

Euclid Art Association

November 3, 2014 - Demonstrator Stuart Abbey

At our November 3, 2014 meeting we enjoyed a watercolor demonstration and talk by Stuart Abbey, president of the Creative Artist Association in Mentor, OH. Stuart started out by briefly telling us about perspective - two point, vanishing point and central focus. He says "an old watercolor trick, if you are out painting, is to use a pencil, about an arms length in front of you, to determine perspective".



Stuart likes his Steve Quiller palette, which has an indicator guide on the palette to ensure beautiful, harmonious color mixes - not mud! He uses Graham colors in his palette, because the paint contains honey to keep it moist. He prefers a 1 1/2" flat wash brush....doesn't really like expensive brushes.

His subject for the evening's demonstration was the bridge in Bergerac, France built in 1783 over the Dordogne river, which he had already sketched on Arches paper. We watched him quickly lay down color on the paper, saying the painting should be harmonious, which he says is achieved by putting the same color wherever you see it. And, "if the paint drips, you can say it's a tree!" He doesn't like

rules..."it's your painting, you can do what every you feel like". He went

on to say, "you can show depth by putting darks in front of light and

when you put your work behind a mat, it becomes a painting!" The soft spoken, Stuart, gave us a little history lesson on France, even though he says he's not big on history. But, he is really quite a storyteller.

One of our members asked him about working with watercolor pencils/ crayons. He gave us a quick demonstration doing the same bridge using watercolor crayons. Interesting!

Stuart said he would email us his final painting....but, he also said that he lets paintings set and he comes back to it a year later. Will we get to see his final painting?



There were over 30 members in attendance. We thank both Sharon Collins and Betty Kovacs their wonderful fall table of goodies. We enjoyed eating their homemade cookies, veggies, cheese & crackers, chips & dip and apple cider. What yummy treats!

