

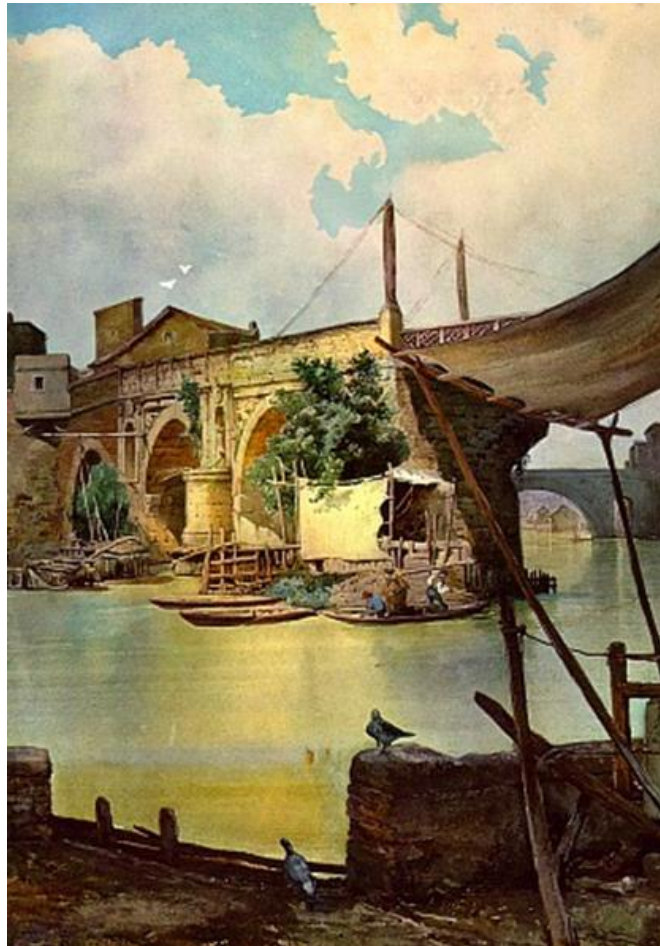
Dearest watercolourists,

I hope you are all well!

It was so lovely to meet you all last week and to see your creations based on the seaside theme. Thank you for sharing your work on facebook and the kind feedback on the session.

I have been looking forward to writing this newsletter because it is so nice to have the opportunity to share inspirational art.

I want to introduce you to an artist who I find inspiring and I hope that you will too.



Ettore Roesler Franz, *Ponte Rotto in Rome*, watercolour



Detail *Ponte Rotto in Rome*

Ettore Roesler Franz is an Italian artist who lived as Rome became the Capital of the Kingdom of Italy. Previously Rome was part of The Papal States. As a new capital, Rome witnessed massive changes, with some of its neighbourhoods being demolished and new ones being built to accommodate the modernising lifestyles. These changes were a source of dispute, but that is a story for another time...

What I want to focus on is Ettore Roesler Franz, who I see as a collector of memories. He used both the medium of photography as well as watercolour. In his photography, he recorded the changing, modern world around him, and in the medium of watercolour he depicted the Medieval corners of Rome, all doomed to be forgotten in the new climate.



Ettore Roesler Franz, *The Temple of Vesta cca 1850* photography

Besides being a skilled painter, what is inspiring about Franz is his devotion to his craft. He worked on a documentation project for 10 years, using sketches, photographs and observations to create a series of 120 paintings that show Rome as it was, before the demolitions. He is most interested in the communities that populate each space, and he tries to convey the atmosphere of each neighbourhood he depicts.

You can find the series here:

<https://www.ettoreoeslerfranz.com/en/acquerelli/roma-sparita/>

Please let me know if you enjoyed this journey through Medieval Rome!

Now, let's take a look at how the artist creates the sky!



Ettore Roesler Franz, *Largo Magnanapoli with the Tower of the Militia, Saint Catherine from Siena church and monastery (rione Monti)*, watercolour



*Detail Largo Magnanapoli with the Tower of the Militia, Saint Catherine from Siena church and monastery (rione Monti), watercolour*

As you can see there is never only one colour, instead, the artist uses layers of pigments in order to achieve depth and realism. Exploring his sky, you can count about 3-4 different tones!

What do you think about his sky painting technique? How does it make you feel?

Another interesting fact to observe is how the artist seeks to achieve chromatic balance by mirroring colours from the lower half of the image into the upper half!



Ettore Roesler Franz, *Fishermen near Via Salara, 1876, watercolour, Museo di Roma in Trastevere*

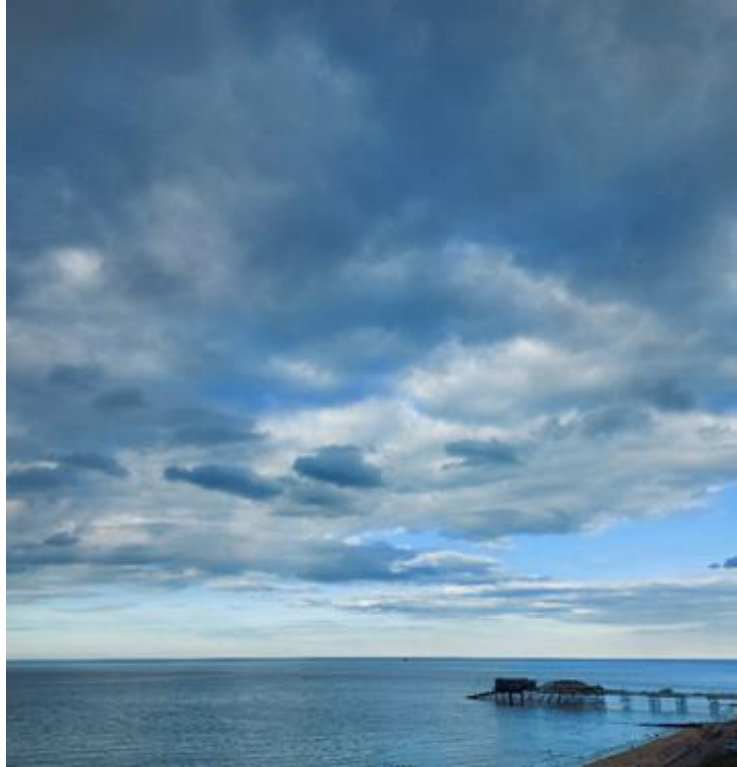
These small details and techniques make an image easy to look at and explore in detail, suggesting an atmosphere of continuity, balance and harmony.

Next time I am looking forward to hearing about what you thought of Ettore Roesler Franz's skies, and watercolours in general! Maybe, if you enjoyed the technique, it can inspire the background for our next week's (surprise) subject!!! Don't worry it is not going to be Medieval Rome! :)

Also, if you came across an artist whose work inspires you, share it with us next time!

I would also love to encourage you to seek inspiration everyday around you! As Ettore was doing back in the nineteenth century, when you find a landscape that moves you or an interesting subject, take a picture and you will never know when that will become your next watercolour subject!

I witnessed this view in Norfolk recently, and just had to photograph it and save it in my *Art Inspiration* folder!



Sending lots of love and I am very much looking forward to our next session!

Kindest regards,

Ioana

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