

## Stuarts Bird - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

On a birthday treat my friend visited a bird display. One of the young owls took a liking to him and landed on his shoulder. For a Christmas treat I thought that I'd do him a drawing of the owl. Small picture – 15 x 23cm / 5.75 x 9 inches



Here's the outline drawing on pastel paper.



Made the outline drawing more distinct with the use of colour – pastel pencils and tinted charcoal. Then work began on the eyes and the beak - trying to get in the facial features.



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Once I was happy with the eyes penciled in the face. Base layer of white, amber and grey for the feathers and yellow for the beak. Then worked olive into the beak with a dark underline and yellow into the facial feathers.



Worked some white highlights in the face with pastel as the pencils weren't giving me the required lights. Made the beak sharper. Completed the head and marked in the whites on the body.



Selected a range of yellow ochres, indian reds and tan browns to work the back followed by the middle. Then went back to the head to make in more in line with the work on the body.



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Decided to remove the branch and put in my friends shoulder as per the reference. This makes the picture very personal. Worked the chest with white and the light ochres, reds and browns then returned to the face with the chest colours. Mixture of greens and black to start the background.



Rubbed the background into the paper and then with greens, grey and black created a textured pattern to represent the foliage. Reduced the size of the right eye. More texture in the t-shirt and signed.

Just mounting this so my friend can select his own frame.



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