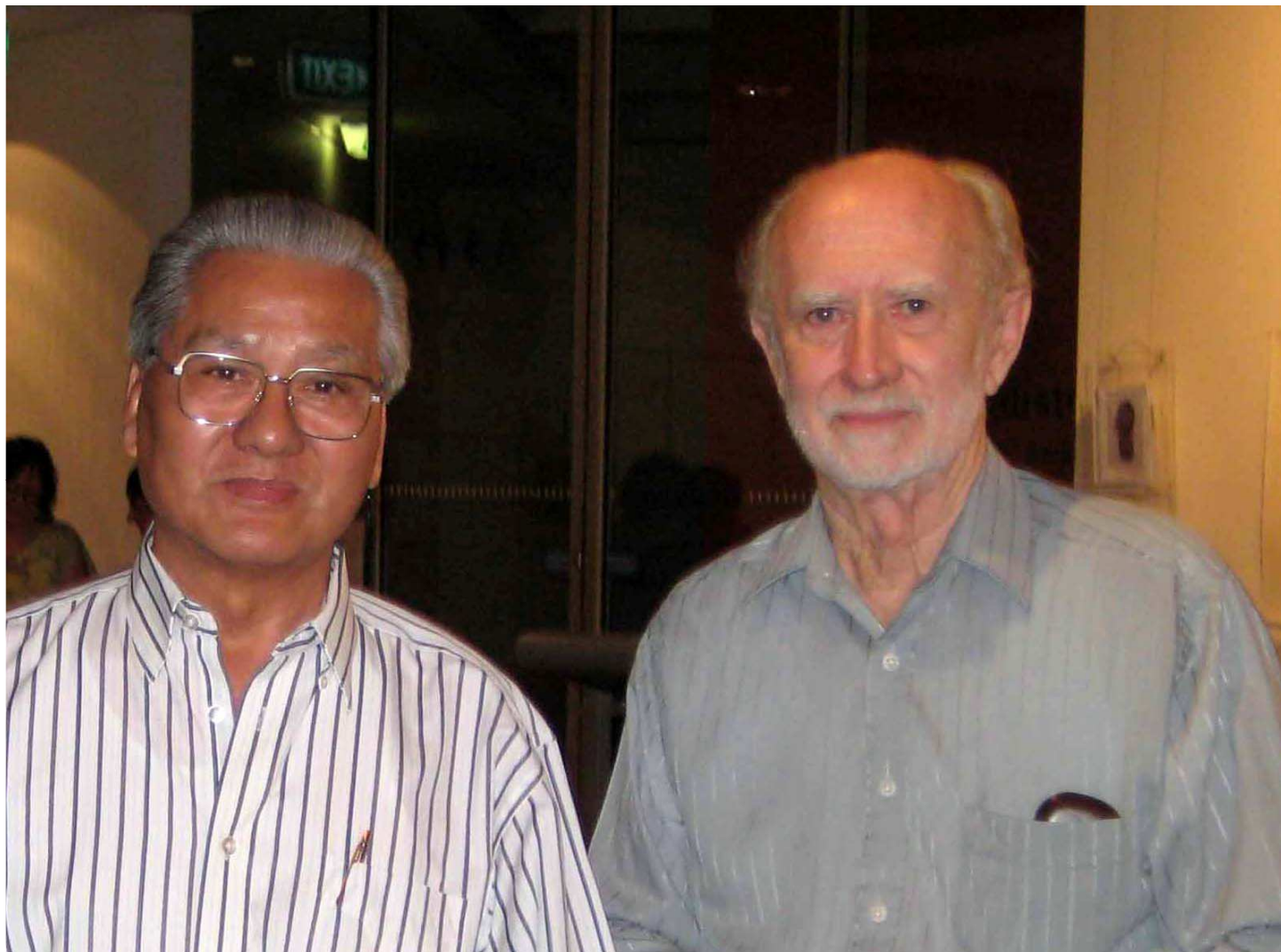
Subsequently, Professor Chin-Lung Huang travelled to Sydney, in December 2011, to attend the opening of our *AWI 88th Anniversary Exhibition* at Gosford Regional Gallery in which he was a guest artist. On that occasion, he was awarded Honorary Membership by the AWI Executive Committee for his services to watercolour internationally.

SHANGHAI ZHUJIAJIAO INTERNATIONAL WATERCOLOUR BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

Since its inauguration in 2010, the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition* has already attracted considerable acclaim as one of the most important and influential international watercolour shows.

The second *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition*, to be held from 5 October to 5 November 2012, promises to build on that prestige. All AWI members are invited to submit works for selection in this exhibition by the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition* Organising Committee.

There are two stages to the selection process, the first being a shortlist compiled from submitted digital images. Subsequently, a panel of eleven international adjudicators will make the final selection of 200-250 paintings for exhibition. Of these, the fifteen paintings that receive the most votes will be awarded the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition Award of Excellence*.



Xidan Chen, Organiser of the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition*, and AWI Emeritus President, Brian Stratton OAM

As you know, three of our AWI members were recipients of the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition Award of Excellence* in 2010, notably Brian Stratton OAM, Alvaro Castagnet and Joseph Zbukvic -- as well as our new American AWI member, John Salminen.

The exhibition will be held at **Quanhua Watercolour Gallery**, the only gallery in China exclusively consecrated to watercolour, which was established in 2006 by **Xidan Chen**, organiser and administrator of the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition*. One of China's most esteemed watercolourists, Xidan Chen was awarded AWI Honorary Membership in recognition of his extraordinary services to watercolour internationally.

