

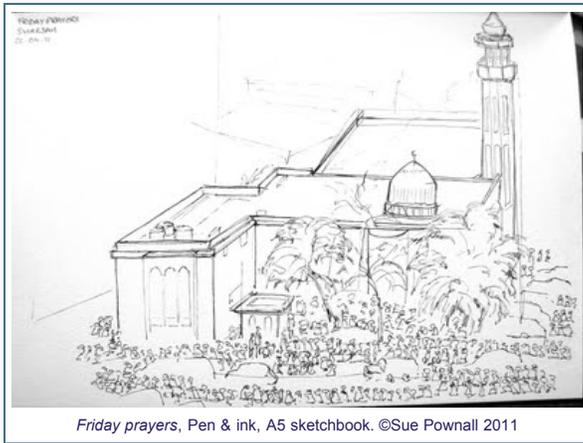
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MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011

Sharjah Biennial



Friday prayers, Pen & ink, A5 sketchbook. ©Sue Pownall 2011

Reminded that Sharjah's Art Biennial was on and inspired to go by Omar Jaramillo's post *Sharjah* on his fabulous blog [Omar Paint](#) I booked a flight to UAE. I reached my hotel room as Friday prayers were taking place in the mosque opposite and I was amazed at how many people were listening to the cleric: he must be very good. Check out the photo below, which shows people stretched across the road in order to be at that particular mosque.

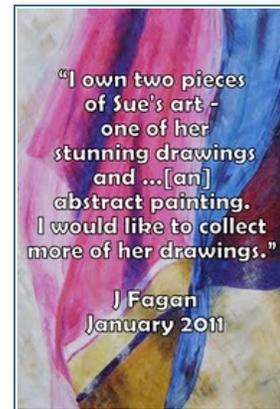


Click to enlarge and see cars driving around the Sharjah worshippers.

I grabbed my sketchbook for my 2nd sketch of the day as I wanted to capture the masses, even though I was looking down on them from the 14th floor. The small pic right shows how little of the mosque I drew in initially, hence the squiffy perspective when I tried to complete it later, as I concentrated on the rows of people and outlining parked cars. I took a few photos as I knew I did not have long to capture the scene, but managed to finish the people before prayers ended. I then drew the



063:05:33:13
 days hours min sec
 until painting in
 Cuba



"I own two pieces of Sue's art - one of her stunning drawings and ...[an] abstract painting. I would like to collect more of her drawings."
 J Fagan
 January 2011

© SUE POWNALL / TRAVELINGSUEP

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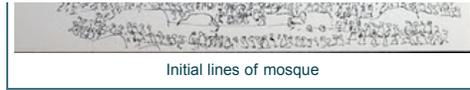
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rest of the mosque. I intended to add watercolour later, but changed rooms due to the noisy (young children) in the adjoining room. I'm happy with it without the colour.



In true urban sketchers fashion, my first sketch of the day had been at Doha airport as I waited for my flight in Coffee Beanery. I was attracted to a family sitting across from me. It was only as I was sketching the lady on the right, as the last of the figures in the group, that I realised that she had a child asleep on her lap. Sketching really does allow us to see the world and live in it rather than just move through it oblivious to what is going on around us. After the family, a Qatari guy sat down with his OJ and newspaper, so I just had to sketch him too.



Being Friday, I had a rest after the mosque sketch and waited for the Sharjah museums to open at 4pm before I could head out to explore. Sharjah is a very visitor-friendly city being small and easy to walk around, although the heat makes it difficult (Saturday morning was 36°C at 10am). Gaining a great guidebook to the Biennial at Sharjah Art Museum I wandered around a lot of the 10 Biennial sites absorbing the art. I am not a great fan of video installations, possibly because I am too impatient to watch for long, however throughout the sites were Judith Barry's Cairo stories, which were very watchable narratives. In the Sharjah Art museum, I was pleased to see that the Orientalist collection had not been removed for the event and got to see the wonderful lithographs of David Roberts and John Keppie's watercolours among others.

Arriving at the Heritage area, I was pleased but surprised to see the Heritage Days event (similar to the Muscat Festival) was still on. All posters and flags said it finished on the 18th and as it was the 22nd I expected it to be over. I tried to draw some of the people, but I gathered crowds watching me, as 1 of only 4 non-locals there perform - maybe I was on the program? When some musicians and dancers started to perform I abandoned the sketch and drew them instead, again with a vast crowd of onlookers. From the Heritage Days, I thought it was time to head back to the hotel and walked along the Corniche, which was quite pretty if you ignored the port on the other side of the creek, but there was a strong oil smell, so I crossed back into the city to wander through the streets. I got back to the hotel just before 8pm tired from the unaccustomed walking, pleased with my sketches and sated from the glut of art and culture.



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ABOUT THIS BLOG.

This blog was started in September '09 in order to motivate myself to draw more. I wanted to re-discover my passion because my art had taken a back-seat in my life.

Here, I publish my sketchbook work alongside my new finished pieces. Please leave comments about my drawings, good or bad, as I love to receive them and they help me to improve. Thank you.

btw: Colour calibration is not my idea of fun, so images may not show the exact colour tones of the paintings.

