

# Painting and Drawing Demonstrations

By **Robin Gray**

**A Still Life Drawing in Graphite.** This is a popular and highly entertaining demonstration produced on an A1 piece of paper. Robin sets up an interesting and demanding group of objects, together with back drape and lighting. He explains his choice of objects and makes sure that both he and the audience can see. He explains the process as it builds, with other entertaining information and stories. This is a very vigorous demonstration which usually results in a fully toned and finished drawing, together with a pair of very black hands.

**Underground Adventure.** Another very popular demonstration, involves the use of oil pastel. Robin is Chairman of The International Society for Spelaeological Art and is still very involved in cave exploration. The demonstration, on a large (A1) sheet of black paper shows the beauty of the underground landscape and includes covers going about their sometimes dangerous hobby. The demonstration deals with all you need to know about this permanent form of painting and also includes information and stories about this exciting pursuit.

**Sketching Techniques.** This useful demonstration shows four possible ways of dealing with drawing from life out of doors. Producing a sketch which might be turned into a finished painting in the studio is the main reason for going, so the sketch has to eliminate the unimportant and provide accurate information to work from. The materials demonstrated are easy to find and are inexpensive but they will prove invaluable. The demonstration results in at least four different pictures.

**Mixed Media Abstract.** The demonstration can be adapted to provide a subject suited to the interests of the group. It could relate to the discovery of cubism by Braque and Picasso, working from a still life arrangement, or be made from shape and colour relationships in the form of a completely non-

figurative painting. Both involve knowledge of materials and how they work together. The finished painting will be on an A1 sheet and hopefully well composed and dynamic.

**Using real Gouache.** Real Gouache, the type often referred to as 'continental gouache' is quite different to 'designer's gouache'. Designer's Gouache is totally opaque, while the original gouache can be used transparently as well as thickly. Gouache can be mixed with less water to make a more opaque paint and it is possible to cover that which is underneath. The Designer's Gouache was developed in the 20s and 30s to provide flat areas of completely opaque colour for poster design and commercial art.

This is a landscape demonstration. Subjects might be a scene along the River Nile, a mountain landscape or the Somerset landscape round Glastonbury.

**Working in Mono-chrome.** A painting in Continental Gouache or water soluble wax pastels, possibly a moon lit landscape.

**Robin's Famous Fish.** Always a popular subject at Art in Action, Robin has built up a reputation for vigorous and entertaining demonstrations using water soluble wax pastels.

The giant wax pastels made by Caran d'Ache provide an enormous amount of colour and the end product is always lively.