

My Vincent 4- Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

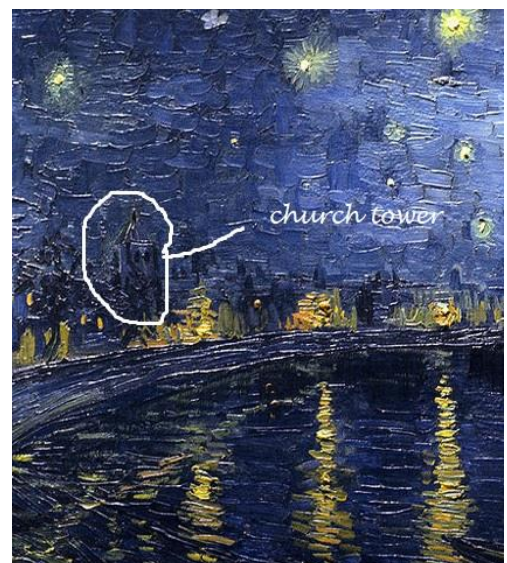
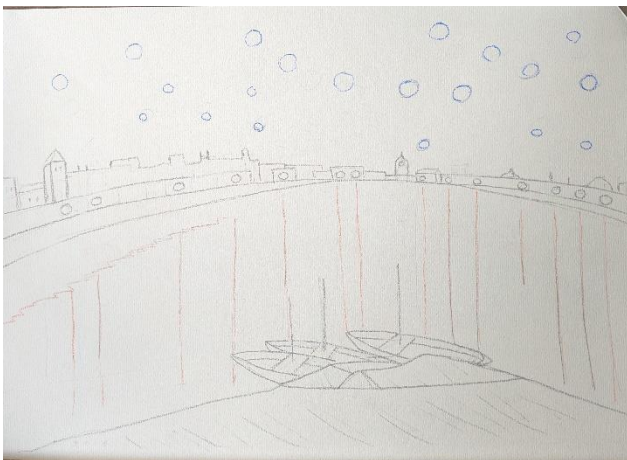
I do enjoy some of Vincents work and like to have a go at pieces that capture my attention. This is one of them “The Starry Night over the Rhone”.



Started work fairly small A4 as a project to be taken to art group.



Transferred the drawing to pastel paper and whilst working on the sky quickly realised that A4 wasn't going to be big enough to show marks (which I think this painting is all about). Scanned the A4 drawing and sized up to A3 for transfer to A3 pastel paper. Whilst transferring the image I looked very closely at the original and found some details in the buildings along the shoreline – for example a church tower on the left. Studying the original is part of the enjoyment for me in having a go at these famous paintings.



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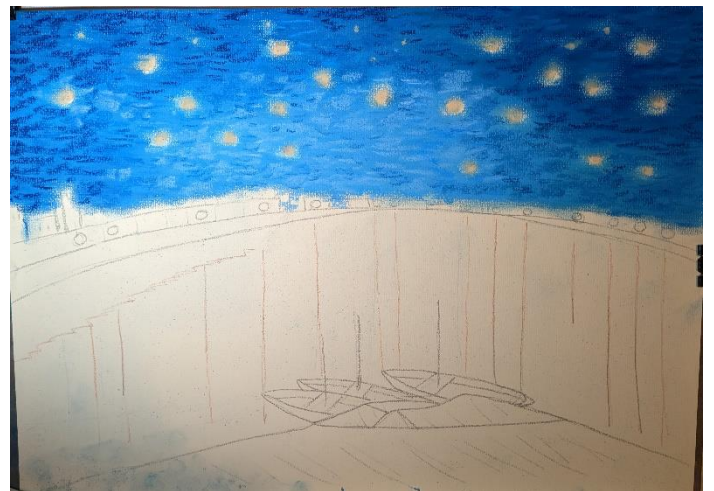
As I wanted to look more closely at the shore line I went back on line and found a much larger image allowing me to zoom into the details. However what is also very noticeable is the different blues and a different crop.



Having read the description of the work written by Vincent in a letter to his brother he talks about the aqua sky with ultramarines on the water. Made a start by using turquoise as my base in the sky.



Picking up some darker blues 2nd layer of sky with dashes of darker blues. Used fingers to blend these.



