

## North Sea Blues- Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

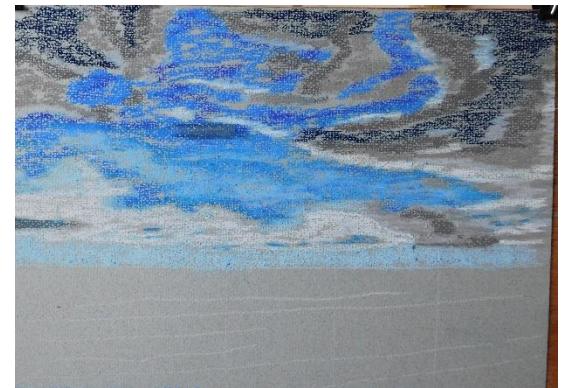
This photo was taken whilst holidaying on the North Northumberland Coast. The temperatures were cool with air coming from the North, but that gave clarity and some stunning blues. This picture was from Spittal Beach where there seemed to be a battle between the fine weather over the ocean and storm clouds over the land.



I decided to work this to A4 size and started by marking out a few guidelines. I do this as I have a tendency to let things grow out of proportion, so a few marks keep my focus.



Put some pastels into place. White, light grey, dark grey, variety of blues and a dark purple. This was the first time using my senelier dark pastels



Then blended in this first layer with fingers



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Added some more darks and some extra shapes and kept blending



Followed by some lights



And kept blending. This process continued until I was happy with how the sky is shaping up, taking 2 sessions and several hours.



Then the lower clouds details went in place – getting some definition with fine marks. Twisting the white pastel as I pulled it along the paper to create random marks. Dabbing some mid tones between the highlights



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More highlights into the upper clouds which made the darks appear darker.



Marked in the sea with light pastel strokes in the main area and heavier pastel in the foreground – noting the reflections of the light and the dark clouds.



Used a blending stick to create texture whilst blending the ocean. Short strokes at the horizon, widening as working forward to create a sense of distance. Drew in dark lines to mark the waves and topped them with dashes and dabs of white pastel. Blending stick then used to create angled lines representing movement in the waves.



Signature added and picture sealed with spray



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A grey frame seems to suit this artwork

Added to the [landscape gallery](#) ( link to page ).  
Prints also available ( link to page )

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