

CATching the City Walls - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

In the throws of creating CATching paintings I came across a photo of a city wall bearing old street lamps which got the creative juices flowing. No 3 in this batch "CATching the city walls". The photo helped with a sense of scale and perspective in the foreground. The overall content is from imagination. Started with a drawing which was traced for transfer to stretched watercolour paper.



Initial washes in place using the same palette as the last 2 CATching works. Prussian Blue, Transparent Grey and Pthalo Blue.

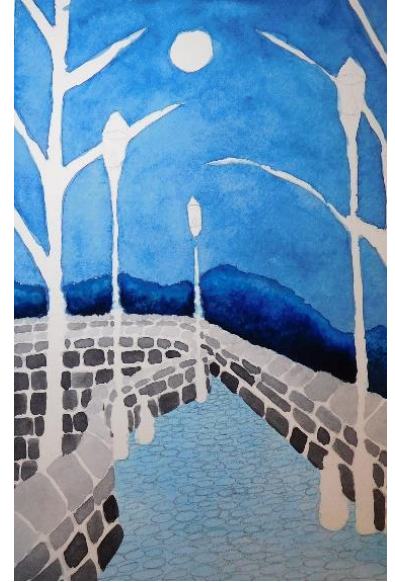


Darkened the walls from top to bottom. With a very light turquoise added some details to the shrubs.



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Didn't like where the shrubs were going so overpainted and made them dark at the bottom. Decided to create cobbles in the floor.



Things weren't working out. Darkened the ground in an attempt to cover the cobbles – that didn't work.

Took the lifting brush to the picture and lifted out the bushes and the dark floor. Left to dry whilst I had a contemplate where to go next and hoped the paper had survived the scrubbing.



The paper did survive. The bushes were re-dotted in with pale blues and metallic paints. The floor cobbles were painted with the same colours as the bushes and then edged with chinese white. Rounded the moon with using a 10p to draw round and filling with opaque white.



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Put the tracing back onto the paper and re-drew the cats, trees and lamps. Using water colour pencils filled in the shapes. Put break up lines into the bushes. Outlined the top of the walls. At this point the picture started coming together.

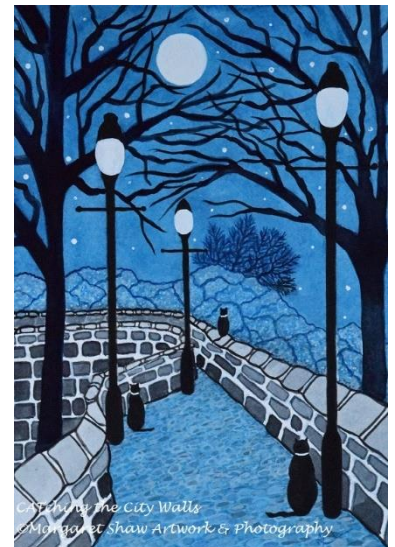


Went over the watercolour pencil with paint. Mixed the Prussian blue on the trees with paynes grey to create a different dark shade to the lamps and the cats. Cats and lamps painted with black. More break up lines added to the bushes. More twiggs added to the trees. Black also used to define the outlines on the top of the walls. Decided to re-shape the lamps into oval globes with opaque white and added the cats white collars.



Completed by outlining the stones in the walls and filling in the wall after the turn. Added another branch to the tree at the back.

Some stars dotted in with a large and a small blending stick (keeps them round)



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Heading for a white mount and a black frame.

Added to the [CATching gallery](#)

[Prints](#) also available

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