

Turner Exhibition

Are you inspired by Turner?

This is not the first time that Drawn to the Valley has been involved in an exhibition with a connection to Turner. In 2009 the beautifully presented and lovingly written book, 'Turner in the Tamar Valley' by Diana Cook and Dorothy Kirk, was launched during an exhibition at the Tamar Valley Centre by members of Drawn to the Valley.

This year the National Trust has asked Drawn to the Valley to present a Turner inspired exhibition to mark the 250th anniversary of Turner's birth. The location, Cotehele House, is a very appropriate one, a location which Turner visited and depicted in his art.

In 1811, Turner toured the South West extensively, sketching and painting in preparation for a volume entitled 'Picturesque Views on the Southern Coast of England'. He returned to the area in 1813 and possibly in 1914.

"The Painter of Light"

Turner was painting during the era known as the Enlightenment, where the perceptions of human beings led to sublime interactions with nature. He helped define the cross-disciplinary artistic movement of Romanticism, with an emphasis on the picturesque, setting the stage for later developments in painting subjective experiences that would lead to Impressionism. In some of his later works especially, Turner responded to the arrival of the modern era full of steam and industrial processes.



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There are many ways that the 'Inspired by Turner' theme can be interpreted, and we hope most members will find that they are able to be a part of this very special exhibition.

Many of our members will already have been inspired by Turner and some might find that their existing work fits with the theme very naturally, whilst others may consider creating new works for the exhibition.

One possibility is to follow Turner's style, using any medium, to replicate his loose and energetic brushstrokes and vibrant colours. Another is to depict the same or similar landscapes around the Tamar Valley or beyond, but using your own art style. Or perhaps your art is touched by the same influences of colour and light or the interaction with the landscape of people and modern industry. There are many possibilities.

The application form will be out in March.

See the separate entry in the newsletter about Drawing Days at Cotehele, which could give you just the inspiration you're looking for.



Extract from 'Turner in the Tamar Valley':

To today's viewer, familiar with the concept of abstract art, these works present few problems, but the unprecedented nature of such wonderfully lyrical and atmospheric images, which, during the course of a decade or two, overturned established conventions, mystified many of Turner's contemporaries. However, he always enjoyed strong support from John Ruskin, the eminent writer and critic. Nowadays many believe that these works were influential in shaping the vision of the early impressionists.