



NEWS RELEASE

TONY FOSTER'S 'EXPLORING BEAUTY' EXHIBITION

(15TH July – 12 November)

The Royal Cornwall Museum unites the watercolour journeys of British artist and explorer Tony Foster in a powerful exhibition that aims to inspire people to connect with wilderness and to preserve it.

The Cornwall-based artist Tony Foster takes an immersive approach to landscape, inspired by artists such as JMW Turner, Richard Long and David Hockney. For over 30 years, he has climbed the heights and explored the depths of the earth to paint wild places in situ in series of large-scale watercolours that evoke the impact and scale of the landscape.

The only person to paint all three faces of Everest, this fellow of the Royal Geographical Society has trekked on expeditions to the edges of the earth to paint what remains of the wilderness. He travels on foot, by boat and raft, camping on-site in locations from the Amazon to Borneo, volcanoes to deserts, to absorb himself in a place for weeks to paint huge watercolours.

His art celebrates the wild beauty of nature and he hopes to inspire people to preserve it. Along the way, he has collaborated with luminaries including the naturalist Sir David Attenborough and fellow explorer Robin Hanbury-Tenison. Each of them has suggested a site of wild beauty for Foster to paint and has written an accompanying statement.

Ian Wall, Director of the Royal Cornwall Museum says: “We’re delighted to be hosting an exhibition by Tony Foster. This exhibition is set to attract a wide spectrum of collectors, art enthusiasts and we believe a new enthusiastic public.”

Foster works in the traditional medium of watercolour because it enables him to get closer to nature: ‘I use the elements of nature, in the elements, to paint nature.’ Since Turner and the great British watercolour artists of the 18th century, artists have painted in watercolour to capture the quickly shifting lights and colours of the landscape

The Foster Art & Wilderness Foundation set up in his name is one of the few charitable art foundations to be launched in Palo Alto, the heart of the Silicon Valley. It is the brainchild of Palo Alto businesswoman Jane Woodward, who has funded the entire project. A geologist and Stanford MBA, who also teaches at Stanford, she founded an energy investment firm focused on US natural gas and wind energy.

Woodward explains; “I came upon Tony Foster’s work by chance in the late 1980s at the Smithsonian – it ambushed me while I was looking for something else. His watercolour journey “John Muir’s High Sierra” expressed the wild beauty of the Sierra Mountains in such a powerful way, I felt I was there, transported to the place he painted. So I tracked him down and began collecting his work. Five years ago, I decided I couldn’t bear watching the journeys - usually a series of 30 or 40 paintings, which are powerful when presented as one work - being split up to sell to individual collectors.”

“My aim with the foundation is to keep all his journeys intact in order to loan them to public art venues, whose audiences, will, I hope, be inspired to connect with nature, to take journeys, to value wilderness.”

For further PRESS information or interviews please contact Sophie Meyer on 01872 272205, or pressoffice@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk

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