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AUTUMN EQUINOX - Edition #7

23rd September 2022



"And all the lives we ever lived,
And all the lives to be,
Are full of trees and changing leaves... "

Virginia Woolf

Welcome to our Autumn 2022 edition

We hope you've had a good summer and managed to survive the heatwave, because, although there were some who liked it hot, a great many - us included - found it rather too debilitating.



(dreamstime.com)

Fortunately, the nine-day period of the farOpen Art Trail preceded the zenith of the heatwave, during which the temperature in our studio - even with both the doors and all the windows wide open - regularly reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit: needless to say, working on our art in there was simply out of the question!

The 2022 farOpen Art Trail

We'd like to say a big 'thank you' to those of you who came to see us in our studio during the Art Trail in July: in view of the fact that there were 55 other open studios to choose from, not to mention all the other local and national events also taking place at the same time, we really appreciate your time and interest. In addition, to those of you who liked our art enough to purchase a card or two or even a print, we thank you most heartily.



Stuart's display board with various pen and ink studies, including a 9x enlargement of his 'Gloucester Docks' 1850'.

To those of you who were unable to visit us, this year's exhibition had two themes: Stuart's

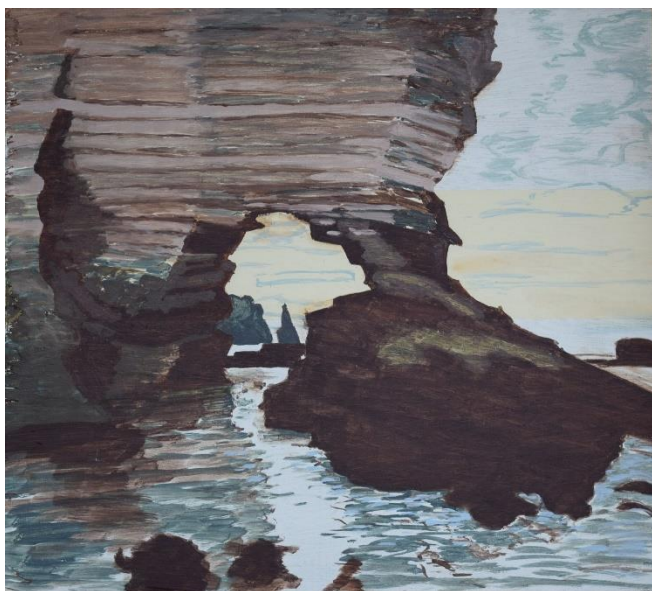
pen and ink paintings and Carmen's aquatic oils and watercolours.



Carmen's display board with her aquatic oils and watercolours, plus a 9x enlargement of her 'Cuban Beach' oil painting.

More cards to choose from...

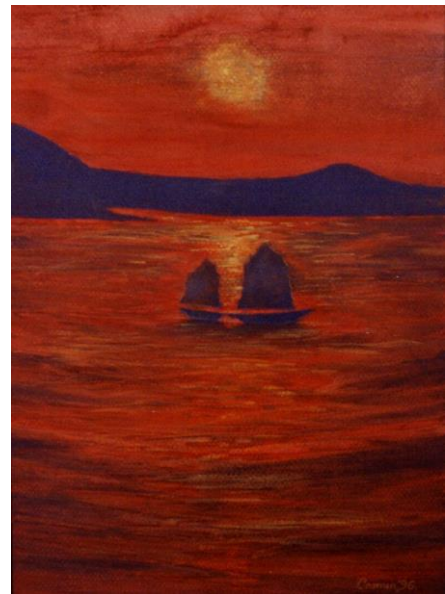
Alongside the prints and paintings, there were also a number of new additions to our growing range of hand-made greetings cards on offer in our studio: so, for those of you who couldn't visit us during the Art Trail or for those of you who did but would like to purchase some more, we've since added a selection of the most popular ones to our website, making them easily available: any time, any place anywhere...and whatever the weather!



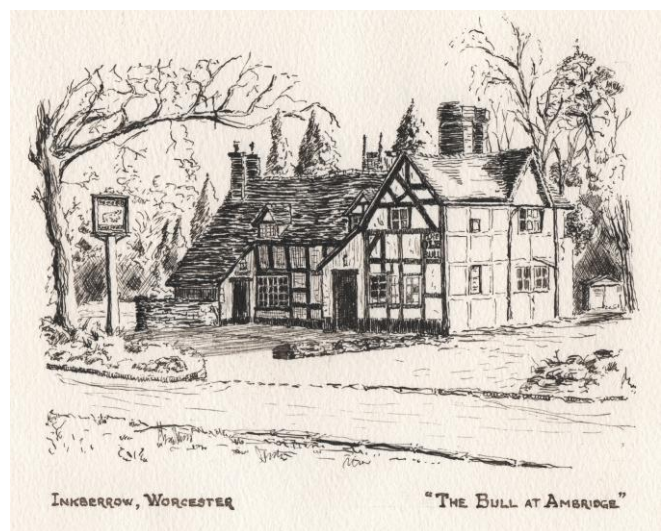
New greetings card – After Monet
- by Carmen



New greetings card – Gloucester Docks 2002
- by Carmen



New greetings card – Junks Journeying Home
by Carmen



New greetings card – The Bull at Ambridge – by Stuart



New greetings card –Whittington – by Stuart



New greetings card –Chedworth – by Stuart

[Take a look at our full range of handmade cards here](#)

Like a Bolt out of the Blue

Such was the effect on us, when we heard of the proposed plans to drain **Cannop Ponds**, a much loved beauty spot in the Forest of Dean.