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Sue Pownall, artist & illustrator

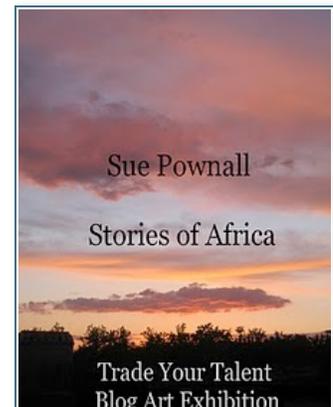
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Emirati musicians and dancers. Pen & ink, A5 sketchbook. ©Sue Pownall 2011

The following morning, I headed back out after a nice buffet breakfast to find the Calligraphy museum. I walked miles out of my way and was aided by a Yemeni young man to the museum. Unfortunately, unlike the Orientalists, all calligraphy had been removed for the duration of the Biennial. I found an interesting old school, now a museum, and an old house (Bait Al Naboodah), which had belonged to a pearl merchant, to visit, and I also saw some more of the Biennial and the souqs. On setting out in the morning, I had intended to do some watercolours however, as mentioned above, it was too hot to stop for long even in the shade and I did not do any quick pen sketches either. I did take quite a few photos though, but will save them for another post.

Posted by Sue Pownall at 9:07 PM

0

Labels: mosque, museum, music, pen and ink, Sharjah Biennial, UAE, urban sketch, Urban Sketchers

14 comments:



Shelley Smart said...

What a grand outing! I really like your sketches, especially the first one of the family, and the guy reading the paper, too.

April 25, 2011 9:13 PM



Sandra said...

Wow! What an odd spectacle that looks with all of those people lying in the street! And what a productive sketching day you had! You must have been shattered when you got home!

April 25, 2011 10:15 PM



Michael Bailey said...

You have been busy! I like the way you've drawn the queues of people.

April 26, 2011 12:01 AM

Marian Fortunati said...

Your explorations are so wonderful Sue... Love the sketches where you are capturing and sharing some of your experiences...

All is so foreign to my experiences.. I enjoy reading and seeing through you.

April 26, 2011 1:32 AM



wawos said...

Brava Sue. Vedo sempre dei miglioramenti nel tuo tratto. Bello il gruppo d'insieme all'inizio. Ciao. Hugsss.

April 26, 2011 9:33 AM



Trade Your Talent said...

the sketches are really special.just looking at them made me feel like I was there too!

April 26, 2011 12:28 PM



Cathy Holtom said...

Very brave to look out of a window on the 14th floor, my legs go wobbly at the thought! An interesting trip and sketches, can't wait to see your photos too.

April 26, 2011 2:02 PM



LindyLouMac in Italy said...

A great sketching opportunity, although a long way to go to catch up on your sleep, which I hope you managed to do :)

April 26, 2011 4:01 PM

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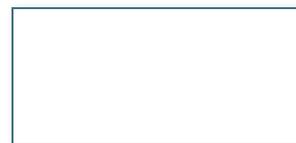


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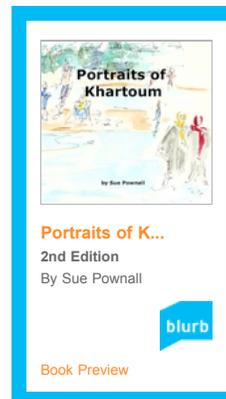


under sketchbook artist.

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2ND EDITION OF MY BOOK:



BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2011 (49)
 - ▶ June (4)
 - ▶ May (9)
 - ▼ April (10)
 - Watching the Royal wedding Sharjah Biennial
 - Exhibiting on a train!
 - Tom & Michael help Japan
 - 31st WW SketchCrawl Doha: Japan Benefit
 - ta da working again
 - IF Duet
 - 31st WW SketchCrawl Doha - raising funds for Japan...
 - I'm a winner.
 - Slumped
 - ▶ March (8)



Sue Pownall said...

Grazie and thanks everyone.

LindyLou UAE is only a 50 minute flight from here, so like visiting Rome for a night. A little thanks.

April 26, 2011 4:06 PM



Jack Foster said...

Great artistic chronicling! Sounds like quite an experience. Terrific post Sue! Hey thanks for stopping by :o)

April 27, 2011 1:51 AM



MimiTabby said...

Yours is the only blog I know that converts the exotic (to me) to every day scenes. You take your pencil and sketch in the everyday details of life in places like Qatar (which I had never heard of two years ago)

Whenever i see you have a new blog post, I get excited because I have no idea where you will be and whether your mood will be light, or if you are focusing on hard pithy truths of life in some faraway place. Keep drawing... and writing.

April 28, 2011 4:29 PM



omar said...

great sketches Sue, I am happy you like the orientalist painters. they are really beautiful works. great post!

April 29, 2011 2:43 PM



PAMO said...

What a day! I have a feeling I wouldn't be able to keep up with you young woman!! I love all your sketches and the story of your art filled day. Wow!

April 30, 2011 6:03 AM



A.Decker said...

Great sketches! Sounds--and looks--like a wonderful time.

Thanks for sharing!

May 1, 2011 11:18 PM

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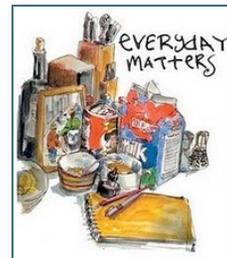
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