

JOHN OWEN'S INSPIRATION IN GIRONA WITH EPC GAINS HIM RECOGNITION IN AUSTRIA

LETTER TO "THE ARTIST" MAGAZINE – May 2010

Well here is a story that even I find unbelievable.

As you may remember, back in 2008 I saw a call for entries in *The Artist* from the Mall Galleries. My submission was turned down but whilst in London, I visited an exhibition at the Royal Academy where the *Royal Watercolour Society* had a display of their members' work. As I signed the visitors book, a gentleman from the RWS talked me into submitting 3 paintings for their open exhibition '**21st Century Watercolour**' and a few days later I learned that one picture had been accepted.

In summer last year I saw a small advert in *The Artist* from **Angela Barbi of EPC Art Courses in Catalonia**, offering the opportunity to paint with that brilliant master of watercolour **Joseph Zbukvic**. The course was long overbooked but Joseph was eventually persuaded to latch on a second 5 day course and 20 more aspiring artists from all corners of the globe met on the Costa Brava to profit from his teaching first hand.

I travelled down a few days earlier to paint the dazzling light on the sea from morning till night. It paid off - and how! Austria's most famous collection of contemporary art, the Leopold Museum in Vienna, has just held a competition to find the top five watercolour painters in Austria. 1500 entries from 500 artists were submitted and 70 selected for an exhibition there that runs until the end of June. The attached painting '**Mediterranean Light at Eden Roc**' was my best effort - and was selected. But more was to come.



Mediterranean light at Eden Roc

At the opening, five of the artists, were selected personally by the museum's founder as being '**Tomorrow's Masters**'. As one of the five winners, my painting will be purchased by the *Leopold Museum* and added to the world's best collection of works by *Egon Schiele*, *Gustav Klimt* and many other great artists.

You and your team at **The Artist** opened the doors for my success. All I can say is thank you - and thank you Angela, Joseph and the fantastic brushes from Escoda. My advice to fellow painters: use *The Artist* to learn from others better than yourself but only in order to find and develop your own highly personal, unique vision and methods of expression. The way is long and hard but stick at it and, with luck, you can and will succeed.

John Owen

www.owen.at