

CATching the Night Train - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

I visited the Christmas Fayre at the Stainmore Railway Group Station (well worth a visit if you're in the Kirkby Stephen Area) and whilst there took this photo outside as my CATching series sprang to mind. Add a few cats sitting by the lamps – taking some artistic licence as the station only has one cat.



Stage 1 – get the drawing right which took some effort with the perspective lines (quite a bit of rubbing out) and then trace the drawing – which is what you see here.



As this will be going into the CATching series it needs to become a monochromatic blues painting. To help with the tones coloured in the picture with pencils – confirms that the lamps and the cats need to lie in a predominantly light area.



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Established the tonal values with a set of light washes using prussian blue, ultramarine, cerulean blue, turquoise, pthalo blue and transparent grey. Tried to keep the white areas clear but the blue in the sky ran into the moon and the lamps.



Strengthened the washes. Used opaque white to recover the moon and put in the darks on the train tops and underneath them. Working from the distance added the bridge and the rails. Lifted out the halos round the moon and the lamps



Next step was to re insert the lamps and the cats and paint them black. As with the moon used the opaque white to recover the white in the lamps. Final steps were outlining with water soluble pencils and carefully going over with the paints on a rigger brush. Added the trees and used the opaque white to dry brush the halos.



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Heading for a white mount and black frame.

Added to the [CATching gallery](#).
[Prints](#) also available.

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