**THE JOURNEY**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FOSTER ART & WILDERNESS FOUNDATION**

**SPRING 2016**

**VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2**

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**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.**

940 Commercial Street  |  Palo Alto, CA 94303  |  USA  |  www.thefoster.org

**PLEASE NOTE:** To help the environment, The Journey will no longer be published in printed form. If you would like to continue to receive the quarterly newsletter in electronic form, please send your email to heidi@thefoster.org.

Printed on recycled paper using zero VOC soy based inks.

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**What’s been going on?**

**OPENING**

We are pleased to announce that the Foundation’s new headquarters at 940 Commercial Street in Palo Alto enjoyed a very successful grand opening on February 27th. Over 250 people stopped by between 4-7 pm to eat, drink, and to see the exhibitions, including collectors, friends, and long-time supporters. We were fortunate to be able to arrange an interview between Tony and renowned art critic Kenneth Baker, recently retired from the San Francisco Chronicle. Video excerpts from the interview are being edited and enhanced with images and soon will be available on our website.

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“940” is the home of the Foster Art & Wilderness Foundation and refers to its address at 940 Commercial Street, in Palo Alto, California. 940 is a staging place for leaders of public art venues from around the world to view high-quality exhibitions of full watercolor journeys in the hope that they are inspired to borrow the paintings to exhibit at their own institutions. The public is welcome by appointment.

Currently showing is *Sacred Places: Watercolour Diaries from the American Southwest*. In addition, a semi-permanent exhibition highlighting unique and interesting elements of Tony’s life and career as well as representative works, is also on display.

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*All my work is about journeys.*

—TONY FOSTER
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 CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Tony Foster speaks at the opening. Guests enjoy the show. Founder Jane Woodward shares her vision. Photo: Dan Saal
It took back on the events surrounding the February opening of the Foundation with appreciation. I was completely overwhelmed by the beauty of the space and the attention to detail in the way the work and the narrative of my practice is displayed and elucidated. This attention was also evident in the organisation of the events, and the hospitality offered to all those guests who arrived: this resulted in a wonderfully positive, friendly and happy atmosphere.

I was particularly touched and humbled by the enormous efforts people had made to attend. Guests travelled from all over the world—Australia, France, UK, Hawaii, Alaska, Florida, and, of course, Cornwall. They were drawn from all aspects of my personal and professional life—relatives, travelling companions, collectors, connoisseurs, art world professionals; and all of them friends. My only regret is that, as is the nature of opening parties with so many people present, I was unable to have a proper conversation with anybody! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success.

If you were unable to attend, The Foundation is now open to visitors—See “Contact Us” at www.thefoster.org, or contact Mattias Lanas at mattias@thefoster.org, or Friends of the Foundation at Friends@thefoster.org.

The largest exhibition I have ever done, Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild, will be on display in Palo Alto in January 2017. It was chosen as the Best Book Award at the 2016 Book Awards! It was chosen as the Best Book Award from the Independent Publisher’s Sacred Places Book Awards.

Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild will be showing until September 25, 2016. It was chosen as the Best Book Award from the Independent Publisher’s Sacred Places Book Awards.

Note from Tony

Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild

I always hate the phase of the exhibition cycle. Whilst the work is in my studio I can retain a sense of possibility and ownership; I still have the opportunity to alter it, abandon it, improve it, or remove it from the show. Although I love to see it beautifully framed, lit, and out in public, it no longer feels as if it belongs to me. Once on exhibition the public can be capricious. My insecurity compels me to contact the gallery staff to discover who has been to see it, what they thought, did they love or hate it, was it popular or unpopular? I can’t be in constant attendance and happy atmosphere.

The exhibition will remain until August 6, 2016. It was chosen as the Best Book Award from the Independent Publisher’s Sacred Places Book Awards.

