

Joseph Zbukvic

Born Zagreb, Croatia, 1952

I have loved watercolour from that first wash I accidentally produced during my university days in the early 1970s. It has been a journey of discovery since then. It still surprises me and lays me humble whenever I think I can beat it. I will pursue its mysterious ways forever.

Joseph Zbukvic's childhood was spent on a small farm where the work was done in a traditional manner, giving him an understanding of man's relationship to nature. His early education was diverse and included both the performing and visual arts. Despite an obvious talent for painting, in 1967 he enrolled at university to pursue a teaching career. This was interrupted in 1970 when, due to political unrest, his family emigrated to Australia. Returning to art, he continued his formal education at Deakin University, Geelong, graduating in 1974 with a Diploma of Art majoring in Industrial Design. During his university years, he discovered watercolour as a medium and won his first major art prize in 1975, the Corio Council Art Award. Since then, Zbukvic has won over 200 awards, including the Gold Medal for best painting at the Camberwell Rotary Art Exhibition in 2001, 2003 and 2004 and the 2010 *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition Award of Excellence*, Lifetime Achievement Award by the Plein Air magazine and numerous other awards worldwide.

To date, Zbukvic has held over 40 solo exhibitions at galleries in Australia and overseas, among which are Melbourne Fine Art Gallery; Artarmon Galleries, Sydney; Red Hill Gallery, Brisbane; David Sumner Gallery Adelaide; Tyron and Swann Gallery, London, United Kingdom and Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art, San Antonio, Texas, Principle Gallery, Alexandria, United States, Guanhua Gallery Shanghai China and a retrospective in Hanychuen Art Museum in Handan, China

His work is represented in public, corporate and private collections worldwide, including Castlemaine Regional Gallery and Historical Museum; Grafton Regional Gallery; Mimara Museum of Fine Arts, Zagreb, Hanychuen Art Museum, Handan, China, Fabriano Watercolour Museum, Italy ; Commonwealth Art Bank and many private collections worldwide.

Elected a member of the Australian Watercolour Institute in 1998, Zbukvic is also a long term member of the Watercolour Society of Victoria, having served as Vice President from 1991 to 1994, American Watercolor Society, the Victorian Artists Society and the Twenty Melbourne Painters Society. He has had membership in the Victoria Racing Club since 1998, resulting in numerous commissions for his equine paintings.

Selected Bibliography

McCulloch, Alan, *The Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, Hutchinson, 1979 and subsequent editions.

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