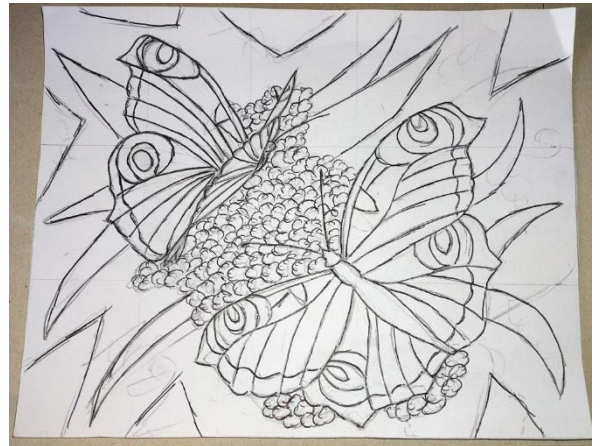


## Peacocks - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

I took this photo in the garden of a cottage we stayed in, Balintore, Scotland, I liked the position of these butterflies as they hovered and fed off the buddleia.



Step 1 was to draw the image – where I decided to reposition the left wing of the open butterfly. The shadows in the photo were caused by me and I didn't want them in the painting. I added a few extra leaves.



Step 2 – coloured pencil fill in. As I filled in the sketch with coloured pencils it brought to my attention some of the smaller details that may have been missed with immediate paint. It also helped me to decide on media – ink-tense to create a soft background and vibrancy of colour on the butterflies. I liked the dark outlines which needed to be kept in mind as I painted.



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Transferred the image to watercolour paper (twice as the first time I hadn't left enough stretched paper to fit the image in). Then painted the background, building up and mingling two greens, a mustard yellow and some neutral grey until I was happy with the effect. Painted carefully around the edges of the flower and the butterflies.



Put the orange dots in for the flower middles, then painted round the dots with light purple and again round the light purple with a darker purple. Very intricate work which took some time. Started work on the butterflies with reds. Working from orange/red to a primary red by mixing these colours together and painting each section of the wings individually.



For the right wing on the left butterfly added some browns to the red mixture to create darker shades.



## Peacocks - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Blocked in the blue and blacks and put fine lines along the wing edges with browns and the red/orange. Painted the bodies with the wing edge brown and tipped with the blue



Before commencing on more details, decided that I didn't like the stripes I'd put through the top wing eyes, so some lifting and re-whitening occurred (with white gouache). Darkened the bodies with fine lines of darker brown and made the tip darker blue.



With the painting complete, it was time to decide on the outlines. I went for it. Starting with black on the butterflies, it made them pop. I also outlined the leaves and the flowers with darker shades of the green and the purple, using the ink tense as undiluted as possible.



# Peacocks - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

White mount and natural frame will complete the presentation.

Added to the [Butterflies painting gallery](#)

[Prints](#) also available

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