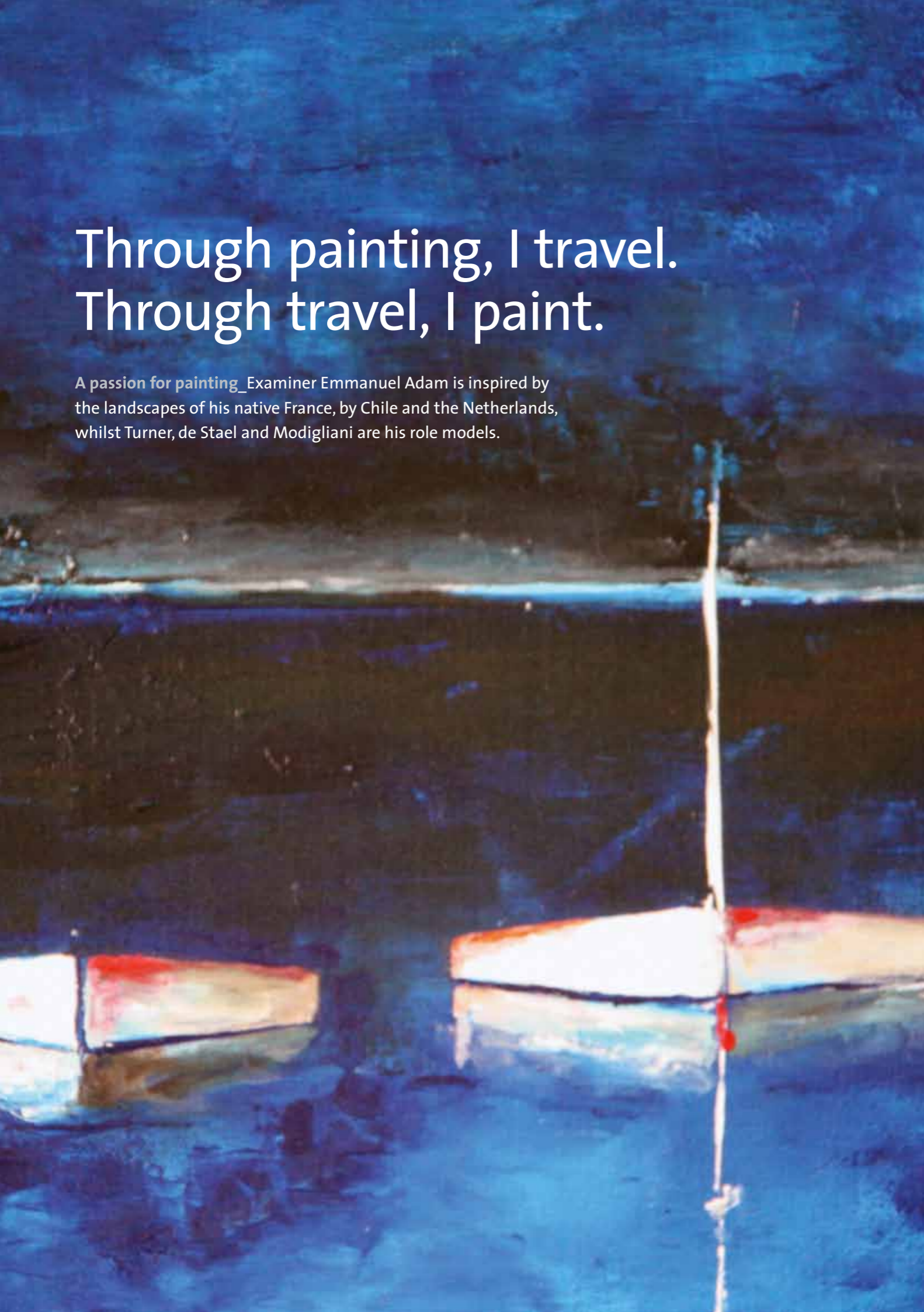


Through painting, I travel. Through travel, I paint.

A passion for painting_Examiner Emmanuel Adam is inspired by the landscapes of his native France, by Chile and the Netherlands, whilst Turner, de Stael and Modigliani are his role models.



Emmanuel finds it pretentious to call himself an artist. “Rembrandt: now that is an artist”, he stresses. The works around his office walls tell a different story – of a man with a passion for painting. Of a man who loves blue in all its infinite hues, who loves animals, birds, land- and seascapes and whose figurative style is gradually evolving into abstract impressionism, a clear reference to his role models. “For me, a painting should retain a clear figurative element but leave the door ajar for the beholder to add a personal interpretation.”

Keen on painting from childhood, it was seven years ago that Emmanuel truly unleashed his talent, “and I haven’t stopped painting since”, he admits. After some courses abroad, he found his current teacher and mentor, Chilean artist Margarita Garcés. During his frequent, but irregular visits to her studio he finds the ambience and inspiration to paint, which a regular painting class could never afford him. “It’s important to retain an open mind. To look around you, see what others are doing, be aware of new techniques”, he tells me.

LIKE PARTING WITH A FRIEND

Emmanuel puts his heart and soul into his work. This is not surprising when you think that a painting in his favourite oils – “I love the transitional colour effects you can achieve” – can take from 20 to 30 hours to complete, and sometimes up to a full year to dry out! So what about when it comes to selling? “It’s like parting with a friend”, he smiles. Emmanuel had his very first exhibition at the Star Galerie in The Hague in June and it was an immediate success. He is currently discussing with the Costa Rican Embassy about sharing some of his works with them.

IT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE

Painting is Emmanuel’s life. “And it has changed my life”, he adds. He looks at the world as if deciding how to paint it. If lost in a forest, he would look towards the light or the way the landscape changes, rather than reaching pragmatically for a compass. And, he would be happy to stay lost for a while too! “Painting has a very therapeutic effect. You feel good. But, like tasting good food, you don’t know what you are missing until you try – and everyone should try. Painting is a connector, it gets people talking about aesthetics which make the world a more attractive place to behold.”

Reflecting on his words, I noticed there is a leitmotif of reflections in his work. “Not only do these lend realism to a painting – if there is water, there will be a reflection – but I also see reflections as repetitions and I love repetition for the harmony it brings. Perhaps that explains my taste for the music of Philip Glass”, he smiles. But that’s another story.

Liz Parker, PD Communication

KEEN TO SEE EMMANUEL’S WORK?

The ARTEX exhibition of EPO artists is taking place from 4 October to 5 November (see page xx). Emmanuel is also showing his work at the Star Galerie (www.stargalerie.com). The exhibition opens on Saturday 13 November at 16.00 hrs and runs until 1 December.



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