



February 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Presidents Evening.**

We were treated to an inspiring demonstration on February 19<sup>th</sup> by our President, Paul Banning.

Paul had prepared a very detailed drawing of Venice, with the Grand Canal, Santa Maria and the Customs House. He uses 200lb Two Rivers handmade paper in a grey shade. For reference he had two photographs; one taken at dawn in October for lighting and atmosphere, and another taken in bright afternoon sunshine for details.

Areas which were to be highlights were marked with white chalk, which acts as a resist.

He started by mixing large pools of colour. Winsor yellow was washed over the sky and tops of buildings. The middle ground area was washed with a pale permanent rose, and the foreground with blue.

After drying thoroughly with a hairdryer Paul put a wash of permanent rose over the whole surface. He will apply four or five more layers, always using transparent colours and drying the painting each time. Different areas are built up in this way before detailed painting starts.

The buildings are loosely washed in Winsor blue, leaving some lighter parts.

Gradually boat shapes, mooring poles and so on are painted in more detail, working over the whole picture. There was some scaffolding and plastic sheeting over one of the buildings in Paul's photo, and he likes to include features like that to give the painting a sense of time and reality.

Paul continued to build up details; larger ones then smaller ones using slightly stronger colours.

He will finish the picture in his studio and may use fifteen layers altogether!

He told us that he got his inspiration for his style of painting from an exhibition of British Watercolours at the Royal Academy in the early nineties.

Many thanks to Paul for a super evening.

**Pat Johnson.**