

Denis Hopkins

Artist's Statement

LANDSCAPE PAINTING

“Although the scenes that I paint are recognizable, faithfully recording the scene is of secondary concern to me. Careful observation combined with sketches and oil studies are used to capture the scene and moment to be recorded. Brushwork and impasto are important in the technique. Photographs are used principally when time is too short to finish a painting onsite.

My subjects are mainly in three areas - Wellington County, the region around Stowe, Vermont, and the Loire Valley, France. My style tends to be influenced by Impressionism, particularly American Impressionism, including the work of artists like John Carlson, Edgar Payne and Emile Gruppe.”

STILL LIFE PAINTING

“This requires a different technique and makes a statement of a kind different from landscape painting. A careful detailed drawing of the arrangement is made. The play of light and reflections from an object are recorded. The technique is traditional and much influenced by early European still life painting.

Some of the paintings represent the effects of ageing and the passage of time. At outdoor sales events and at “vides greniers” in France, damaged pots and jugs remain in boxes under tables, where they are out of sight. This is where I find objects that appear in my paintings (paradoxically, corrosion such as that made by copper sulphate, helps to bring life to a painting by adding spots of colour such as turquoise). It may be worth noting that in a few paintings I have included branches of old vegetation with fragmented and distorted leaves, which drift off to be lost in the background.”

Denis has kept sketchbooks all his adult life, especially when travelling, and paints regularly in retirement. In his 70th year he decided to go to France to study full time and worked in the studio and under the guidance and supervision of American painter, Ted Seth Jacobs, at the Albert Defois School of Realist Painting. He continued these studies eight months of the year for six years, studying mainly figure drawing, painting, and still life. He participated in a show entitled French Painting Today which toured the Middle East.

Denis has taken many workshops in Renaissance Painting Techniques with Frank Covino. He has also studied landscape painting in Stowe, Vermont, under the guidance of Frank Mason of the Art Students' League, New York.

In Canada, his work has been shown in the Wellington Artists' Gallery, *Insights* at the Wellington County Museum, Headwaters Arts including the annual show at the SGI Centre, the Elora Arts Centre, the Benefactor Program of the MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie, the Art Rental Program at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre in Guelph, and the Colour and Form Society, Toronto. His work is in many private collections.

**Denis can be reached through his website:
www.denishopkins.ca, or by phone, 519-855-6564**