



# ODIHAM ART GROUP DEMONSTRATION REPORT

## October 2018; Karen Pearson 'Watercolour on Location'

Karen is an accomplished artist who tutors art holidays all over the world, from Antarctica to the Arctic plus lots of hot places in between - she has even sketched underwater in the Galapagos using a specially prepared paper. Her methods do vary depending on the conditions but she usually uses black Indian Ink, applied with various implements (for example pens, sticks, feathers, quills) and then adds watercolour washes using synthetic brushes. She tends to use Winsor and Newton watercolours but also adds an Asian brand I have never heard of – DWP – which has vibrant shades to add some punch to an image.



Working from her sketchbook of a trip to Whale Island in Norway she started by roughing out the image on Saunders 300lb paper with Indian Ink, applied with a sharpened stick. She did a very loose sketch of the hillside and mapped out the scene then sloshed golden yellow and orange wash across the sky, adding Prussian Blue and Alizarin Crimson wet-on-wet then tipped and rolled the board to create a moody, stormy, snowy sky.





Once the sky had dried she used the stick and ink to make angular marks on the foreground to indicate the snowfield and the buildings. After that layer had dried she washed in a brown/grey mix at the base of the hut and the railings, bringing more detail into the image. She balanced the composition by putting some stalks on the right hand side of the painting and washed Naples Yellow across the snow at the front of the image to bring it forward.

The finished painting was a loose and atmospheric landscape of a cold Arctic scene, it made you shiver just looking at it!

Karen also did a quick second painting based on an amalgam of two sketches from her Galapagos sketchbook, showing how to combine your memories into one painting. The demonstration showed that you don't need to rely on photographs - in fact your memories as described in a sketchbook can be all the inspiration you need to create a finished painting back in the studio.

Christine Sharp  
October 2018