"The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness."

—JOHN MUIR

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.

All my work is about journeys.
—TONY FOSTER

PLEASE NOTE: Thank you for your interest in The Journey newsletter. To help the environment, The Journey will only appear in printed form for two issues. If you would like to continue to receive the quarterly newsletter in electronic form, please send your email to heidi@thefoster.org.

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1613 Mariposa Avenue  |  Palo Alto, CA 94306

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The creation of the Foundation must be one of the most extraordinary developments ever to befoul any being, either, and I am humbled by the scale and scope of their ambitions. I have been working closely with the Foundation as it progresses its policies and programs.

At the same time I have also embarked on the most ambitious exhibition I have ever attempted. Called Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild it is a reflection on the fundamental human need to respond to beauty. I asked a group of world renowned “Luminaries”—scientists, explorers, mountaineers, writers, and artists—to nominate the most beautiful example in their field of expertise. I undertook to travel to their nominated wild location to see if I could find inspiration and make paintings exploring the beauty of their designated place.

As you may imagine, this has resulted in some extraordinary adventures and an incredibly varied exhibition from places diverse as, for example, Borneo, Abatas, the Himalayas, Uzbekistan, Peru, and even the bottom of the sea. I contributed a series of six watercolours to Phoenix Art Museum’s spectacular Time Frames exhibition. This was a very honourable task. I was very humbled to have my major painting From Point Sublime Looking South South East included in Phoenix Art Museum’s Spectacular Leonardo da Vinci’s Codex Leicester and the Power of Observation exhibition.

The Exploring Beauty exhibition is a reflection on the fundamental human need to respond to beauty. I asked a group of world renowned “Luminaries”—scientists, explorers, mountaineers, writers, and artists—to nominate the most beautiful example in their field of expertise. I undertook to travel to their nominated wild location to see if I could find inspiration and make paintings exploring the beauty of their designated place.

These were done on a raft journey down the Colorado River. I was very honoured to have been asked to paint Atacama Desert and Parinacota—the world’s most beautiful volcano according to volcanologist Professor Steve Sparks.

The paintings themselves are, I believe, some of the most powerful I have ever achieved, invoking a gratifying sense of wonderment in those few people who have paid me a studio visit. This has been an all-absorbing four-year pursuit, but I have not been entirely idle in my pursuit. The paintings themselves are, I believe, some of the most powerful I have ever achieved, invoking a gratifying sense of wonderment in those few people who have paid me a studio visit. This has been an all-absorbing four-year pursuit, but I have not been entirely idle in my pursuit. The paintings themselves are, I believe, some of the most powerful I have ever achieved, invoking a gratifying sense of wonderment in those few people who have paid me a studio visit.

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As you might imagine, this has resulted in some extraordinary adventures and an incredibly varied exhibition from places diverse as, for example, Bonneville, Atacama, the Himalayas, Underwater, Greenbland and (my nomination) Cornwall. I have three more locations to explore before the exhibition is complete. I am currently travelling in Chile to work in the Atacama Desert and Patagonia—these were done on a raft journey down the Colorado River. I was very honoured to have attempted. Called Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild it is a reflection on the fundamental human need to respond to beauty. I asked a group of world renowned scientists, explorers, mountaineers, writers, and artists—five to nine are the best in their field of expertise. I undertook to travel to their nominated wild location and see if I could find inspiration and make paintings exploring the beauty of their designated place.

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none of my work over the past thirty-three years could have happened without the interest and support of my friends and collectors. I hope you will insert into your 2016 diary an appointment to see the opening party for my exhibition at the Royal Watercolour Society, Bankside Gallery, London on 18 June 2016. I look forward to seeing you then!

Sincerely,

JULIO P. DE LA CRUZ, Curator