

Guatemalan Escapaint with.....



Join **Tony van Hasselt, A.W.S.** as he returns to Guatemala his third year in a row. Tony's 2007 and 2008 workshops were amazing, and 2009 will be over the top with many exciting venues in this painter's paradise.

An early pioneer in the workshop field, Tony organized world-wide workshops taught by artists whose work he admired; his idols John Pike, Edgar A. Whitney, Robert E. Wood, Tom Hill, Milford Zornes, and Rex Brandt became his mentors in

art. Combining his own, innate ability with what he learned in the years he worked with these "master artists", van Hasselt embarked on a life's passion of passing these artistic skills on to others. The American Artists publication, *Watercolor*, featured this virtual "icon of the painting workshop" in a ten-page article titled "*Looking Back on 40 Years of Workshops*" (A free reprint is available on request).

Tony van Hasselt's ability to graphically explain problems and solutions as they arise during a demonstration, combined with his energetic and enthusiastic teaching style, have made him a highly popular and sought after instructor, appreciated for his empathy with student struggles. He "has been there", has gone through the same frustrations and tries not to forget those normal stages in one's artistic development.

As an elected member of the American Watercolor Society, van Hasselt's paintings have graced the covers of the *Artist's Magazine* and *Watercolor Magic*. He has been featured in *Southwest Art*, *American Artist*, *Australian Artist*, and other publications. Tony first wrote "*A Studio Visit*", followed by "*Outdoor Watercolor Workshop*". He is the co-author of "*Painting with the White of Your Paper*" as well as "*The Watercolor Fix-It Book*", featuring his renowned visual reminder system "The Building Blocks of Painting", which is taught on all his workshops. He has made several popular instructional videos and his work is included in nine other art instruction books.

Workshop Setting and Accommodations

Antigua...In a verdant valley surrounded by lofty volcanoes, the picturesque, time trapped city of Antigua will capture your heart. Antigua is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Central America.

This colonial jewel has romantic appeal and provides artistic inspiration with its richly textured ruins and architecture, peaceful parks, cobblestone streets, churches, monasteries, and colonial homes with courtyards draped in vibrant bougainvillea. In Antigua you will stay at the beautiful Palacio de Doña Leonor (www.palaciodeleonor.com), site of the former home of daughter of Pedro Alvarado, sent by Cortez to conquer Guatemala for the King of Spain in 1524. The Palace was built in the late 1540's. It is one of the most exquisite small hotels in Antigua; an elegant mansion tastefully decorated to invoke 17th century luxury, and just a few steps away from the main plaza.

Lake Atitlán and Villages...Encounter a world of color and spectacular scenery as you travel through the highlands of Guatemala with vistas of great mountain peaks, plateaus, and valleys, to Lake Atitlán, "the most beautiful lake in the world", with its three towering volcanoes standing guard over azure waters and twelve Maya villages. Feel suspended in time as you watch a Maya fisherman in his dugout *cayuco*, plying his trade as his ancestors have done for centuries. The color, the dramatic landscapes, the deeply entrenched Maya culture will create memories to last a lifetime. You will stay at the Hotel Atitlán (www.hotelatitlan.com), on the water's edge, surrounded by beautiful botanical gardens; a truly inspirational experience.

Chichicastenango...This town, with its world famous Indian market, is a "crown jewel" of Guatemala, brimming with beautiful hand woven textiles and splendid works of art and crafts in designs and techniques passed on from generation to generation. The Maya/Catholic rituals and open-air market of "Chichi" and the blazing colors of everyday dress will enthrall you. Prepare yourself for the multitude of color and shopping, the likes of which you have never seen before, in the world famous market of Chichicastenango.

Guatemala City...You will enjoy the beautiful Vista Real (www.vistareal.com), overlooking the City and facing the colossal "Fuego" and "Aguá" volcanoes. It's feel, and look is a resplendent blend of Guatemalan and Mexican art and architecture.

Tikal Maya Ruins (pre-workshop) Oct 29-30

Discover Tikal, the lost world once inhabited by the ancient Maya more than two thousand years ago, a legacy to one of the most refined civilizations in the history of the world. Mammoth pyramids with temples on top attest to the skill, intelligence, and high civilization of these ancient peoples. Who were they? Why did they disappear? Their voices speak from the dust through the ruins they left behind, ruins that rival any Egyptian site. This is a "must see" in Guatemala.