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After the 2nd layer blending the marks had blended too much. Added a third layer of heavier marks with the darkest blue

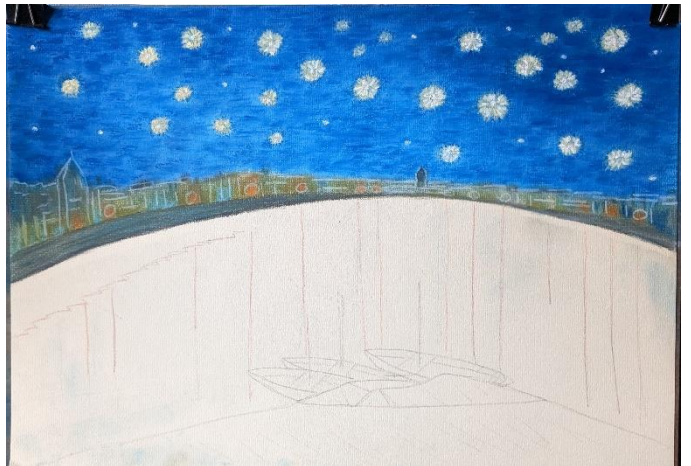


Used a square tipped blending stick to ensure that marks were showing. Using pastel I can't produce an impasto texture as per the original so just need to show the mark making.



With peach, yellow and white worked the stars rather like daises and added a few extra single white dots. Probably a few too many large stars and more than the original – but this is my version.

Marked in the bay with colours and shapes. Blended these and ended up with a bit of a murky mess, so used a cotton bud to lift leaving colours on the paper. Taking a pastel pencil marked in some lines to be followed with the pastels.



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There was a delay of several days as a virus laid me up. Went to work mark making to represent the buildings and lights on the quayside. The temptation was to draw small buildings so I resisted (except for the church tower which has drawn my attention and the off centre tower/clock which is also clear in the original).



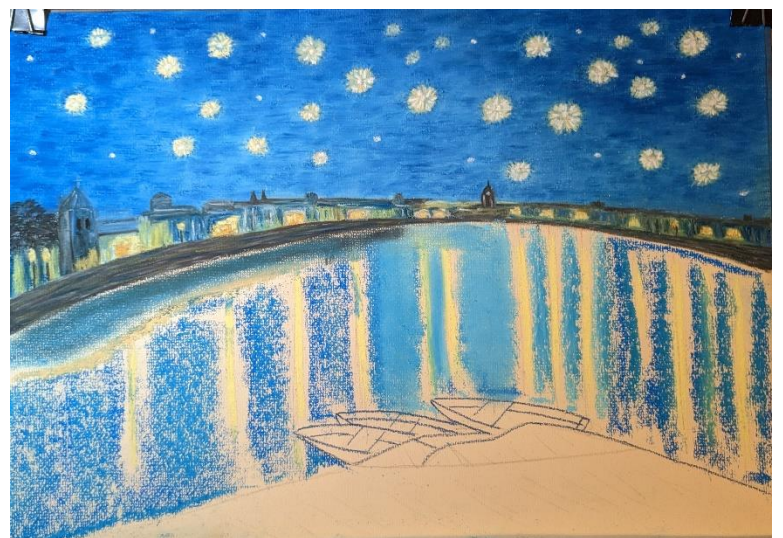
Completed the buildings noting that those at the right side of the clock tower are not as bright as those on the left. Again just mark making of horizontal and vertical lines to represent the buildings. Added some lighter lines to the dark quay areas.

Put yellow lines in the water where the light reflections are.



Using the turquoises and dark blue (which formed the sky base) filled in between the highlights adding some grey under the left quay side.

To prevent losing the boats marked them in with a dark blue pastel pencil. Used fingers to rub the pastel into the paper.



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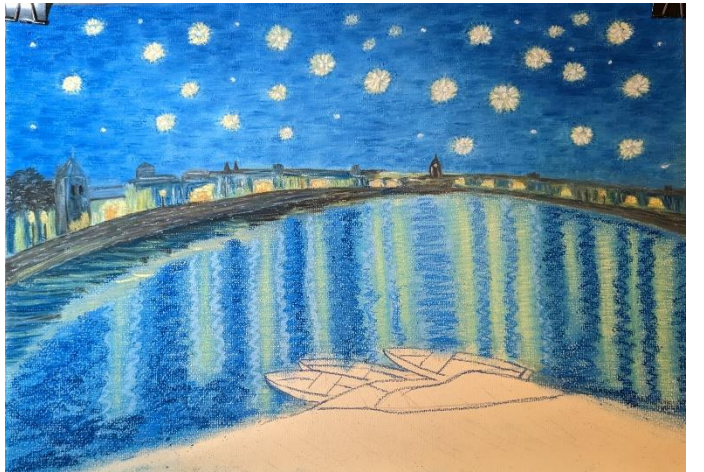
To start giving the horizontal lines in the water went over the areas with side to side strokes using a square blending stick.

