

Bonnets - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

I took this photo back in November (2021) and liked the tonality of it along with the patterns formed in the decaying wood/



Because the mushrooms are in fact tiny – maximum 3cm tall, the painting also has to be small. Decided to work to A4 mount size with a 14.5 x 23 cm aperture. This has increased the size of the main mushroom to 16cm i.e. 5 times its actual size.



Outline drawing transferred to black pastel paper with pastel pencils.



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Using browns, ochres, white and black along with a blending stick here's where I was after the first pastelling session.



It was then a matter of:

Working the gills – light grey and white pastel pencils.

Putting in the stems white and yellow ochre.

Completing the rest of the wood to compliment that already done with the addition of olive green to add a little variety.

Putting black and dark browns in the background carefully working round the edges of the bonnets and wood with blenders to push the dark pastels up against them.



Going into a cream mount and light wood frame.

Added to [the Flora gallery](#) (link to page).

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