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QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY



THE ROMANCE OF FRANCE



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In mounting this project exhibition entitled *The Romance of France*, the Queensland Art Gallery is endeavouring to present those paintings from the collection which have as their subject some aspect of France. Whether the works are painted by French, English or Australian artists it matters little for the sole purpose of this exercise is to capture the beauty of the French countryside and the excitement and charm of its capital Paris.

We could have searched further afield if needs be through public and private collections to expand this exhibition to major proportions but the policy of the gallery over the last fifteen months has been to show certain aspects of the collection for both artistic and educational reasons, * thus enabling the public to obtain a fuller appreciation of the scope of the State collection. We believe this has been achieved to a marked degree and it has proved an interesting and challenging exercise for all concerned.

Why France? - you ask! Why not, for what other country has excited the traveller more with its peaceful sweeping countryside - its numerous fine examples of gothic cathedral architecture, its picturesque townships and its friendly beach resorts in the sunny south. Not only the visual responses are motivated as one becomes endeared with the country, but our sensitivities for our fellow man are stimulated by the passing parade of French types from the elegant sophisticates of Parisian society to the purple stained faces of the grape harvesters near Perpignan. At times the French can be as dour as any Scot when communication becomes difficult, but this stems from a national pride which at times borders on the arrogant. Provided some attempt at speaking French is made one will receive the warmest welcome, be escorted to the prominent landmarks of the village and will be asked to share the excellence of French provincial cooking and good wines.

It is here at the table, the most satisfying romances with the country are established through the rich soups, the palatable cheese and crusty sticks of freshly baked bread.

But the strangest love affairs are made with the greatest symbol of French tradition, that city of rare beauty and elegance, Paris. No other place keeps reminding one of the former periods of history than this lovable proud city. Often said and perhaps true, every person is entitled to two cities - their own and Paris. Paris is a city of grand vistas, where at every turn along wide tree lined streets the eye focuses on historical monuments, prominent buildings, or the omnipresent Eiffel Tower.

To most minds the real Paris was born when that grand red-brown structure was being thrust upon Parisians (not without protest) for their Exposition of 1889. The time when Hector Guimard was transforming domestic and public architecture with his sinuous art nouveau style, and when the misconception that artists starved in garrets was common. Strange as it may seem the modern visitor still hopes to catch a glimpse of a real artist of the standing of Monet, Degas, Renoir or Lautrec.

- * . *Japanese Woodcuts from the Collection.* May 1975
- . *Portraits of Women.* May 1975
- . *Drawing - from the Collection.* June 1975
- . *Old Master Prints.* June 1975
- . *Australian Watercolours.* July 1975
- . *Printmaking in Australia.* November 1975
- . *Queensland Women Artists.* Nov. Dec. Jan. 1975-76
- . *Still Life Paintings from the Collection.* March 1976

Montmartre still exists for artists who throng the small square at the top of the steps, sweating on busloads of tourists who hopefully come to discover a "real talent". It is a little removed from Paris at the turn of the century - the modern Moulin Rouge cabaret exists in name only, but the famous Moulin de la Galette stands loftily, but lamentably in a state of abject dilapidation, hoping against hope that its sails will be restored and the gay life of a century ago will reverberate through its hollow halls again. Renoir's simple, radiant girls dressed in lace trimmed dark blue who frequented the old "hall" have changed places with sophisticated misses in suede or mock leather gear and jangling plastic accessories who now gyrate in noisy cabarets and discotheques.

But the city still breathes with a healthy beat. Its outer suburban sprawl of ugly high rise apartments has spared the inner area from ignominy and discordancy. Every street retains its old charm where the occasional street markets of Montmartre and Montparnasse still create a unique village atmosphere within the bustling city.

Many artists have turned to France for inspiration, but in particular Paris. Their number is countless and each in turn has produced work of inspired quality and freshness. Many Australians have endeared themselves to France - John Peter Russell, Charles Condor, Anne Alison Greene, Bessie Gibson, Emanuel Phillips Fox and Rupert Bunny are some who preferred to live there for a period of time. As well there has been a great influx of students and visitors since the turn of the century who have spent a short period of time painting and studying in Paris. It's interesting to note here that French artists like Delacroix and later Matisse sought the clear light and brighter colours of French Morocco. It seems quite paradoxical to think they may have lost interest in Paris or subjects derived from the French countryside when so many alien artists flocked to the crowded ateliers of the French art teachers and became caught up in a Bohemian world, and pursued an unwavering course to become a successful artist with all its related frustrations.

Amongst the forty seven works we are exhibiting, some of the more interesting are two expressive pen and wash sketches by Margaret Olley and three beautiful studies by Eric Wilson. In these brief statements the spontaneity of this lively city is more than adequately expressed by two artists who have fallen in love with their second city - the city of their choice.

Through their sensitive expressions, we ask you to share with these artists and thirty others, part of the romance which is France.