Made an alteration to the foreground and the rear of the right boat.



Put the boat alteration back as was. Worked the left side of the water under the quay wall with lines of blues, greens and a few blacks to meet the wave that runs in from the left side of the picture.

Scribbled in the water tones with light blues surrounding the reflected lights and mid tones into darker tones between the lights.



With a square blending stick and side to side movements (small near the buildings and increasing in size coming forward) blended the tones into each other.

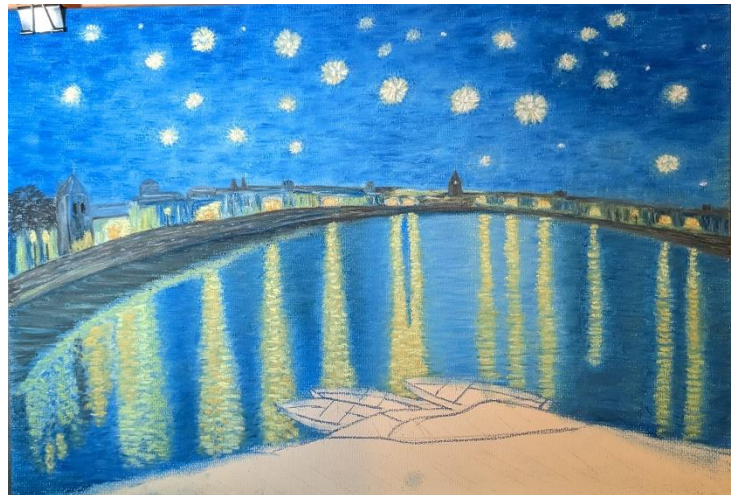


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Onto the reflections. Drawn in either orange or green, then blended into the blue water topped with heavier marks in yellow, orange or green. Adjusting the blues to make darker and lighter where required. As the lights went into the water, I felt like a competition was developing with the sky so some stars were reduced in size and some disappeared.



Completed the reflections making tweaks to those already done. The water at the right of the picture was darkened along with the water band at the left. More blending in the water.

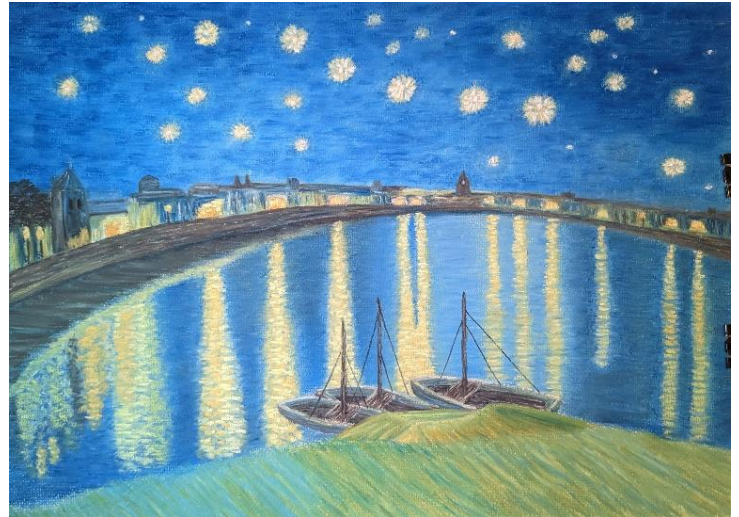


Boats added with mixtures of blues, green and greys. Charcoals use for masts, rigging and putting rustic marks into the hulls.



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Placed the first pastel layers on the foreground with long strokes. Light blues at the left moving to greens and dark blues to the right.



Darkened the water near the foreground and broke up the long strokes. More detail on the hump in the middle.



Onto the finishing touches. Evened out the foreground and created a boundary line between the foreground and the water. Added more lighter greens into the buildings. A little more blending of the water dark areas into the mid tones.



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Onto framing decision. I did think about a black frame but after playing decided it was a little harsh so planning for a dark brown.

Added to [Landscapes gallery](#).

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