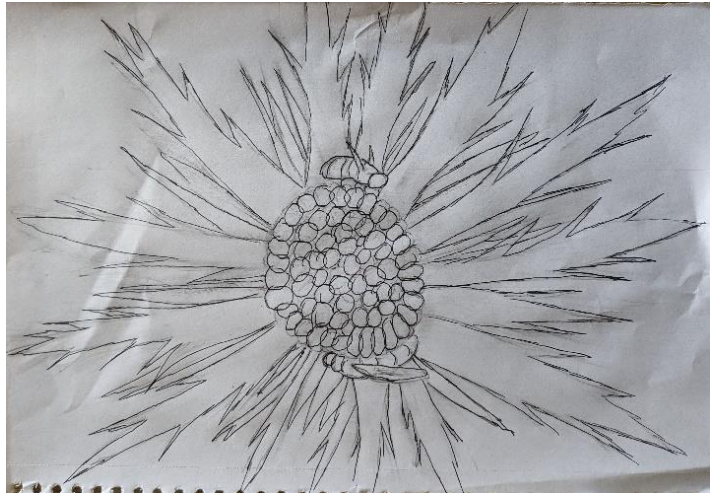


Bees on Sea Holly - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

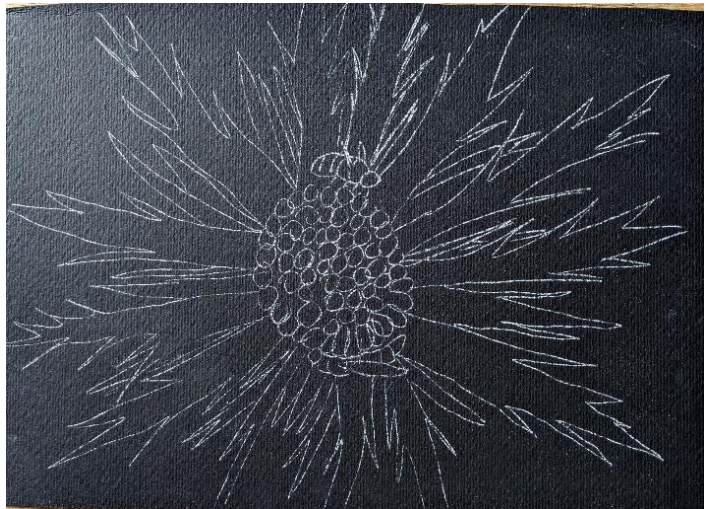
I took this stunning photo in a garden at Scarborough where the bees were clearly enjoying the nectar of Sea Holly.



I decided that this would make an interesting painting on black watercolour paper with possibly elements of metallic paint. Outline drawing on very thin sketch paper.



Traced and transferred to the watercolour paper.



Bees on Sea Holly - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Painting with Gouache started. Centre of flower white, olive green and deep cadmium yellow. Dots and dashes to create a textured effect. Petals with Cobalt Blue, brilliant violet and white mixture.



Worked all round the flower with one coat of paint, then started a 2nd layer with three tones of the petal mix and worked wet into wet to create different tones in each petal. I've adjusted the photo here to try and reflect the actual colour mix as the camera output is way too blue.



Completed all the petals with the 2nd layer and then started to cut back into them with black.



Bees on Sea Holly - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

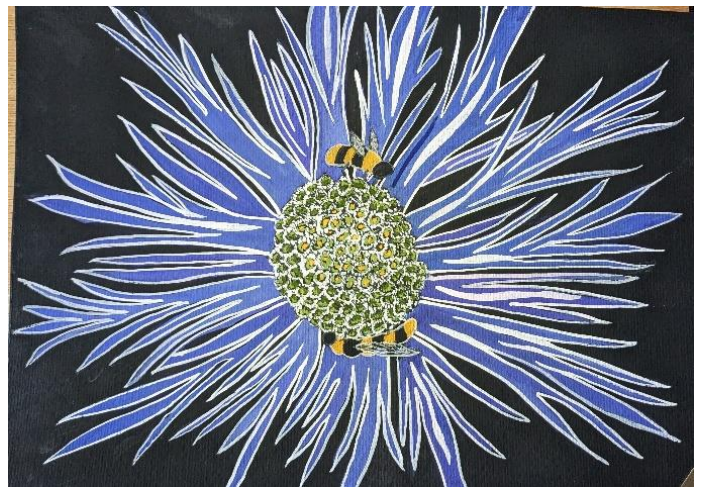
Continued with the black cut all over the petals and painted in the bees.



Onto the highlights – around every petal and slices in the middle with white. Quite surprised that the gouache had worked for this – Thought I was going to have to use pastel pencil.



Completed the white outlining and added the bees' wings with grey.



Bees on Sea Holly - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Decided to place some dark purples in all the petals and a few light purples here and there.



Added more yellow blobs to the middle as I realised that the middle was looking too realistic for what had become a stylized image. Thought some greens around the outside may work?



Added more green to the middle and eliminated much of the background greens. Throughout the process I was constantly touching up bits on the petals where underneath colours were coming through. Roughened the bees stripes at the edges. Placed yellow veins on the wings. Outlined the bodies with grey. Wasn't happy with the way this was heading at this point.

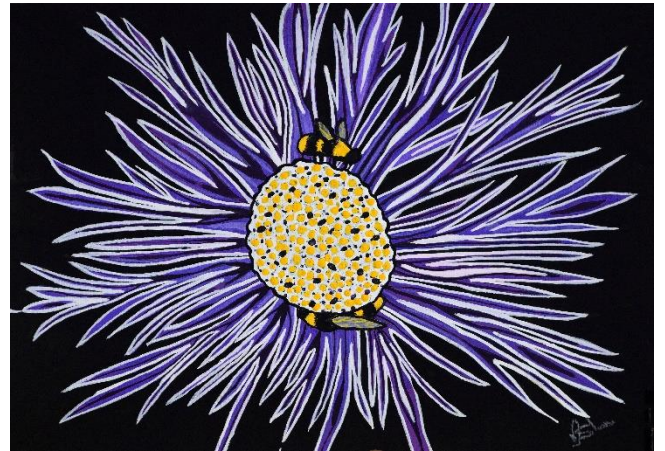


Bees on Sea Holly - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Decided the greens needed to be removed. Painted over the green centre with white working round the yellow dots. With a rubber blending tool re-dotted the yellows then added some purples. Used black to outline the centre and the bees. Then time to eliminate all the green from the background. Considerable bad language occurred when I dropped the black brush and splatted the top of the painting. Finished off all the black. Got out the hair drier to make sure the painting was completely dry as there is a lot of paint on the picture. When dry fixed the splashes. Left overnight to decide if completed.



Signed and photographed – adjusting the blue in photoshop to make it more purple as in the painting.



White mount and black frame to complete.

Added to the [Flora](#) gallery.

[Prints](#) available.

[Cards](#) available

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