

Sacred Places

WATERCOLOUR DIARIES FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Sacred Places began as a search for greater meaning. Traveling throughout the Four Corners region of the southwestern United States (where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet), wilderness artist Tony Foster sought to experience and document its rich blend of cultures and faiths. The exhibition depicts the distinct beauty of the natural landscape as well as the deep spiritual connections of its inhabitants through Foster's unique addition of journal excerpts and artifacts included within the frames of his paintings. The area is the cultural homeland of the Navajo, Ute, Havasupai, Paiute, Pueblo, Hopi, and Zuni tribes. Members of the Catholic and Mormon faiths arrived there in the 19th century, and in the late 20th century, New Age adherents were drawn to the energy vortexes around Sedona, Arizona. *Sacred Places* honors these sites and serves as a powerful appeal for their protection.

JOURNEY DETAILS

Four states: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Three years: 2009 to 2012

Twenty-seven painting sites in twenty-one locations:

Arizona: Bell Rock; Canyon de Chelly National Monument; Cathedral Rock; Havasu Falls; Mitten Buttes, Monument Valley; Mount Humphreys, San Francisco Peaks; Spider Rock

Colorado: Long House, Mesa Verde National Park; Mount Blanca; Mount Hesperus; Sleeping Ute

New Mexico: Cabezon Peak; Chaco Canyon; Monastery of Christ in the Desert; Mount Taylor; Shiprock

Utah: Angels Landing, Zion National Park; Comb Ridge / Emigrant Trail; Muley Point, Goosenecks State Park; San Juan River; Valley of the Gods

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Minimum space: 1,800 square feet; 225 linear feet

Venue fee: Free*

Shipping and Insurance: Hosting venues are responsible for one-way shipping and wall-to-wall insurance. The exhibition is crated and will be available to ship on air-ride freight.

Content: 34 framed watercolor paintings, sizes variable (see attached checklist).

Supplemental: 10 softbound catalogs, 1 limited edition case catalog with additional catalogs available at cost for resale at venues.

Optional content: Three videos, 24 cultural artifacts, audio tour of exhibition narrated by the artist.

Availability: March 2020 – December 2023. Please contact us to discuss available dates.

**The Foster Art & Wilderness Foundation does not charge venue fees for the traveling exhibitions it organizes.*

ABOUT TONY FOSTER

Born in Lincolnshire, England, Tony Foster finds inspiration in the wild places of the world, which he paints en plein air. Since 1982, he has undertaken a variety of watercolor “journeys”—painting projects based on a wilderness theme—that often involve multiple expeditions and take years to complete. His subjects range from mountains, rivers, rainforests, deserts, coral reefs and Arctic icebergs to such iconic natural areas as the Grand Canyon and Mount Everest.

Hiking, rafting, kayaking or canoeing to find the perfect painting site, then camping outdoors for weeks at a time to make his paintings, Foster frequently faces challenging weather and difficult conditions. His paintings, complete with diary excerpts and “souvenirs” found, made, or inspired by objects on site, document his experiences in wilderness and his commitment to its preservation. Though he combines the English traditions of watercolor and exploration, Foster’s unique working method allies him with other contemporary artists, such as Richard Long and Hamish Fulton, whose work speaks to the land.

ABOUT THE FOSTER ART & WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

The Foster Art & Wilderness Foundation was established in 2013 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to share artist-explorer Tony Foster’s powerful exhibitions of watercolor journeys to inspire reflection, discussion, and education about art, wilderness, and the natural world. The foundation’s headquarters is a staging place for leaders of public art venues from around the world to view exhibitions of full journeys in the hope that they are inspired to borrow the paintings to exhibit at their own institutions.