

TRAVELLING LIGHT

THE SKETCHES AND PAINTINGS OF RAY BALKWILL

Artists bring their own vision to a place and every landscape has its own unique qualities, but it is always the light that governs its character. At heart, Ray Balkwill is a Romantic Painter in the English Tradition and his artistic path has led him inexorably to search out and capture this elusive light.

Ray is best known for his portrayal of his native West Country landscape, but travelling has also played an important part in his work. In *Travelling Light* he journeys to more distant painting grounds through a number of contrasting landscapes in pursuit of new and inspiring subjects. It takes the reader from the rugged and romantic landscapes of Scotland and Ireland, to the sun-drenched vistas of Italy and the splendour that is Venice.

Ray has always been a strong advocate of working *en plein air* and his inspiration comes from being immersed in the landscape. The sketches and paintings not only evoke a memory of time and place special to the painter, but also give a sense of his working methods. It presents a fascinating insight into the painter's own personal and physical relationship to the variety of landscapes he encounters.

Written in an engaging style the author also provides a commentary that includes musings and extracts from fellow artists, poets and writers associated with the places he visits. This beautifully illustrated book is not just a portrait of some fascinating places, but also of a unique and highly influential painter whose passion and skill is evident in each of the many superb pictures included in this book.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ray Balkwill, SWAc is a well-known West Country artist whose watercolours, pastels and oils are much sought after. Born in Exeter in 1948, he graduated from Exeter College of Art, thereafter making a career in advertising as an Art Director. In 1990 demand for his paintings led him to give up his job to become a professional artist. He has held numerous successful solo exhibitions, as well as showing in group and open exhibitions including the R.I., R.W.A. and the South West Academy. For the past two decades he has tutored painting holidays both in the UK and abroad and is a regular contributor to art magazines. He is author of seven books and two art instruction films and his work has also featured in many other publications. In 2006 he was elected an Academician in the South West Academy of Fine and Applied Arts and has been a member of the St Ives Society of Artists since 1999. www.raybalkwill.co.uk

To compliment this book an art instruction film 'Capturing Coastal Moods' is available from APV Films. www.apvfirms.com

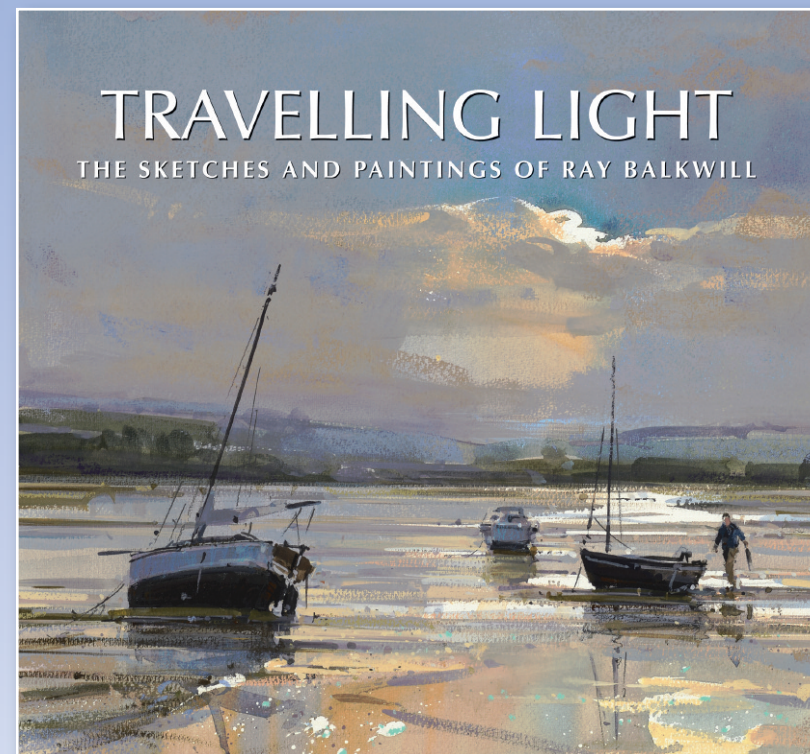
Ray Balkwill titles also published by Halsgrove:

Ray Balkwill's Exe Estuary
A Picture of Devon
A Picture of Cornwall

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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: *Hardback, 144 pages, 238 x 258mm,
including over 100 paintings*

Price: *£29.99*

ISBN: *978 1 906690 56 4*

Imprint: *Halstar*

Published: *September 2014*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
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Newquay Harbour
Oil 12x14in (30x36cm)

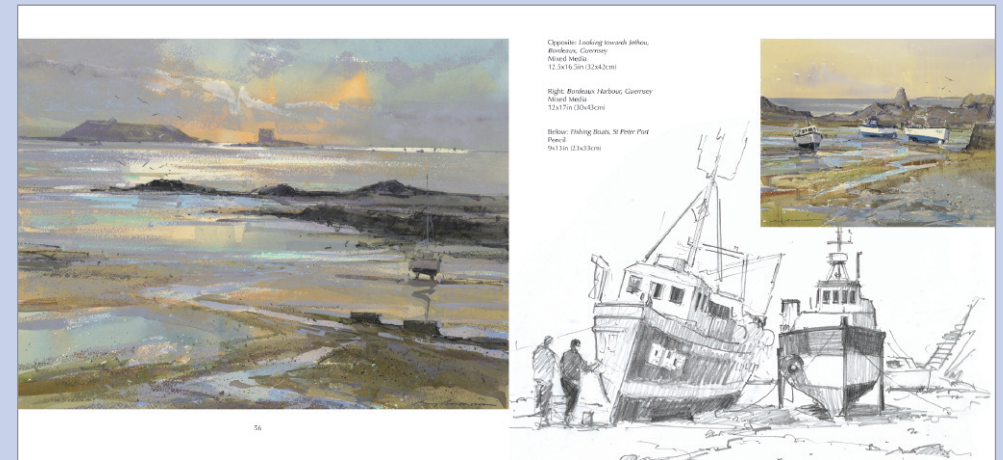
Snowdon from Dolwyddelen
Mixed Media
14x18in (36x46cm)



Below left: Venetian Reflections
Oil 14x10in (36x25cm)



Below right: St Ives Harbour Felt-tip Pen, Charcoal
and Conté Crayon 10x14in (25x36cm)



Examples of a double-page spread.

Evening Sail on the Exe
Mixed Media 17x17in (43x43cm)

