# The Art of Watercolour No.

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# THE ART OF COLOUR ATTION OF THE ART OF THE A

THE ART MAGAZINE FOR WATERCOLOURISTS





DAVID TAYLOR Painting on-site and alla prima

## **JANINE GALLIZIA** A very intimate path to creativity





**XIDAN CHEN** China's foremost watercolourist

**TECHNICAL GUIDE** How to use gum arabic and masking fluid

**ALSO INSIDE Lillias August** Dean Mitchell Carla O'Connor Jane Freeman Éric Laurent

EXPERT ADVICE: Shape, values, colour: how to choose the most appropriate ones for your subject



Precursor of Romanticism

MUCH LIKE TURNER, JOHN CONSTABLE WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BRITISH LANDSCAPE PAINTERS. WHY DID THE PAINTINGS OF THE PLACES WHERE HE GREW UP HAVE SUCH AN INFLUENCE ON THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS OF PAINTERS?

## YEY DATES

1776 John Constable is born in East Bergholt, Suffolk, England.

1799 He enters the Royal Academy School.

**1811** First visit to Salisbury. The cathedral and the surrounding countryside would become a recurring motif in his paintings.

1816 He marries Maria Bicknel

**1819** Constable sells his first large painting which will lead to a series of large paintings know as the 'six-footers'.

**1828** After the birth of their seventh child, his wife dies of tuberculosis.

**1829** Constable is elected to the Royal Academy.

1837 Constable dies and is buried next to his wife in Hampstead cemetery.





James Gardner, John Constable RA at the age of twenty. 1796. Tempera on oil, 58.4 x 45.7 cm. © V & A Images/Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Unlike his contemporary Turner (1775-1831), John Constable (1776-1837) never travelled much. Turner's many journeys took him to France, Italy and Scotland and helped him shape his tumultuous paintings. Constable on the other hand painted almost exclusively the landscapes of his native Suffolk. Turner's paintings undoubtedly foreshadow the Romantic movement and yet the same is also true of Constable's work: his approach, which is nothing short of revolutionary, influenced later generations of painters. It was not until the last years of his life that Constable came to fame in England. As it were, it was in France that his paintings first made an lasting impression at the Salon of 1824. It is said that after seeing Constable's landscapes for the first time. Delacroix proceeded to repaint the background of his painting, Massacre de Scio. Paul Huet, a French painter and friend of Delacroix, sums up the effect that Constable's paintings had on their audience: "In the history of modern painting, the appearance of Constable's work in 1824 was a noteworthy event."

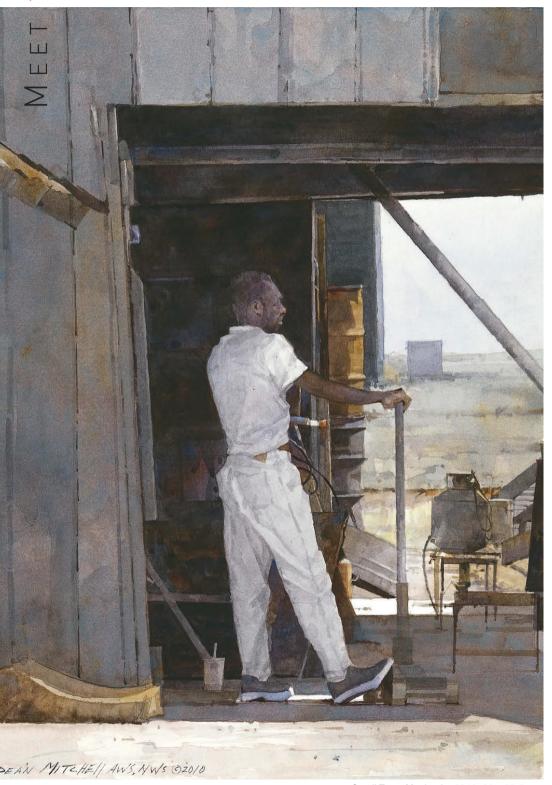
## A FONDNESS FOR THE LANDSCAPES OF HIS CHILDHOOD

Constable's career is somewhat out of ordinary. Although recognition did not come early – he sold his first oil painting at the ripe old age of 43 – today he is considered one of the foremost British landscape painters. Lucian Freud, curator of the Constable exhibition held in Paris in 2002, remarked that John Constable's paintings have crossed the boundaries of fine art to become icons of their own; the proof being that they now adorn beer mats and table sets.

John Constable for the most part did not travel during his lifetime. He grew up in the village of East Bergholt in the county of Suffolk, South East England, under the reign of King George III. The area has not changed much even today: the bucolic countryside, strewn with fields and thickets of trees is irrigated by the meandering River Stour. Its name, derived from old Celtic, means powerful. This is how Constable described his attachment to his native region: "The beauty of the surrounding

# Simple life Mitchell painting

DEAN MITCHELL INJECTS HUMANITY INTO HIS PAINTINGS. REGARDLESS OF HIS SUBJECT, THE 'SIMPLE LIFE' SHINES THROUGH. HIS PAINTINGS ARE MADE UP OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN ORDINARY POSES AND EVERYDAY ARCHITECTURE, WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY UNDERNEATH.



Small Town Mechanic. 2010. 38 x 25.5 cm.



Pieces of Yesterday. 25.5 x 38 cm.



# LIGHT AND GRACE

HIS GREAT MASTERY OF WET WATERCOLOUR
TECHNIQUES AND HIS ETERNAL QUEST FOR BEAUTY
HAVE MADE THIS ARTIST THE NEW IDOL OF CHINESE
WATERCOLOUR. MOVING WITH EASE FROM LANDSCAPE
PAINTING TO THE SECRETIVE WORLD OF CLASSICAL
DANCERS, HIS LAST SERIES TO DATE, HIS PAINTINGS
CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF A DREAMLIKE
GENTLENESS THAT BORDERS ON PERFECTION.

SWAN HARMONY NO. 3