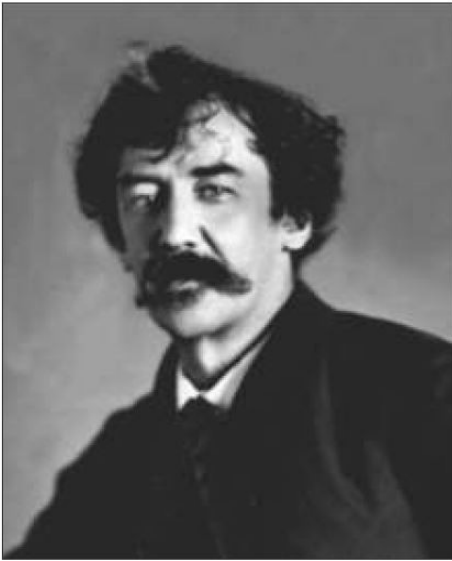


## Artist's Quote



An artist is not paid  
for his labor but for  
his vision.

~ *James Abbott  
McNeill Whistler*

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## Publisher's Note

This magazine of ours is gradually being acclaimed and gaining popularity among the artists and art loving community. We are receiving positive feedback from enthusiastic subscribers and readers. However, we are yet to reach the financial stability which can give that independence which is required for a regular self-sufficient hassle free publication. We have reached that part of the year which celebrates the greatest festival of Bengal, the Durga Puja, popularly known as *Sharod Utsab* or autumn festival. Several painters, sculptors and craftsmen work non-stop, with their skills to bring about colourful, innovative and intricate creatives. A festival at such a large scale and grandeur is surely the only one of its kinds in the world. We hope to bring out an issue exclusively on the artists and craftsmen who are the real behind-the-scene-talents and creators of the magnificence and splendour of the Durga Puja festival. It will be our way to recognise and acknowledge them and their talent of creativity.

In this issue we have selected the Bengal School of Art gharana artist Sudhir Ranjan Khastagir. He was the able student of the eminent artist Nanadalal Basu and equally exceptional teacher in addition to being a very talented artist. Being very much conversant with contemporary European art, he had worked very closely with several famous sculptors of various countries, especially those of Germany. His sculptors can be found at various places in India and abroad. Our next gen artists would love to know about him and his works.

In addition to this, we bring you an exclusive article about the interesting Art Camp reported by our regular contributor and friend Phillip Grieb who has described his experience of participation in it. It is very interesting to know how each participating artist in the camp must have enjoyed amidst the tranquility and beauty of nature doing only what they love i.e creation of art. Any artist, either bound or free from everything else would cherish to spend some time with their creative thoughts in this serenity of nature. This exhaustible happiness is what all artists cherish.

The rest are the regular columns as always. Wish all the best to my readers for the festive season. I pray for happiness and prosperity for everyone.

*Shuvaprasanna*

## Art Camps with the feel of holidays

*Philipp Grieb*

Lake Chiemsee on the Alpine foothills, with the small island Fraueninsel and the neighbouring, larger Herreninsel, on which King Ludwig's castle is built, is one of the most beautiful spots in Bavaria. Many European monasteries excel by their special and elaborate architecture, some by a magnificent landscape in which they are embedded: The monastery on Fraueninsel in Lake Chiemsee is one of these.

### Frauenchiemsee Monastery

The island got its name from the 1240 year-old Frauenchiemsee nunnery on the southern end, an abbey of Benedictine nuns. It was destroyed and rebuilt several times over the centuries. The present state of the monastery dates back to 1836, when the Bavarian King Ludwig I had it rebuilt and entrusted with tasks relating to the education of girls. From 1837 until 1982 the convent ran a girls' secondary boarding school,



*View of the Alps*

then a vocational school until 1995. Today, the convent is an educational and event centre with a wide range of offers in the fields of physical and mental health, creativity, art and music, adult education, corporate training and international congresses. The conversion of the boarding school into a successful educational and event centre with accommodation was organised by the energetic Sr Scholastica McQueen, a native Scot with a sense of direction.

A very old relic of the 8th century monastic complex is the gatehouse. It now serves as a small museum and art gallery. Just this summer, it



*Studio ball*

showed images of the Chiemsee painter Willibald Demmel (1914-1989) and reminded visitors of the important artists' colony in the last century on Fraueninsel and around Lake Chiemsee.

### Hans Daucher, art educator and researcher

When Hans Daucher, Professor of Art Education at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, asked Sr Scholastica 24 years ago to move the painting and graphic workshops he had previously held in Italy to Chiemsee, he found a friendly reception. The great art tradition on the island may have played a role.

Since 1974, Daucher has organised art workshops and symposia for his students at beautiful locations in Italy, including the islands of Elba and Capri, a favourite winter and holiday retreat for renowned poets, writers, artists and other celebrities in the 19th century.

So now it was Fraueninsel instead of Capri: Hans Daucher, his students - among them many alumni who had long since started their professional lives as teachers and art educators but did not want to miss these annual workshops - were extremely happy about this change, since Lake Chiemsee was practically on their doorstep compared to Capri. The former sports hall of the girls' school, which in the meantime was being used for large conferences and lectures, was now to



*G. Kramer Oil crayon on paper*

become the large studio for Daucher's Art Camps for a week. Sr Scholastica had the parquet floor of



*Dinner by the lake*

the hall covered with foil, easels and tables placed in the hall, offering space for up to 20 workshop participants.

For 15 years, Hans Daucher still accompanied his Art Camps on the island, until he died in 2013 at the age of 89. It was his desire that his daughter Jeannette and Susi Plank, one of his students, continue his work.

#### Legacy: Visual Aesthetics

Daucher was not only an art educator but also a scientist and author. As such, he not only thought about how to bring art closer to children and young people, but also researched universally valid rules for image creation that could be a guide for beginners to create good and beautiful images faster and with greater confidence.

His legacy were his "12 rules for a beautiful picture composition", which he compiled in short form for daily use. His students of many years have adopted them. Should anyone have forgotten them: the deficiency was discovered and revealed in the evening discussion round of the workshops. He saw his rules as helpful guidelines, exceptions were allowed.

For the rest, the workshop participants enjoyed great freedom then as now, limited by small tasks and a time frame: The most sportive swimmers in the group jump into the lake as early as 8 o'clock in the morning, while others already take care of coffee and breakfast in the adjoining kitchen. Shopping, making coffee, setting the table, clearing the table and washing up are more or less shared between all the shoulders, with the early risers doing the shopping at the island shop and the late risers or early swimmers taking care of cleaning and



S. Duckstein *Illustration on paper*

washing up. Afterwards, the day is free for individual painting or graphic work, often interrupted by a quick lunch in the nearby surroundings, a rest in the sun or a swim in the lake.

The review of the individual works of the day in the evening has been led for nine years by Jeannette Daucher; each contribution is appreciated, analysed and corrected. A joint dinner in one of the island restaurants brings the day to a close. After dinner, the tireless go back to the studio hall and continue working over a glass of wine and some music.

This daily routine has proven its value for over forty years. Many attendees have been with the group for decades. Young students are now the exception, the majority of participants work in a creative occupation or a profession related to art. All of them would not want to miss these intense and creative weeks with a feel of being on holiday.



*Review of a day's work*