

P R I N C I P L E G A L L E R Y

About the Artist: Joseph Zbukvic

“I try to achieve a balance of harmony between tonal values, design, colour and mood that will visually evoke the emotions between the viewer and the painting. Watercolour, with its subtle and gentle effects is a perfect medium to achieve this.”

- Joseph Zbukvic

Joseph Zbukvic was born in 1952 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. His parents discouraged him from pursuing a career in art, thus he spent a brief amount of time studying language at a pedagogical university. However, when Zbukvic was 18 years old, political instability forced him and his family to emigrate to Australia. He has continued to live there ever since; in Australia he was able to pursue his creative interests and established a successful painting career. Zbukvic has become a leading master of the watercolour medium in his time. His impressive achievements and success is due to his ability to transform any subject into visual poetic language. Covering an infinite variety of subjects, his sensitive, lyrical, and atmospheric paintings have captured people and galleries all around the world. Zbukvic currently lives and paints in Melbourne, Australia.

Education:

His early education was very versatile and included both the performing and visual arts. Despite his obvious talent for painting, in 1967 he enrolled into university to study languages and literature in order to pursue a teaching career. This was interrupted in 1970, when due to political unrest, he decided to immigrate to Australia, where he saw an opportunity to return to art. He continued his formal education at DAKIN UNIVERSITY, Melbourne, graduated in 1974, gaining a DIPLOMA of ART, majoring in INDUSTRIAL DESIGN. During this course he began to paint again achieving instant success at art competitions, winning his first major art award in 1975.(Corio Council Art Award, Judged by Richard Heffernan, Head of Deakin Art Faculty)

Career Highlights:

In 1978 he took up painting full time quickly establishing himself as one of the

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leading artists in this country. To date he has had over 40 solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, London UK and San Antonio, Texas USA

He is a member of the Victorian Watercolour Society and its vice president from 1991 to 1994 and was also invited to join the Australian Guild of Realist Artists in 1988. He has been a member of the Victorian Artists Society since 1988 and a teacher at Charles Sturt University, Mitchell School of arts. He is also a long serving member of the Twenty Melbourne Painters Society. In 1998 he was nominated and excepted for the esteemed membership of the Australian Watercolour Institute and became a VRC member in 1998.

He has won over 200 awards in his career including the coveted Gold Medal for best painting at the Camberwell Rotary Art Exhibition three times. The panel of judges was chaired by Richard Stone portrait painter for the Royal Family. Other awards span over 20 years and are just too numerous to mention

Achievements:

- 1991 - 1994 Vic President Victorian Watercolour Society
- 1988 Australian Guild Realist Artists
Victorian Artists Society
Teaching at Charles Sturt University, Mitchell School of Arts
Australian Watercolour Institute
Twenty Melbourne Painters Society
- 2001 Gold Medal "Best Painting in Show" Camberwell Rotary Art Exhibition
- 2003 Gold Medal "Best Painting in Show" Camberwell Rotary Art Exhibition
- 2004 Gold Medal "Best Painting in Show" Camberwell Rotary Art Exhibition

Equine Art:

In 1998 the Chairman of VRC, Andrew Ramsden opened Joseph's exhibition "Racing Victoria", introducing him to the racing fraternity. His passionate paintings depicting all aspects of racing industry have quickly found patrons resulting in major commissions of Testa Rossa, Tie the Knot, Redoute's Choice and many other paintings portraying equine subjects depicting morning

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trackwork, country meetings and other behind the scene subjects.

In 2001 the VRC commissioned Joseph to produce a painting of the mounting yard at Flemington which was presented to the retiring committee member Brian Beaty.

In 2001 he was commissioned by Radio Sport to provide artworks depicting thoroughbred racing, trotting, greyhounds, cricket and football for their new boardroom and offices in Elisabeth street.

For three years he was chosen by the VRC committee to paint the Champion Racehorse of the year. Sunline, Notherly and Lonhro. These are now apart of VRC permanent collection.

Bibliography:

Alan McCulloch, The Encyclopaedia of the Australian Arts, Hutchinson, 1978 and subsequent editions. Jean Campbell, Australian Watercolour Painting 1780 to the Present Day, Craftsman House 1990. Tom Roberts, the Australian Impressionist and Realist Artists, Graphic Management Services 1991. Australian Watercolour Institute, 75th Anniversary Publication, the Beagle Press 1998. The Best of Watercolour, Vol 3, Selected by Serge Hollerbach and Bettie Lou Schlemm, Rockport Publishers Inc 1999.