The Entry Form and Submission Guidelines have been posted on the official website: www.watercolourbiennial.com

GRAMPIAN BRUSHES WORKSHOPS

Set in Halls Gap, with its spectacular vistas, in Grampians National Park, Western Victoria, *Grampians Brushes*, a non-profit arts organisation based in Horsham, offers a unique opportunity for artists to develop their skills through an extensive series of inspirational workshops to be held from 8 -13 September 2012.



Spectacular Halls Gap, Grampians National Park, Western Victoria

Workshops offered are for both two days (Saturday and Sunday, 8 – 9 September) and four days (Monday to Thursday, 10 - 13 September), with lunch and morning tea provided.

Three of our AWI members are among the many local and national tutors presenting workshops in the *Grampians Brushes* program.

Ross Paterson's landscape-based *Wonderful Watercolour* workshop (8 - 9 September) is aimed at the

more experienced artist, covering concept, design drawing and recommended methods of achieving luminous wet-on-wet paintings. His *Watercolour Techniques: Advanced* course (10-13 September) will include broad coverage of the use of shape, tonal value, and effective colour mixing, as well as means of achieving mood and transparency, within the landscape genre.

Artists Lucy McCann and husband, Barry, will present *Watercolour Our Way: The Basics* (8-9 September), and then take you to the next stage with *Watercolour Our Way: Producing a Painting* (10-13 September), which will explore basic art principles such as design, value, colour, shapes and edges to provide further skills.



Lucy and Barry McCann

Landscapes in Oil: Advanced (8-9 September) and *Landscapes in Acrylics: Advanced* (10-13 September), presented by Herman Pekel, are designed for artists desirous of advancing to an increased level of competence in acrylics and oils through the exploration of Pekel's spontaneous, direct approach to painting.

Further information about the workshops program, including prices and booking details, is available on the *Grampians Brushes* website: www.grampiansbrushes.com.au

MELBOURNE WATERCOLOUR SHOW

The *Melbourne Watercolour Show*, an initiative of Terry Earle and Richard Watson of **Without Pier Galleries**, Cheltenham and Hampton, annually showcases the diversity of approaches to the watercolour medium.



Christine Porter *Gable View*

Five AWI members were among the twenty-three watercolourists invited to participate in the *2012 Melbourne Watercolour Show*, held at Glen Eira Town Hall from 9-19 February, which AWI President, David van Nunen, was honoured to open.

The AWI members represented in that exhibition were Brian Stratton OAM, Malcolm Carver, Christine Porter, Guy Troughton and David van Nunen.

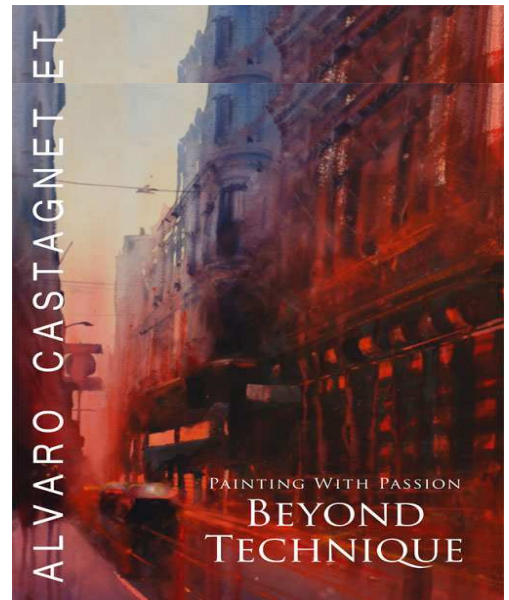
NEW RELEASE BY ALVARO CASTAGNET

Beyond Technique: Painting with Passion, the lavishly illustrated and didactic second publication by international award-winning watercolourist and AWI member, Alvaro Castagnet, has recently been released.

Born in Montevideo, Uruguay, Castagnet emigrated to Australia in 1983, where he remained for two decades, establishing a formidable reputation as a watercolourist. He is currently based in his native Montivideo.

Most recently, Castagnet's painting, *Times Square, New York* was awarded first prize in the 2012 *3rd Annual Signature American Watercolor Exhibition*.

Beyond Technique: Painting with Passion is available for purchase at www.jennypihanfineart.com.au and www.alvarocastagnet.net



VALE JOHN CONWAY



It is with profound regret that we announce the sad news of the passing of our esteemed member, **John Conway**.

John Conway was born in London in 1921 and studied at Goldsmith's College, London. After service in the RAF in World War 2, he came to Australia in 1947.



He first exhibited with the Australian Watercolour Institute in 1948, 64 years ago, and has been an exhibiting Member since 1996. President of the Contemporary Art Society of Australia (NSW Branch) 1972-76, he was a Senior Lecturer in Art at Sydney Teachers' College.

His mature work, infused with his very English poetic surrealist overtones, was surveyed in the exhibition *John Conway: A Humble Metaphysical Presence*, curated by Dr Michael Beare, at the Wollongong City Gallery in 2010. A selection of works from this retrospective exhibition was subsequently shown at the Peter Pinson Gallery, which represents his work.

Information courtesy of AWI Emeritus President, Peter Pinson OAM.

Funeral arrangements will be advised

Linda van Nunen, Editor, AWI NEWSLETTER

AWI OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David van Nunen, President
Ingrid Van Dyk, Secretary
Josefia Lemon

Ian Chapman, Vice President
Rob Candy, Treasurer
Daniel Pata

Neil Taylor, Vice President
Malcolm Carver
Guy Troughton