

Lindisfarne Sundown - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Taken on holiday on the Northumberland coast in January. I liked how the distinct shape of Lindisfarne castle silhouetted against the setting sun.



The only issue I have is that with a painting I don't want to just show a black outline at the bottom of the picture. I used photoshop to pull back the shadows to enable me to see the content of the black area.



Some sizing to fit a 16 x 12 inch canvas board and quite a lot of work on drawing the castle – especially as I started work from my tablet and at the time hadn't lightened the photo enough. Round 2 meant going over the drawing with ink to rework the bits I'd got wrong. The overall outline shape and proportions were right



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Starting with paynes grey, cobalt blue, indigo, whites. cadmium yellows and cadmium red blended the paints to create the sky. Working wet into wet and over layering, keeping the surface damp with water sprayed.



Blocked in the castle, rocks and foreground. Then worked on the rock detail and the castle with tones of darkest paynes through to white. Dotted and dabbed the rocks with a chisel brush loaded with all the tones. Used a small round brush and the same colours to work the castle walls blending from the light areas through the mid tones into the dark areas. Added the land across the bay and the sea. Put some of the land purple into the sky. Once the castle and the sky dry, glazed over the horizon with the pale peach (yellow, red and white mix).



Added the grasses. Lightened the distant land and the water. Created some interest in the foreground with the light coming between and around the rocks and the castle. Decision time "Was it finished or does it need more light?"



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I decided it needed more light so set to work with the lightest yellow I could make by mixing Naples yellow and titanium white.

This mix was glazed into the light areas of the fields, over the sky horizon (working carefully round the castle with a damp rag to hand to wipe off smudges). Finally rubbed (and I mean with fingers) into the sky.



After a few weeks of sitting in the is it done area, I decided it wasn't and figured out what was bugging me. I didn't like the rocks going down in the middle. As I'd left the colours out I was working with I mixed some dark green from yellow ochre and paynes grey and performed a cover up.



After experimenting with several frames – grey, brown, white and black, I have decided, when framed, a white frame lifts the painting. That is unless any potential buyer would prefer something different.

Added to the [Historic Places Artwork Gallery](#).

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