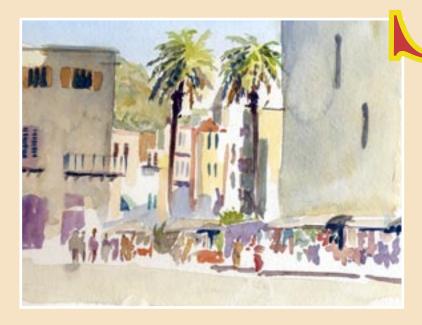
Palermo's Nuovo Gate marks the ancient edge of the city. It opens onto the road to Monreale and its mosaic filled duomo.

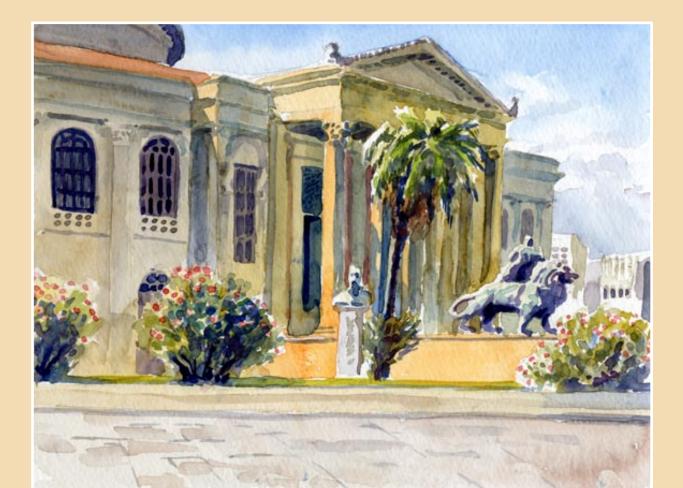


Discovering the earthy beauty of **ICILY**

It is no surprise that an island as blessed, cursed and fought over by the gods as this one has been would find humans smitten as well. Covered by fertile ground born from the rage of molton magma and caressed by tropical air, Sicily has been sought after by more civilizations than most of history can recall. What follows are the painted impressions of one visitor who captured them as he traveled.



From **Palermo's** narrow streets and twisting alleys in the oldest part of the city to the grandeur of the Teatro Massimo Opera House, the city vibrates in the clash between ancient, classic and a most contemporary life.





In Palermo's

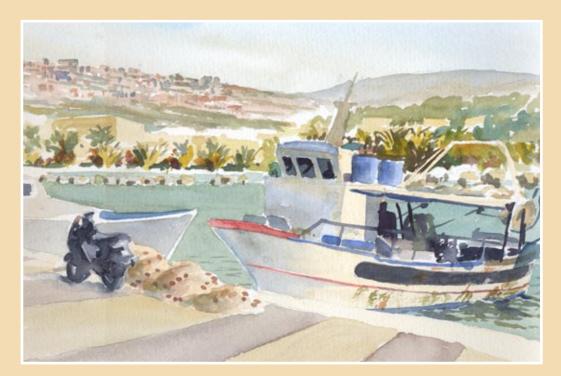
Piazza Bellini, San Dominico's austere facade belies this church's wildly baroque marble interior which may echo in turn with the sound of popular or sacramental music.

The sturdy Norman lines of Cefalu's Cathedral are softened by palm trees and tourist's shirts filling the city hall piazza before it.





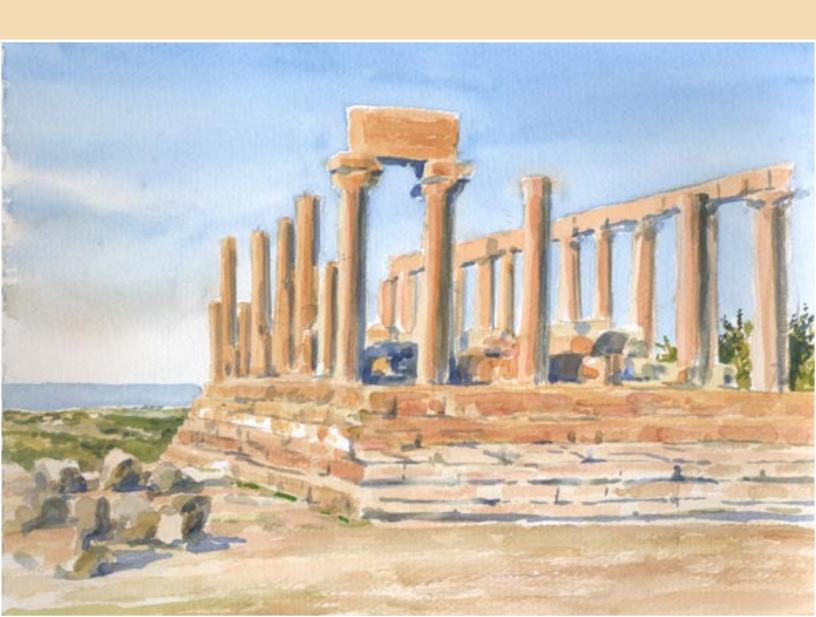
Agrigento's glowing buildings float softly in the waning afternoon light, an ethereal vision high above its seaside. Daylight on its port reveals piled nets and brightly painted boats awaiting a turn in the hands of local fishermen.