To enroll...

Detach the registration form, fill it out, sign, and send it with your deposit or full payment check (**group size limited**) made payable to **Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.** Upon enrollment, additional information will be provided to assist you in planning your trip. **Do not make airline arrangements until advised by Explore Guatemala.**

October 30 – November 9, 2009

Guatemalan Escapaint with Tony van Hasselt

Explore Guatemala Tel/Fax 210-599-8468

e-mail: registrar@exploreguatemala.com

web site: www.exploreguatemala.com

P.O. BOX 17217, San Antonio, TX 78217

Registration Request

Name appearing on your passport: / Passport Number:

_____ / _____

Name you go by: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Other: _____

E-mail: _____

Sex: M/F _____ Date of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Medical/Dietary considerations: _____

_____ I am on my own but wish to share a room.

_____ I am a smoker.

_____ I prefer the single supplement charge.

_____ **Tikal** Maya Ruins Option

Enclosed is check/money order

.....Payable to Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.

Deposit: \$ _____ or Total Fee: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

X _____

(Indicates you have read our Terms and Conditions which is available on our web-site)

Non Artist - Optional Activities

In Antigua

Abandoned after the cataclysmic earthquake that struck in 1773, Antigua became “time trapped”. From 1543 to 1773, the capital city of the Kingdom of Guatemala – which included all of what is now the province of Chiapas in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. At its peak in 1773 it contained thirty-two churches, eighteen convents and monasteries, fifteen hermitages, ten chapels, a great university, seven colleges, five hospitals, an orphanage, some of the most beautiful government buildings ever constructed in the New World, countless exquisite fountains set in carefully tended parks and gardens, and sumptuous private mansions. In that same year an earthquake destroyed the city and the capital was moved to present-day Guatemala City. UNESCO has declared World Cultural Patrimony for Antigua due to its unique architectural and historic importance. Witness the splendor of the Colonial Era still alive today in the plazas, churches and monasteries.

Our non-artists will be kept as busy as they would like while in Antigua. There will be several tours offered; a city tour, a ruins tour, a market and shopping tour, and an optional (\$15) coffee plantation tour.

At Lake Atitlan

This picturesque lake, celebrated as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, with its majestic volcanoes and evergreen and violet mountains, turquoise blue waters and Maya villages offers **many activities for those not painting including the Nature Walk, a Birder's paradise, and part of the old coffee plantation, featuring many species of trees and plants; habitat for a great variety of birds. Suspension bridges lead across ravines and flowing streams up to the waterfall. At higher elevations trees are laden with Spanish moss and epiphytes, giving the impression of a cloud forest. You just may spot one of the resident monkeys hiding in the trees. New to the nature walk and an absolute must is the canopy tour – Cables X-Tremos (additional cost). Zip through the air with spectacular views of Lake Atitlán while enjoying the thrill ride of a lifetime. Anyone can do it. Additionally, there is a wonderful Butterfly Farm on the grounds. The Botanical Gardens of the Hotel Atitlán are arguably the most beautiful in all of Central America and offer many hours of exploration.**

The village of Panajachel (five minutes from the hotel) is a shopper's delight as well as a great place to sit in an outdoor café and watch the world go by.

Tikal Option October 29 - 30, 2009

Thu 29th: Arrive Guatemala City, 5:30 PM flight to Flores. (D)

Fri 30th: Spend a day of awe and fascination in the Maya ruins of Tikal. Return to Guatemala City. (B,L)

Itinerary....October 30 - November 9, 2009

Fri 30th: Upon arrival in Guatemala City, you are met at the airport and transferred to the colonial city of Antigua and the beautiful Palacio de Dona Leonor.