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Collector’s Forum

In September, 1986, Felix Gessner of Los Angeles and eleven members of his Boy Scout troop had been hiking in Crotwell Meadow when two grizzly-bear-hunting fellows appeared from the woods holding and examining a large piece of paper. They were, of course, Tony Foster and Parker Huber. Felix and his Scout troop were on the last few days of an eight-day backpacking trek of the last 65 miles of the John Muir Trail to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tony and Parker were on the last few days of their two-month trek along the entire 240 miles of that famous trail. Felix walked over to see what they were looking at, and a year later he would be in a 32-year-old relationship.

Felix and his Scouts climbed Mount Whitney, spending the night on top of the mountain. On their hike out the next day, they ran across Tony painting his final work—Journey End: Trail Crest Pass 13600 ft to Whitney Portal. They again chatted, Felix helped Tony “travel” from mountains into the city, saving computers, and they arrived at his hotel. Felix, having sold their painting for Tony, walked back to the Saks in San Francisco, and Felix purchased the painting at the very first of his journey. Felix and his wife, Bev, have enjoyed sharing their home with their collection of Foster’s work ever since.

Note: “Because of my devotion to the mountains and the wilderness work I do training inner city youngsters in backpacking and wildlife survival, etc. I have more of a casual or spectator appreciation for the conservation/reviving aspects of Tony’s work. In fact, many of my Venturers are Foster Fans since they have enjoyed seeing and discussing numerous Tony Foster paintings while participating in retreats and training sessions at my home.”

We aim to be a comprehensive archive for records of Tony Foster’s artwork and related materials, such as travel photos and media. Please contact us if you have a story to share or information about a painting to add to our database. Contact julie@thefoster.org.

Book Award

We are pleased to announce that the Sacred Places catalogue won a gold medal from the Independent Artist’s Book Award. It was chosen as the Best Regional Non-Fiction Book (West/Mountain region).

It can be purchased on our website at www.thefoster.org.

ON THE ROAD

| Truro, England | July 15-November 12, 2016 |

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We are pleased to announce that the Sacred Place catalogue won a gold medal from the Independent Publisher’s Book Awards. It was chosen as the Best Regional Non-Fiction book (Western) by the judges of the Independent Publisher’s Catalogue. We are pleased to announce that the Book Award will be showing until September 25, 2016.

Inspiring Sights: Yellowstone through Artists’ Eyes

Imperial Geyser Looking 320º NW Wyoming. They have included to have been able to arrange a loan to the Whitney Western Art Museum in Cody.

In support of our mission to share Tony’s work with public audiences, we are happy to announce that the Foundation is offering a loan to the Whitney Western Art Museum in Cody, Wyoming. They have included to have been able to arrange a loan to the Whitney Western Art Museum in Cody.

Since that excitement, my focus has now, necessarily, shifted to completing the work for my new exhibition. Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild.

The journey has involved me travelling the globe at the behest of my “Luminaries” (world-renowned scientists, explorers, and leaders) and their desire to visit the far corners of the earth to see what they could tell about human and animal movements through the art of Tony Foster.

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DO YOU “LIKE” US?

| Palo Alto, USA | January 28–December 29, 2017

Don’t miss this show!

The Foster is now on social media. Like or follow us at:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/fosterartandwildness
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/the_foster_art/
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/FosterArtWildness
- Vimeo: www.vimeo.com/thefoster
- Twitter: @thefosterart

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Best wishes,
You are all invited to see the new show. Do let me know what you think!

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This attention was also evident in the organisation of the event, and the hospitality offered to all those guests who arrived. This resulted in a wonderful positive, friendly and happy atmosphere.

I was particularly touched and humbled by the enormous efforts people had made to attend. Guests travelled from all over the world—Australia, France, UK, Hawaii, Alaska, Florida, and, of course, Cornwall. They were drawn from all aspects of my personal and professional life—relatives, serving contemporary art galleries, art collectors, co-conspirators, art world professionals, and all of them friends.

My only regret is that, as is the nature of opening parties with so many people present, I was unable to have a proper conversation with anybody! I am so grateful to everyone who helped make it such a success.

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Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild

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At the Royal Watercolour Society’s Bankside Gallery in London, where it will show

Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild

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