

Dennis Harrison  
*Feeding the Hens, Nook Farm,  
Rosthwaite, Lake District.*  
(detail)

## The Artists

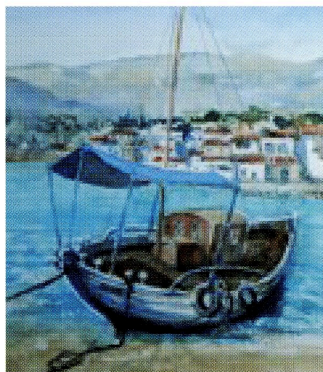
Ann Manly and Dennis Harrison are exhibiting mainly new watercolours together with a few oil paintings by Ann. The inspiration for this exhibition lay in their travels in Venice, the Lot and Dordogne valleys in France and in Greece, where the fascinating buildings demand to be painted, and in the Lake District, Suffolk and the Cotswolds which provide a wealth of subjects very suited to their style of painting.

John Ruskin, painting in Venice (already deteriorating in his time) said he was "endeavouring to trace the lines of this image before it be for ever lost." Ann and Dennis, painting the fast crumbling houses and palaces of Venice have tried here to follow in his footsteps.

They start their pictures *en plein air*, wherever possible, to capture the moment when the sight of the subject compels them to paint it. The use of transparent paint in pure watercolour ensures the preservation of the translucence of the medium, a matter of great importance to them. The completion of the painting by the addition of details can then be carried out in their studio.

Their work is represented in many private collections throughout the world. They have exhibited in shows in London including exhibitions at the Royal Watercolour Society, the Mall Galleries and the "Venice in Peril" exhibition.

Ann Manly  
*Lefkas, Greece. (detail)*



# Capturing The Moment

Paintings by

Ann Manly  
Dennis Harrison

you are invited to the  
**Private View**  
at

The Gallery, Town Hall, Bampton, Oxfordshire OX18 2JH

on Sunday 11th March 2012

11am to 1pm Wine

The Exhibition continues until 1st April

Tuesday-Saturday 10.30am-4.30pm

Sunday 2-4pm Closed Monday

[www.westoxarts.com](http://www.westoxarts.com) 01993 850137 [gallery@westoxarts.com](mailto:gallery@westoxarts.com)





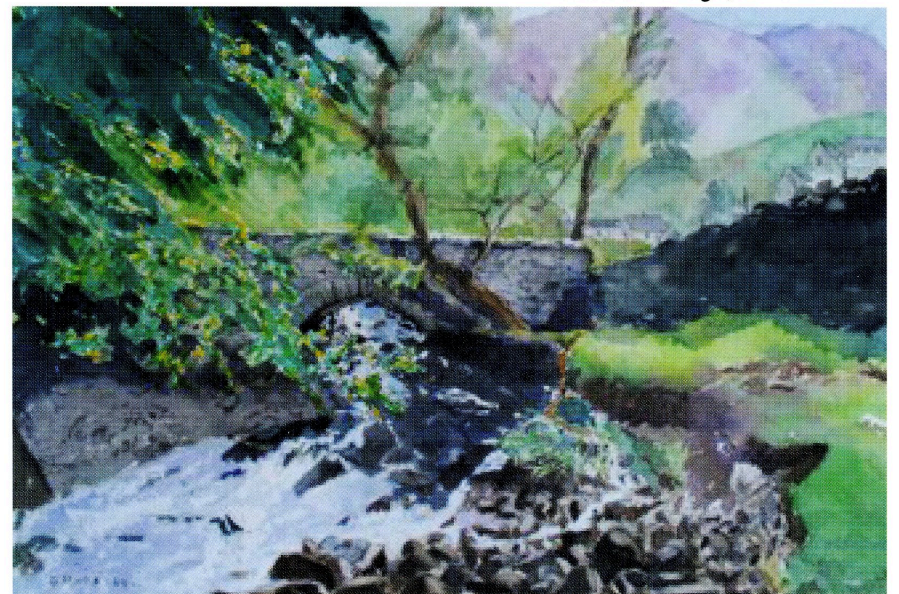
*Dennis Harrison  
A Corner of the Pescharia,  
Venice.*



