

## Catching the Northern Lights 1 - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

I have an idea for several paintings to add to my CATching series – using the Northern Lights as the subject. As I don't have any of my own photos that fit the criteria, I've worked from research and a lot of imagination. I was drawn to the images of the ribbon like lights.

Here's my compositional sketch.

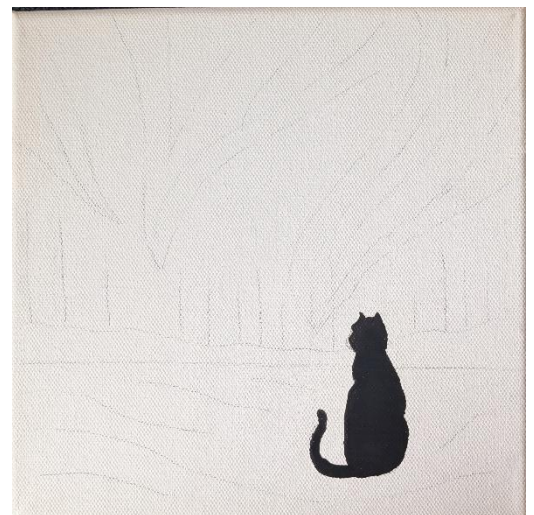


Transferred to a small canvas 20 x 20cm (8 x 8 inches).

The plan is for 3 more paintings to follow. One at the same size and two on larger boards 30 x 30 cm (12 x 12 inches)



Marked the CAT in as an anchor point using black acrylic markers.



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In an underpainting of the sky line and the foreground I changed the composition to add some water to create interest and break up the large land area.



Painted the sky dark with an ultramarine, prussian and cyan mix. Added some mid green to the mix for the horizon ground. More Green added for the foreground. At this point I decided to change the composition to reduce the foreground and have the water in the same colours as the lights.

With titanium white added to the green and the prussian blue, plus a little cadmium yellow, using a wisp brush worked the lights. Once dry titanium white placed along the bottom with a prussian blue line to make the lights stand out.

More lights rising up from the ground.

Used the light colours in random lines to create the water.



Onto the final stages.

Repaint the cat.

I then decided that making the foreground grasses would work well with the lines in the lights.

Added the trees and painted the cat for a third time.

Lastly, dotted a few stars in the sky.

Signed and added to my [CATching Gallery](#).



Prints and cards available.

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