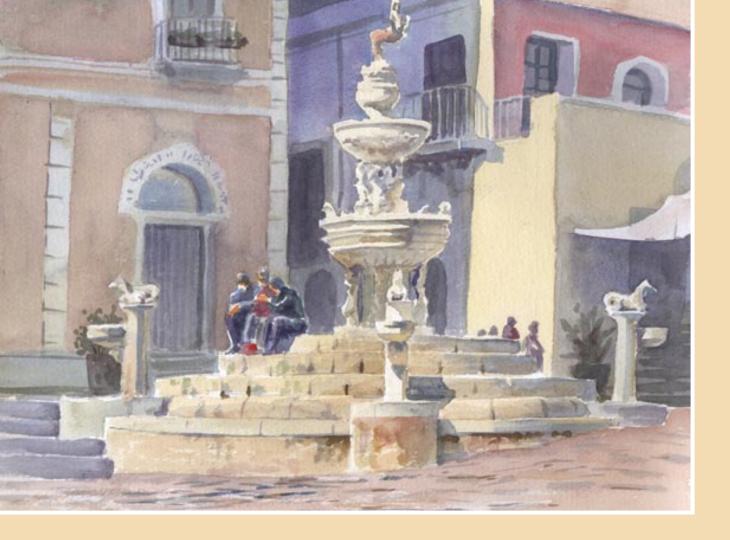


A wind blown drizzle polished small boats that Letojanni fishermen have pulled high and away from its dingy sand and turbulent water.

The ochre remnants of Hera's Temple in Agrigento's Valley of Temples command an imposing view and lead a line of similar Greek ruins stepping acriss the valley.

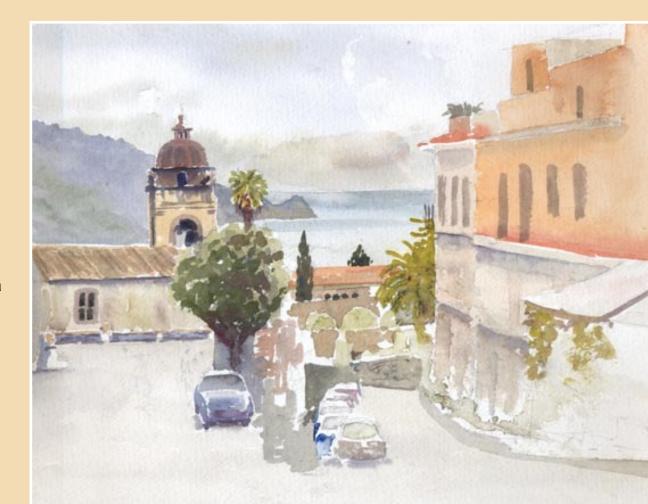


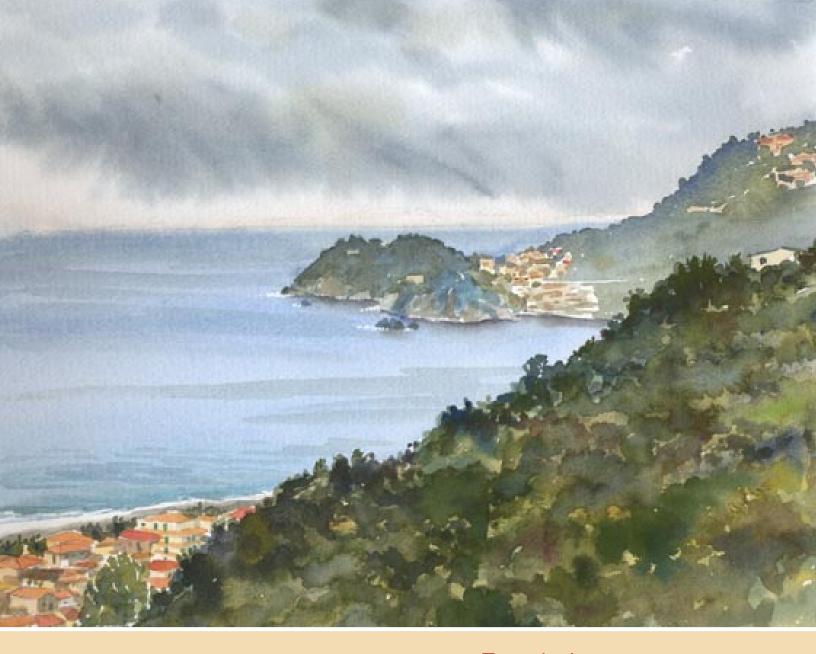




Beautiful Taormina, secure from

invading armies in the heights above the sea, exudes a charm that could well have been the original siren song Ulysses struggled against. It still sparkles in the sun and smiles in the rain, changing like a chameleon at the whims of the wind.





Unusually heavy rains blow in from the sea drenching Taormina's steep hillsides and muting the bright terra cotta roofs and buildings tucked at their feet.



MICHAEL KILLELEA

is an artist, author, teacher and traveler who paints on location almost everywhere he travels, and relishes the interaction with his subjects. His work is online at <u>www.killeleart.com</u>.