

Devon artist becomes first ever from UK to exhibit at Museo del Baile Flamenco

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A people-painter from Tiverton has been selected to be the first ever UK artist to have a major exhibition at the famous Museo del Baile Flamenco in Seville. Ken Maharajah, announced that his Flamenco paintings were chosen for a solo exhibition. As well as the first artists he is also the first watercolourist to exhibit. Mr Maharajah is a figure artist who is known for atmospheric and dynamic movement within his watercolour paintings.



The internationally renowned Museo del Baile Flamenco (Museum of Flamenco Dance) has selected Maharajah's work for a solo show which started in March 2018.

Maharajah's figurative series "Flamenco - Spark and Fire" was chosen through his repeated visits to the Museum's Flamenco workshops in Seville, sketching the dancers.

When his drawings were noticed, he was approached to produce a body of work to exhibit at the Museum.

The International scope of the Museo's exhibition is seen by previous exhibitors from countries such as China, Korea, Japan, Italy, Spain and France.

Living and creating his art in his studio in Mid Devon, Maharajah has been an artist for more than 25 years. Although life has got in the way for much of that time - raising a family and working as a BT engineer for 15 years - he has now been a full-time artist since 2013. From humble beginnings, being raised in the East End of London, Maharajah, now 65, is finally realising his dream of being recognised as an artist.

Regarding this art show Maharajah states "I am very pleased and gratified to be chosen by the Museo del Baile Flamenco for this solo show. Because of the Museum's cultural significance, it is a great privilege, as the first ever UK artist, to be offered an exhibition there. Since the Museum has an international reputation for promoting genuine Flamenco, I am honoured that they want to exhibit my paintings, recognising they represent those values."

Maharajah has spent the last two years studying and painting Flamenco dancers in Cuba, Seville and at his local dance studios in Devon. He has produced a body of work consisting of around 40 watercolour paintings for the exhibition. His work shows a great deal of skill in capturing the dynamic movement and passion of Flamenco. His loose painterly style and use of colour is his recognised signature.



Brad Bernhard, US Journalist said of his work “somehow you always seem to capture the essence and tension in a single moment” and Simon Gomes MA, graphic designer/illustrator of Independent Design and illustration tutor at University of Hertfordshire said: “The paintings emit a highly emotive and animated story that captures the passion and energy of each performer. For frozen moments in time, we are transported into a world where we are invited to emotionally connect with each performer’s uniqueness and expressions of liberty.”

Marco Torres, Executive Assistant Manager from the Flamenco Museum in Seville added: “Ken’s work is so dynamic and yet beautiful and we are very privileged to be able to host his exhibition here at the Museo.”