

The Art of Flying

British aviation artist Jonathan Margetts explains how and why he painted this beautiful BOAC Vickers VC-10. Better still, you can WIN this unique original piece of flying artwork!

What is it about flying that is so endearing? It could be the sheer exhilaration and excitement or perhaps it is the feeling of freedom that comes with leaving the bounds of earth's gravity? For some, flying gives the opportunity to study the beauty of the ever changing aerial land perspectives and the stunning 'sky-scapes'.

For British aviation artist Jonathan Margetts these sky-scapes are the true essence of flying that he tries to capture in his watercolour and pastel artwork.

This month we are pleased to announce that Jonathan has created this wonderful and evocative watercolour and pastel painting of an early Vickers VC-10 airliner especially for Jets Monthly – and it could soon be hanging on YOUR wall!

So what makes a good aviation painting? "For me, it is not just about the aircraft depicted in picture" explains Jonathan. "Yes, it is important for the aircraft to be accurate and look correct in perspective and technicality, but to me what 'makes' a painting is the background scenery itself. After all, the whole experience of flying is the joy and exhilaration of seeing the fantastic light and colours of the landscape from above together with the evocative sky and clouds."

Jonathan has worked in watercolours for many years as he finds the freshness and range of effects that can be achieved much to his liking. More recently he discovered the medium of pastel pencils. "These are real challenge for anyone drawing aircraft" he explains. "You have to be careful as it is so easy to smudge the work. Using these pencils is so rewarding though and the colour intensity and overall effects that can be achieved for skies and aerial landscapes are just wonderful. Over the last two years I have evolved a technique involving watercolour and pastels which is against all the traditionalist's rules of pure watercolour painting

but I believe it works and that's what matters in the final painting!"

"When I began to paint the VC-10 I pondered for some time thinking what would be the airliner's best angle. I wanted to portray the elegance of the type with its distinctive high tail but I also wanted the power to come into the picture. I therefore chose an angled climbing attitude to achieve this and as the aircraft has a relatively uncomplicated shape I could afford to establish a more complex background of dramatic clouds and landscape."



"The watercolour and pastel technique was used in this painting, applying multiple thin layers of watercolours and then merging subtle layers of pastel into the painting gives the effects of light and solidity I am seeking. To achieve the scenic background I used liquid masking fluid on the VC-10 drawing to protect the white paper for later painting. I also used another technique which involves repeated single colour paint at applied at various stages. I discovered this by accident one day and have since developed and used this technique in all my paintings since but this remains a secret!"

"With all paintings it is important to establish a good contrast of light against dark. Clouds are a very important part of all my aviation paintings and these are painted with many applications of soft colours and not just white and grey. I have used at least ten colours in the clouds of this painting! In the landscape which appears at the bottom of the painting peeping through the dramatic cloud formations, I placed a meandering river which leads the eye into the painting itself. After about 30 hours of preparation and painting I was happy with the end result. Every painting is different and generally always provides a new challenge. This is what makes painting aircraft so exciting for me."

For more details about Jonathan's paintings please visit www.art-of-flying.co.uk

WIN! A Unique & Original Painting

We are giving away Jonathan Margetts' stunning BOAC VC-10 painting to a lucky Jet Monthly reader.

Treasure Hunt competition

Just find the page numbers of the photo extracts taken from aircraft illustrated in this issue, fill in the coupon, or use a postcard, and post to:

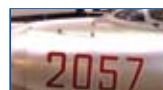
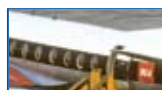
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BOAC VC-10 Painting Entry Form

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