

# If Percy Painted Portsoy? - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw



At the Art Group I led a session "Paint like Percy". We brought along some favourite Percy Kelly pictures, had a discussion about the artist and his work and then it was time to have a go.

I'd taken along a reference photo I took of Portsoy on the Moray Firth. It reminded me of Percy Kelly work around Working and Whitehaven (both towns on the west Cumbrian coast) but less industrialised.



Started by drawing the picture incorrectly when I placed the pier in the wrong place, so turned the paper over and re-commenced.

Initial work done on sketch paper as I knew there would be quite a bit of rubbing out.



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Transferred the drawing to watercolour paper. Using watercolours started on the filling in. I decided to leave the middle ground and up the hill white as I noticed that Mr Kelly quite often left white areas in his work. Yellow ochre came out first, followed by burnt umber, vandyke brown and paynes grey. Here's where I got to at the end of the session.



Liking how this was going, I decided to continue. I could see that this had the potential to be quite complex so I played about in photoshop to create a tonal image.



Whilst playing with photoshop I also discovered a drawing facility. Useful if ever I am struggling to get the drawing right.



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Comparing my drawing to the electronic drawing I could see that I had missed quite a few things. I think in the session I had wanted to start on the colours. Made some additions of:

Buildings to the top right.

More chimney pots.

More buildings on the left.

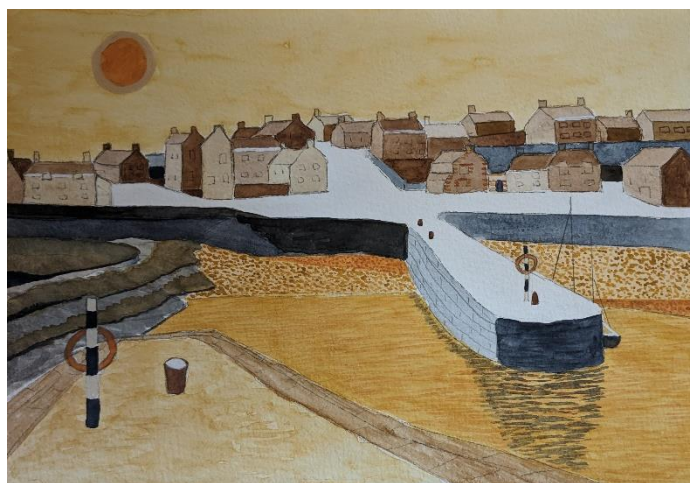
Boat peeking out from behind the harbour wall.

Life belts and boat tie bollards..

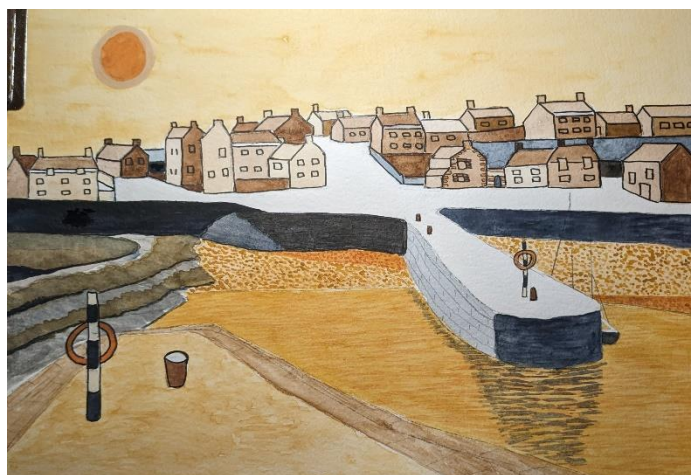
Whilst generally Percy Kelly didn't put in much detail I could see little bits on my chosen works for in the style of so bricks added to the centre harbour wall along with topping slabs on the left.



2 more sessions at the art group added more colour and detail and brought me to the stage of getting out the outlining pens. Cadmium red deep added to the colours to give the orange for the sun. White gouache used to do some touching up of the white area and add some highlights to the roof tops.



Darkened the right side of the harbour wall. Outlined the buildings and the items on the jetties. Touched up paint areas if there was a gap after outlining.



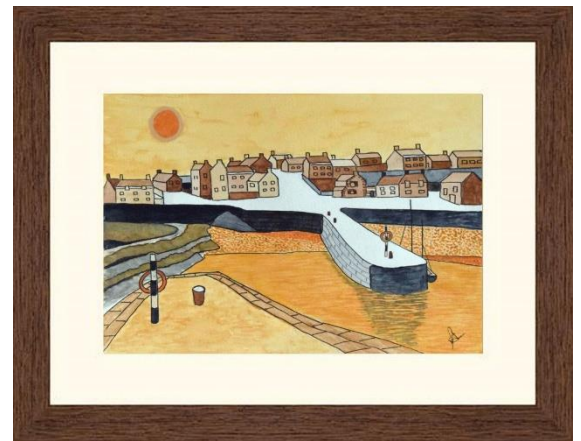
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Continued to outline the front of the scene being careful not to overdo it.

Quite happy with this. I think Percys impression may have been more industrialised. As this is somewhere I visit on holiday, it's gentler, definitely my style but with Percy's colours. Hence the reason there is a question mark at the end of the title.



I think a dark brown frame will complete the work.



Added to the [City and Town](#) Artworks gallery.

[Prints available](#) in 16 x 12 or A4 mounts

[Cards](#) also available

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