



In total sixty three artists from four countries attended with an amazing spread of disciplines and subject matter including abstract, fantasy, erotic, custom paint, body art (loads of nearly naked multi coloured women running around the place, strange but great!) through to some amazing photo realistic work, and I mean photo-realistic, check out Marissa Oosterlee's site at www.marissa-art.com who trained with American supremo Drew Blair and is now along with her husband Eddy, teaching his system in Europe or Jean Pierre Nij's site at www.jpsairpaint.nl. If you like airbrush work this is definitely the place to be. The other thing that amazed me is how friendly everybody is and willing to share their knowledge, want to know how somebody did something ask and they'll only be too pleased to tell you, and usually in pretty good English, to give you an example, I've always struggled with flesh tones but was amazed by the number of life like portraits and paintings featuring flesh tones I saw, "Wow!" I'd say "look at the flesh tones on that, I could never do that", or something similar anyway and before you know it the artist is telling you what colours they used and how they achieved this or that texture. Nobody hides anything and everybody is happy to share their knowledge and expertise. Saturday evening after the show and everybody meets at the hotel for a meal a natter and a generous amount of drink in the bar. Sunday contains more of the same, but now everybody knows everybody and is just happy to chat and shoot the breeze. At around lunch time there's an amazing demonstration by German artist Ingo Korner who manages to paint using an airbrush in each hand to produce one lake scene spread across two separate canvases! If you thought using one airbrush was hard enough you really need to see this guy. At around four o'clock it's time for the prize giving. Only three prizes are given, donated by the Dutch airbrush club, these being for best beginner, best club and best in show.



One thing that really surprised me was the sheer volume of people who turned up for the show given the time of year, with the aisles full to bursting point all week end. Eventually though it was time to take it all apart again, everybody joins in, kind of another stipulation of the invite, and in just over an hour the halls where empty and people where saying their goodbyes to friends old and new. In all a fantastic week end and definitely one to be recommended, whether you're an airbrush artist yourself or just love the style. Put it in your diary for next year, you wont be disappointed. The people are friendly the food and beers cheep and what else are you going to be doing in the middle of January? See you there.

In all a tremendous show with lots of very friendly and talented artists all happy and willing to share secrets and experiences. We eventually made it home on Monday afternoon and even the Satrny worked.

