

Robert Hughes was born in London on 5 November 1934 and died in Wiltshire on 28 April 2010.

He started painting as a professional painter in 1982 without any formal training and was surprised that people wanted to buy his paintings.

Robert painted some 13,000 plus pictures and would add figures and animals to create more detail. It seems there are many more pictures out there to find!

In 1986 Robert became a member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters and in 1991 he became a member of the Hilliard Society for Miniature Painters. By the end of his career, he had many miniatures, of scenes mainly around the Wiltshire area.

Once Robert started painting professionally, he gave each picture a number so that he knew where it was being displayed and where it was sold. This number can be found on the reverse of the picture together with the title and dated painted. It varies how much information is available on the reverse of the picture according to the age. Earlier pictures tend to have less information.

When out and about Robert carried a camera so that he could photograph potential scenes for paintings. Once home he would sketch out the scene on a canvas with a hard pencil and then apply the paint as required to form the picture. He was also able to vary the season of the scene by changing the foliage, adding snow etc.

All Robert's paintings were either oil or gouache. He **NEVER** painted in watercolour and much preferred oil as a medium. However, as he was aware some people liked the look of watercolour, and he used gouache to paint these pictures instead as it was a better medium than watercolour for miniatures. It was easier to manoeuvre, gave "body" and covered other colours, so he could add details ie flowers in a hedge, after painting the main scene. Therefore, if you see a picture advertised as watercolour it is most definitely gouache as they look very similar.

Robert's paintings also very rarely featured groups of people. If people were included it was usually one or two and the black labrador often in pictures was called 'Bessie'.

Robert Hughes worked with Elizabeth Johnson and together they wrote a book called "How to Paint Miniatures and also ran Fine Art Promotions.

Robert lived in Wiltshire where the local countryside inspired many of his paintings and had a holiday cottage in Hope Cove, Devon along with a canal boat. The inspiration I guess for the canal scenes and the Hope Cove pictures. So far, I know of two pictures that were painted at Hope Cove.

A prolific talented painter of miniatures. A sad loss for art.