Visitor Artist exhibits in Port Vila

It is a rare event to have an international art exhibition in Port Vila. From next week, June the 11th to June 19th, the town can firsthand experience some 20 of the original paintings of an internationally renowned artist, Ingo Kühl, from Germany. It will be another of the more than 100 occasions his work has been exhibited during his 20-year professional art career, but it is the first time the artist exhibits in the South Pacific.

The exhibition opens at 6.30 in the evening at l'Espace Culturel francais, which is pretty much the only place that can stage the event. The popular premises are usually utilized by local artists and institutions, and only very rarely are international work displayed. Due to heavy demand from a lot of different exhibitors l'Espace Culturel francais is booked out solid to November 2002. However, admission remains free.

Ingo Kühl has painted for a living since his late twenty's. He is specializing in landscapes, but unusually he is mostly producing images of the sea. Early in life he spent a lot of time by the coast of the often-turbulent North Sea, which established his fascination with the ever-changing expressions of the seascape.

As a young professional he started out earning his living in architecture, working on the creation of concrete high-rises, but the challenges did not suit him, so it was back to school, choosing art this time.

"A doctor can bury his mistakes [and an artist paint over them] but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines." - Frank Lloyd Wright (1868-1959).

No, that quote does not apply to Ingo Kühl, it was just included in this article as teasing but quotable general wisdom. Instead our artist was drawn into the then newborn expressionist revival that took the Berlin fine art community with storm, to culminate during the 1980's, where he experimented with creations that mostly went against the trend of more established peers, leaving the exceedingly lively new expressionistic discipline to explore the expressions of the more quiet sea and sky. Here he was (and still is) seeking to express an image that the elements have impressed on him, leaving politics, psychology and any hint of modern man's messages well behind him. He is converting his interpretation of peace and power that he sees in the ocean to canvas or water-colour, but not reproducing the actual elements. He produces images of his impressions of these basic fundamentals . At l'Espace Culturel francais you will be able to very nearly hear the waves crash and feel the awesome power of nature.

Ingo Kühl has traveled and worked in a number of countries, including Portugal, Scandinavia, Thailand, New Zealand, Peru and New York. During the last seven months he has traversed the South Pacific, worked in a studio in Cook Islands, and in several islands in French Polynesia and in Fiji. At this time he is a bit weary of collecting mental impressions and is now downloading his mind, some from a sketchbook, to real works of art. He will remain in Port Vila until he returns to Berlin in September, where he normally resides, when he is not mesmerized by the cost of the North Sea.

The exhibition in Port Vila is named "La Mer", and show only recent originals painted in the South Pacific.

Picture caption: German artist Ingo Kühl in front of a 190 x 240 centimeter canvas.