Sat 31st: Demonstration and individual assistance by Tony in a local handicraft market. In the afternoon we will visit the Jade Factory and Museum. (B,L)

Sun 1st: This workshop is planned so you may experience one of Guatemala's most endearing traditions. You will paint while observing the local celebrations of All Saints Day in the village of Pastores. Back in Antigua, we'll share the experiences of the day, discuss workshop goals and have a first look at one of van Hasselt's sketchbook journals. (B,L)

Mon 2nd: A morning demonstration gets you off to a great start, again with individual assistance throughout the day. Paint a vignette in the most romantic city in the Americas. In the late afternoon we'll enjoy a glass of wine during one of Tony's constructive critiques. (B,L)

Tues 3rd: Leaving Antigua, we take a scenic drive to Comalapa where it is market day. Let your senses run free, capturing the local color and people in their daily activities, as you enjoy an on-site “paint along”. Then, on to Lake Atitlán and the Hotel Atitlán, surrounded by lush gardens and beautiful views of the lake and its distant backdrop of towering volcanoes. (B,L,D)

Wed 4th: Today we will paint in the gardens of Hotel Atitlán beginning with a demonstration and then individual guidance from van Hasselt. In the late afternoon, come explore the town of Panajachel or relax in the jacuzzi. (B,L,D)

Thu 5th: Options: You may choose to spend the day painting alongside Tony while he demonstrates and offers individual assistance, or join an “optional” excursion to the famous market town of Chichicastenango. In the late afternoon, join us for a group critique of work done during the past few days. (B,L,D)

Fri 6th: Grab your gear and hop aboard, to cruise lakeside villages. Great subjects abound in the artist's colony of Santiago, so right to work, with Tony's assistance. As lunch treat, we'll be guests at a private home on the lake. (B,L,D)

Sat 7th: After a final critique and review of the material covered during the workshop, the day is yours to paint or add finishing touches on uncompleted work, in preparation for our group show, a fitting finale to your Guatemalan Escapaint. (B,L,D)

Sun 8th: Off to a Guatemala Private Reserve and Coffee Plantation. Then, back to Guatemala City. (B,L)

Mon 9th: Say goodbye to new friends as you head home with new ideas and renewed painting enthusiasm - with work under your arm and knowledge under your hat.

Accompanying your Workshop/Tour

Anita Rogers lived in Guatemala for 25 years, speaks Spanish, and was a collector of Maya weavings and Spanish Colonial antiques. She has been around the travel industry most of her life, as her family owns the beautiful Hotel Atitlán on Lake Atitlán in the Guatemala highlands. **John Korte** has traveled to Guatemala for over 20 years. They understand local customs and business practices. They stay in the hotels, eat in the restaurants, and ride the transportation, personally experiencing every aspect of their workshop/tours. They know the “hidden treasures” as well as the little bits of information only the locals know. Their experience, relationships, and knowledge of the country allow them to provide a worry-free, life enriching workshop adventure

Included in your Guatemalan Escapaint

Workshop with Tony van Hasselt, A.W.S.:

- A superbly crafted travel experience to the most enchanting, magical land of the Maya...Guatemala.
- Travel and Paint with renowned artist Tony van Hasselt.
- 11 days, 10 nights at unique and luxury hotels with meals and meal service tips included (per itinerary).
- Private motor coaches and private boats viewing the most scenic and colorful venues...an artist's paradise.
- Hotel baggage handling, driver tips, as well as all entrance fees and excursions included in itinerary.
- Workshop Tuition / non-painter activities per itinerary
- Opportunity to purchase or offer paintings at workshop prices

NOT included:

- Airfare from your hometown to Guatemala City. For airline tickets you may:
 1. use your Frequent Flyer miles to obtain your own tickets
 2. **or**, purchase your tickets through your own sources
 3. **or**, call our travel coordinator Gretchen of G&G Travel at 877-809-8900. Tell her you are traveling with **Explore Guatemala – Tony van Hasselt Group**. She will find the best airfare and arrange for you to arrive by the appointed time, even arrange Frequent Flyer miles tickets for you.

Do not make airline arrangements until advised to do so.

Prices: *** EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

- \$2195 Plus airfare (based on double occupancy). *** **Sign up before April 1 and receive a \$100 discount *****
- Single room supplement: \$450
- Tikal Option (Dbl \$445 Sgl \$495)
- **Reservation Deposit: \$500**

RESERVE NOW – GROUP SIZE LIMITED