

DAVID THORNTON, Dip.T, A.T.A, B.Ed, M.Ed

Academic and professional career

Prior to 1975 worked in England as a Graphic Designer, eventually as a director of an Advertising firm in Leicester. Emigrated to Perth in 1975 and retrained as a teacher, completing degrees in Education at UWA, also working part-time teaching together with painting professionally, principally in watercolour. Fulltime teaching in 1985 as Art teacher at Geelong College, Victoria and 1990 Presbyterian Ladies' College, Perth, until retirement in 2001.

Artistic career

Initially self-taught as a painter in watercolour in England but in WA exhibiting widely and teaching in the Technical system, country venues and privately. Taught in the Special Art program at Kalamunda High School and participated in the Arts Access program in country centres. Exhibited in numerous galleries in Victoria and Perth with a number of one-man and joint shows in WA, including Gallows gallery, Mundaring Art Centre, Stafford gallery, Fremantle Art centre, Abercrombie gallery, Melbourne, McInnes gallery, Brisbane, Fine Art gallery, Perth, Signature gallery, Perth, Churchill gallery, Perth, Megalong gallery, Perth. Member of Calligraphy Guild and Colour Society of WA

Prizes

Prizes for watercolour in a large number of venues including City of Gosnells Art Purchase, Bunbury Art Purchase, Perth Building Society Prize, Williams Open three times, Albany Open Prize, Katanning Open, Wanneroo Open, Williams Open, Kwinana Art Award, City of Cockburn Award, Bunbury and Westrail Art Prize.

Personal Notes

Whilst learning to paint in watercolour, the convenience of which allowed me to work *en plein air* in several countries such as England, Wales, Minorca, and finally WA and Victoria in Australia, I concentrated principally on the problems of representation responding to differing environments. I have experimented a great deal with this medium, pushing it to the limits and finding the wet-in-wet qualities it offers unparalleled by other mediums. I also like the opportunities for abstraction it offers. Since retirement I have worked mostly in oils but always bearing in mind the free flowing quality and pureness of hue that typify watercolour. I have recently become very interested in colour per se, the colour harmony component in particular, hence my membership of the colour society. Health problems have greatly limited movement over recent years. Over recent years have worked at KCLC teaching Drawing, Pottery, and presentations on art history.