Cannop Ponds (photographs by Carmen Rooksby)

As many of you will know, the Ponds have inspired a number of Carmen’s recent aquatic paintings.

Those of you who live locally will also know of the ‘Save Cannop Ponds’ campaign, which is rapidly gaining momentum (details of which can be found on Facebook). As Stuart and I often take the camera with us, when visiting the Ponds, we’ve amassed quite a collection of images, a few of which we’d like to share with you, here.



Goslings - Spring 2021



One of a breeding pair of swans takes flight

For those of you who are familiar with the ponds, you will recollect that there are two major bodies of water. The upstream higher body of water is separated from the lower pond by a long, curved dam with was once an embankment carrying an early industrial 1820s tramway, long since disused. It’s this embankment’s strength and integrity which appears to be the main issue in question. Should the embankment ever give way then the ensuing release of millions of gallons of pent-up water from the upper pond would be disastrous for the area downstream which would include the village of Whitcroft. The public outcry at the prospect of draining the upper pond (at least) is loud and vigorous as you can imagine. It would mean the loss of

a beautiful local amenity and sanctuary for wildlife.

Consultations between Forestry England and interested parties are, predictably, 'ongoing'.

Our view is that undoubtedly the outcome hinges entirely upon money.

[You can follow events on facebook.](#)

[Forestry England's webpage](#)

Keeping a sense of *perspective*...

It is a good thing to do with most things in life, I think you'll agree. But in *art*? The *drawing* bit of art... the bit that people who draw will tell you they either have or haven't got the hang of?

I've often heard people say "... oh yes, I can draw this and that quite well, it's just the perspective side of things that lets me down."

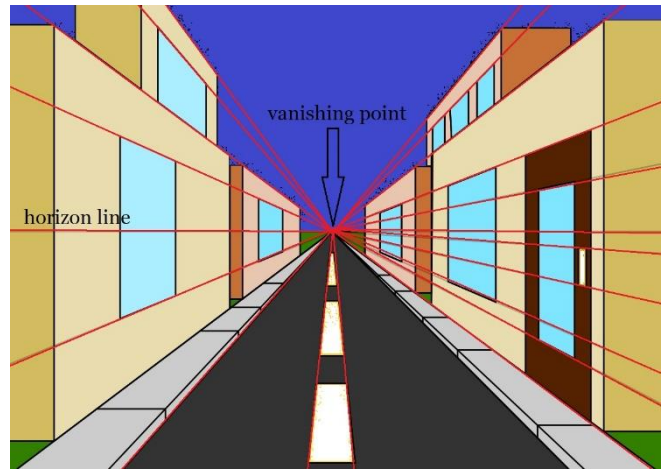
How often have you looked at an otherwise very good picture but thought to yourself... "It's good but there's something *not quite right* about it."?



like this

Which is a shame but it's totally understandable, because unless someone has shown you how perspective actually works, then it will remain a mystery for ever.

Below is an illustration of how *parallel* buildings might appear on a straight road. All the buildings are aligned with the road (as in most towns or villages) - so there's just *one* vanishing point where *all* the horizontal lines meet.



(courtesy Wikipedia)

This is how perspective works. But sit down with your sketch pad in a town and sketch what you see, then I can pretty much guarantee that when you get it home and start to work it up into a picture... you'll think... "Hmm, something's not quite right here!"

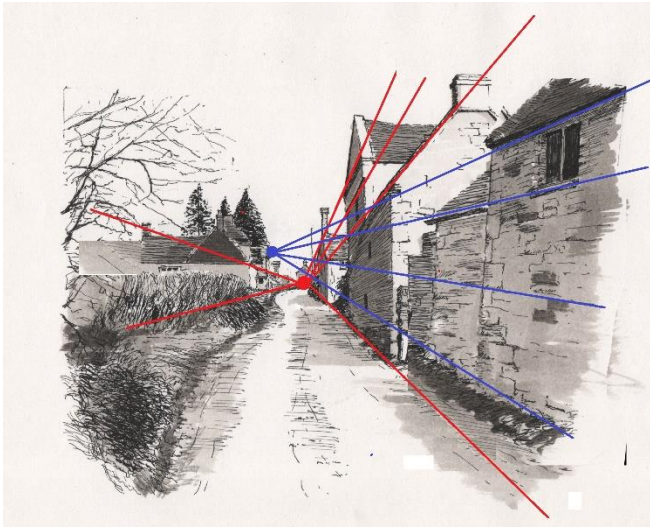
Halfway through working the picture below into a pen and ink, I knew there was something wrong about the building furthest right.



It looks as if it's at a different angle to the others. But memory tells me it wasn't.

So I tried drawing lines along roofs, sills, stones and gutters etc., to see where they finished up. The buildings being aligned and parallel with each other, all the lines should converge at one single vanishing point.

But here's what the lines looked like.



The red lines (drawn on the buildings that looked okay) all finished up at the red dot at the top of the road. But the blue lines (drawn on the building that *doesn't* look right) converge up in the air next to a tree. This shows the error.

So there was nothing for it but to re-draw the picture using pencil guidelines that met at a single point (the red one).



Brockhampton – by Stuart

So, here's wishing you all well and hoping you enjoy a peaceful and mellow Autumn.

Best wishes always,
Carmen & Stuart