*Ann Manly  
Dawn, Grand Canal, Venice.*



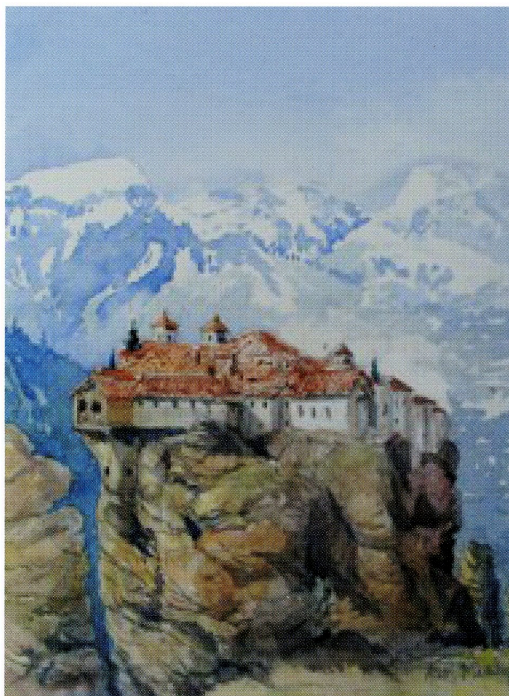
*Ann Manly  
Old Houses at Lagrville, France.*



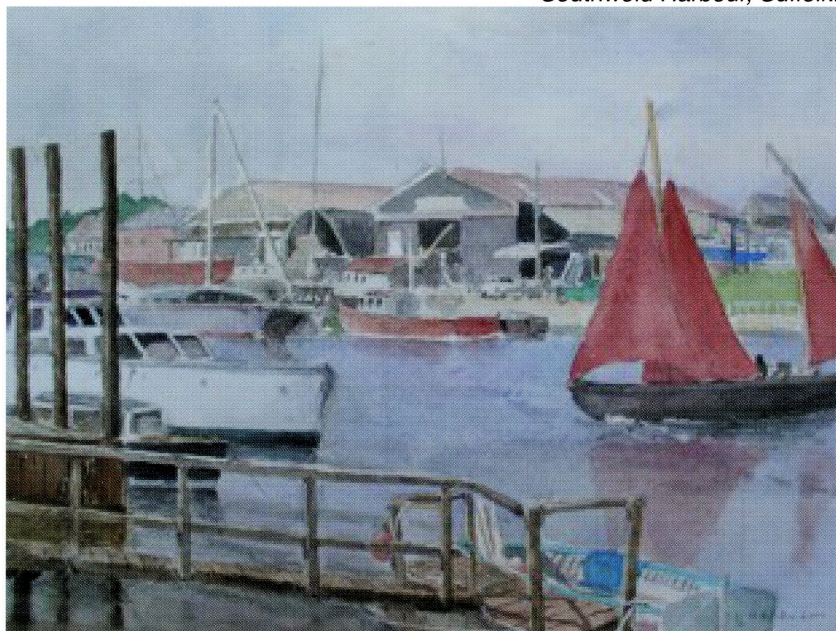
*Dennis Harrison  
Seatoller Bridge, Lake District.*



*Ann Manly  
Meteora, Greece,  
Early spring.*



*Dennis Harrison  
Southwold Harbour, Suffolk.*







*Dennis Harrison Carennac Priory,  
Dordogne, France.*

*Ann Manly  
Market by the Pescharia, Venice.*





# Art

## Capturing the Moment West Ox Arts

**T**his life-affirming exhibition in The Gallery in Bampton is well named. Each artist evokes the spirit of place, whether it be Venice, the Lake District, the Cotswolds, France or Greece, a tribute to a life-time travelling and painting scenes that mean so much. Ann Manly, a founder member of the Bampton Arts Association in the 1960s, now West Ox Arts, promoted art, drama, literature, music and photography. She met Dennis Harrison on a weekend course; they married and have been painting ever since.

Both work *en plein air*; both love buildings, water and the luminosity of watercolours, eschewing opaque paints that dull the clarity of the colours.

Dennis captures everyday life in a personal way, like his *Venetian Laundry Boat*, moored in a small canal, awaiting the delivery man to



cross the bridge carrying his red bag of washing. In his *Landing Stage, Rio di Ognissante, Venice* the scene is set for an intimate al fresco meal in the shade of a colourful awning while the small barge waits below in another backwater. An altogether grander view of Venice is *A Corner of the Pescharia* with its elegant arches, while, in the foreground, holding posts are reflected in the dark water awaiting the gondolas. Dennis also enjoys painting humble houses like his *Feeding the Hens, Nook Farm, Rosthwaite, Lake District*; note his fine stonework, careful without being fussy.

A watercolourist at heart, Ann does display a few oils done in an impressionistic way. Her bright colours are toned down to allow gentle yellow light to filter from the meadow beyond through the trees into a secret dell in *Yellow Cotswold Fields, near the Windrush*.

The terracotta tiles' graduating size tell the story of *Old Houses at Lagravelle, Perigord, France* (above), inhabited by a few zany chickens. Don't miss her crayon, ink, and pastel *St Croix de Beaumont*, influenced by Piper.

Until April 1; Tuesday-Saturday 10.30am-4.30pm, Sunday 2-4pm.

**Jan Lee**