

# Tony Foster at Stanford

## Biography

Perhaps many of us would feel we had done something exceptional if we were to stay alone in a wilderness for over a week. Tony Foster does this for a living.

Tony Foster (born England 1946) has been travelling, living and working in the World's great wildernesses: rainforests and deserts, mountains and canyons, the Arctic and the tropics, for the past 25 years.

He travels on foot or by canoe or raft into the heart of wild places, sets up camp, and paints his large scale "Watercolour Diaries." These beautiful paintings record not only the landscape, but also the flora and fauna, written details of his journey and time spent in the wildest places on earth.

They are simultaneously personal and universal, and convey with delicacy and immediacy the beauty and fragility of our planet. He is an environmentalist and has, through his exhibitions and lectures, consistently argued for the conservation of wild places.

His most recent exhibition "Searching for a Bigger Subject" contrasted the world's two greatest landscape icons — Mt. Everest and the Grand Canyon. He is the only person ever to have painted all three of Mt. Everest's formidable faces. Some of his paintings, done on site in the most ferocious climatic conditions, are up to 6 ft. long!

He has had many solo exhibitions of his work including the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; Frye Art Museum, Seattle; Montgomery Gallery, San Francisco; National Wildlife Museum, Jackson Hole; Graham Gallery, New York; Gerald Peters Galleries Santa Fe, Dallas and New York; Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona; The Royal Watercolour Society, London; The Royal Geographical Society, London.

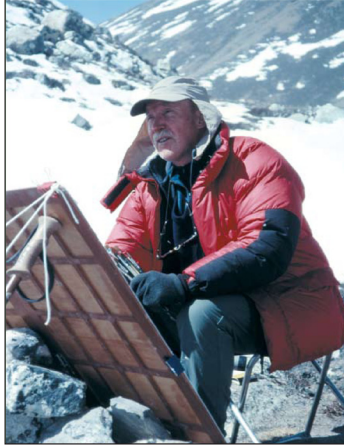
His paintings are held in many prestigious private collections internationally, and several major Art Museum collections, including Denver Art Museum, Phoenix Art Museum, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art and the Autry Museum of Western Art, Los Angeles.

He has been widely featured in the media with major articles in the Wall Street Journal; the Washington Post, the Dallas Morning News, the Times (London); Condé Nast Traveller and major documentaries on BBC radio and UK television. A film about his work "The Man Who Painted Everest" has been shown many times on UK TV.

He was awarded the prestigious Cherry Kearton Memorial Medal for his artistic portrayal of the world's wildernesses by the Royal Geographical Society, London.

A major book about his work "Painting at the Edge of the World" was published by the University of Washington Press in 2008. His original paintings are represented by Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe.

Website: [www.tony-foster.co.uk](http://www.tony-foster.co.uk)



## Schedule of Events

### Tuesday, September 28th

12:00–1:30 pm

Student Luncheon Seminar (lunch provided)  
Y2E2, Room 300, Stanford  
Hosted by Stanford Atmosphere/Energy Program

4:00–7:00 pm

Hors d'oeuvre Reception  
Cantor Arts Center  
328 Lomita Drive, Stanford  
Open to Stanford Faculty Only

### Wednesday September 29th

7:30–9:30 pm

*The Man Who Painted Everest*  
(Film screening and discussion sponsored by  
Stanford Continuing Studies Program)  
Cubberley Auditorium  
485 Lasuen Mall, School of Education, Stanford  
Open to the public

### Thursday, September 30th

12:00–1:30 pm

Student Luncheon Seminar (lunch provided)  
Y2E2, Room 105, Stanford  
Hosted by Stanford Earth Systems Program

3:30–5:00 pm

Art Dedication & Meet the Artist at Woods  
Environmental Forum  
Y2E2 Faculty Lounge, Stanford  
Open to Stanford Faculty & Affiliates Only

### Friday, October 1st

4:00–6:00 pm

Book Signing  
Stanford Bookstore  
519 Lasuen Mall, Stanford  
Open to the public

## The Man Who Painted Everest — The Film

In March 2005 Tony Foster, with a group of friends, travelled in the Everest Region in order to make paintings of the world's highest mountain. On a journey lasting four weeks, he hiked to a high point (17,500 feet) above Gokyo. The logistics of getting one man and his painting gear into such a wilderness are formidable. Porters cheerfully carry up to 60 pounds at very high altitudes; yet have enough breath left to keep up a stream of chatter and jokes.

Having decided that he had not completed sufficient paintings on his first expedition, Tony returned to the Everest Region in April/May 2006. This time he completed seven smaller pieces, including one at 17,800 feet on Kala Pattar (600 feet above Basecamp) — the highest painting he has ever done. He also worked on a second 6 x 3 foot painting, which is shown at the bottom of this section.

The film "The Man Who Painted Everest" was made during this four-week journey.

The film records Tony's April/May 2006 expedition. It was filmed by HiTV in Hi Definition and broadcast in the UK on Sky ARTSWORLD four times during the August 2006 Bank Holiday weekend.