

## Mary Hughson

### *Explorations: Myanmar and Beyond*

#### **Artist's Statement**

The tradition of travel sketching is millennia old and was born of necessity. In our current age, it is hard to imagine a time when new territory could only be described verbally or perhaps by drawing with a stick in the dirt. Preserving and sharing information about other places led to the innovation of drawing on bark, hides or leaves. Being able to communicate this way often meant the difference between either finding shelter and food, or perishing.

Later, military trainees learned the art of sketching so they could produce hand-drawn maps of terrain that would help assure victory in battle. Many of these military artists went on to describe the vast and various landscapes of Canada for audiences back in Great Britain and Europe. In the 19th century, sketching trips were considered an important part of any upper-class education.

Today, smart phones and digital cameras are allowing more and more of us to capture images digitally. To counter this trend, there is a resurgence in direct-observation sketching by individual artists, and by international associations such as Urban Sketching.

I have always found that getting out from behind the viewfinder gives me a better perspective on my environment. The very act of sketching in public makes it possible for me to really connect with people, especially when language is a barrier.

I hope you enjoy this exhibition of my sketchbook prints and originals of my own explorations from beyond.

#### **Bio**

Mary Hughson is a graduate of Dawson College's Fine Arts Program and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University. She worked for 32 years as a graphic artist at *The Montreal Gazette*, a position from which she is now retired.

Hughson's inspiration for her paintings comes from both the natural world and her observations of new environments. Employing a range of media to communicate her

vision, she may precisely render an image of the subject matter or choose a more impressionistic reflection of reality. Hughson favours watercolour for travel sketches, while she turns to acrylics and oils to capture flora, fauna and traditional still life.

In addition to pursuing her love of painting and honing her artistic skills, Hughson works on book and exhibition projects with her husband, *The Gazette's* editorial cartoonist Terry Mosher (Aislin), who is celebrating 50 years of cartooning. Hughson, Mosher and their little dog Sparky are currently planning a cross-Canada trip – sketchbooks in hand.

## **CV**

### **Fine Arts studies**

Dawson College, 2-Year Fine Arts Program

Royal Academy of Art, The Hague, 1-Year Program

Concordia University, Bachelor of Fine Arts

### **Group and solo exhibits**

*Art By The Water* (Spring 2017, in support of cancer research)

Lachine Artists (2015 and 2016)

Friends of Mount Royal Cemetery (2015 and 2016)

*Denim Dreams* (October 2000, in support of The Old Brewery Mission)

Royal LePage Lac Brome (sponsored exhibit, 1994)

*Arbo Expo* (1993, 1994, 1999)

Centre communautaire Edgar (Verdun) 'Voyages' watercolours, 2003