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| ASHTON, Sir John William
1881-1963
Australian | (1) "On the Seine"
Oil
59.6 x 80 cms |
| | (2) "Sospel, France"
Oil on ply backed canvas
56.2 x 66 cms |
| BONINGTON, Richard-Parkes
1802-1828
English | (3) "Coast Scene Normandy"
Watercolour
22.5 x 32.7 cms |
| BUSH, Charles
1920-
Australian | (4) "Near Les Invalides" 1952
Oil on board
67.3 x 87.9 cms |
| CHEVALIER, Nicholas
1828-1902
Russian | (5) "Le Pont de Tanneverge, Vallee de
Haute Savoie"
Oil on canvas
71.1 x 91.4 cms |
| COLAHAN, Colin
1897-
Australian | (6) "Market in Provence" (before 1927)
Oil on canvas
64.1 x 76.2 cms |
| DALGARNO, Roy
1910-
Australian | (7) "Pont Charles, Paris" 1952
Oil on plywood
50.3 x 76.3 cms |
| EMANUEL, Frank
1865-1948
British | (8) Sketch for the Sunk Road. Montreuil-
Neuville
Oil on wood panel
26.7 x 35 cms |
| FLINT, Robert Purves

Scottish | (9) "Martigues, Provence"
Watercolour
20.2 x 36.8 cms |
| FOX, Emanuel Phillips
1864-1915
Australian | (10) "Summer, France"
Oil on canvas on board
45.5 x 32.1 cms |
| | (11) "Market Place"
Oil on wooden panel
27.3 x 35.2 cms |
| | (12) "Saint Jermain"
Oil on canvas
76 x 59.5 cms |
| FOX, Ethel Carrick
1876-1952
Australian | (13) "The Pont Neuf"
Oil on canvas
59.7 x 81 cms |
| FRÉMONT, Pierre
1886-
French | (14) "Pont Neuf"
Enamels on copper
13.6 x 22.2 cms |
| FRÉMONT-CHEVIER, Suzanne

French | (15) "Paris Window"
Oil on ply backed canvas
72.4 x 53.3 cms |

GIBSON, Bessie
1868-1961
Australian

(16) "Market Place. Cherbourg"
Oil on wood
37.7 x 46.3 cms

(17) "St. Gervais, Paris"
Oil
34.7 x 26 cms

GOODSIR, Agnes
1865-1939
Australian

(18) "In a Paris Studio"
Oil on canvas
61 x 49.8 cms

GREENE, Anne Alison
1878-1954
Australian

(19) "The Anchorage, Cherbourg"
Oil on canvas
37.2 x 46.2 cms

(20) "L'Eglise Sainte Etienne du Mont. Paris"
Oil on canvas
73 x 60 cms

(21) "L'Eglise St. Germaine des Pres, Paris"
Oil on canvas
65.4 x 74 cms

JACOYLEFF, Alexandre
1887-1938
Russian

(22) "Coast of France. 1927"
Gouache
48.5 x 63.5 cms

LAWRENCE, George
1901-
Australian

(23) "Paris Street"
Oil on board
45.8 x 61 cms

LINDSAY, Sir Lionel
1874-1961
Australian

(24) "Old Marseilles"
Pencil and Watercolour
23.2 x 29.4 cms

(25) "Rue de l'Etriche, Marseilles"
Pencil and Watercolour
22 x 29.5 cms

LOISFAU, Gustave
1865-1935
French

(26) "Pommiers à Tournedos - sur - Seine" 1899
Oil on canvas
65 x 81.3 cms

MELDRUM, Max
1875-1955
Australian

(27) "Le Ravin" (Walking in the Shade)
Oil
80.6 x 54 cms

MORET, Henry
1856-1913
French

(28) "Ile d'Ouessant, 1903"
Oil
53.6 x 64 cms
(Lent by the Minnamurra Foundation. N.S.W.)

OLLEY, Margaret
1923-
Australian

(29) "Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, 1950."
Pen and wash
40.6 x 52.7 cms

(30) "Chateau Fontcreuais Cassis"
Pen and watercolour
39.7 x 52.3 cms

PATTERSON, Ambrose
1877-1967
Australian

(31) "Winter Sunshine, Paris"
Oil on canvas
63.5 x 81.3 cms

PISSARRO, Camille
1830-1903
French

(32) "La Lessive à Éragny. 1874"
Oil on canvas
33.5 x 41.5 cms

PISSARRO, Lucien
1863-1944
French

(33) "Landscape. 1916"
Oil on canvas
53.3 x 65 cms

REES, Lloyd
1895-
Australian

(34) "Rue Saint Julien le Pauvre, Paris"
Oil on canvas
66 x 82.5 cms

RUSSELL, John Peter
1858-1930
Australian

(35) "Coraux des Alpes"
Oil on canvas
59 x 59.7 cms

(36) "Rochers de Belle Ile"
Oil on canvas
63.5 x 81.3 cms

SCOTT, Edwin
1863-1929
British

(37) "Street Scene, Paris" 1927
Charcoal drawing
24.1 x 14 cms

(38) "Millet's Cottage, Greville"
Oil on plywood
33.1 x 41.3 cms

(39) "Notre Dame"
Oil
24.1 x 15.9 cms

SICKERT, Sir Walter
1860-1942
British

(40) "St. Remy, Dieppe"
Oil on canvas
55.3 x 46.3 cms

(41) "Dieppe"
Pencil on brown paper
29.8 x 21.6 cms

VEAL, Hayward
1913-1968
Australian

(42) "Paris in the Spring"
Oil on canvas
53 x 78.8 cms

WILSON, Eric
1911-1946
Australian

(43) "Rue Poulettier"
Pen and wash
17.8 x 12 cms

(44) "Seine, Paris"
Pen and wash
12 x 17.8 cms

(45) "Rue Charlemaigne"
Pen and wash
12 x 17.8 cms

(46) "Snow on the Rue Poulettier Paris"
Oil on canvas
130.8 x 97.7 cms

WOOD, Christopher
1901-1930
British

(47) "Seine Quayside"
Oil on board
37.8 x 45.7 cms

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QLD Art Gallery



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