

Australian artist selected to reproduce JMW Turner watercolours


Having held more than 40 solo exhibitions worldwide, Melbourne-born artist Tony Smibert is considered one of Australia's finest watercolour painters. Recently appointed by the Tate Britain gallery in London to assist Tate Senior Conservation Scientist Dr Joyce Townsend on a project to recreate the styles of JMW Turner, Smibert is highly regarded for his knowledge of Turner's elusive painting techniques.

Recognised as one of Britain's all-time great watercolourists, the project involves the re-creation of papers, paints and painting methods relevant to Turner's era. Although hailed for his outstanding contribution to watercolour, Turner's disinterest in teaching meant his personal methods have long remained a mystery. Smibert, who has studied Turner's method for 15 years, is confident he will be able to replicate them, believing one of the best ways to learn

watercolour is to 'apprentice yourself' to the best. Having travelled to places in London where Turner had worked, Smibert compared sketches with locations and locations with finished art to help elicit Turner's method.

Although heavily influenced by Turner, Smibert's personal style is uniquely his own. Grown out of the study of Japanese martial art, Smibert meshes English watercolour traditionalism with Japanese Zen minimalism in an approach that brings together elements of East and West.

Smibert and his wife, printmaker Carmel Burns, run Smibert Studio Gallery, located just outside Deloraine in northern Tasmania.
www.smibert.com

 [direct link at artreview.com.au](http://artreview.com.au)

Above: Tony Smibert, **Life on Earth**, watercolour, 380 x 285mm. Courtesy the artist.
Right: Tony Smibert, **Sword Cuts**, watercolour, 380 x 285mm. Courtesy the artist.

