

## Catching the Northern Lights 2 - 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 background subject. With none of my own photos fitting the criteria, this time I'm working from imagination and some research.

Here's my sketch for CATching the Northern Lights 2.



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



Marked the Cats in with acrylic markers as an anchor point.



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With an undepainting of the sky and some ground I quite liked the darker area between the ground and the sky. However I felt the image needed something else.



Added some water – maybe a pond that can reflect the lights as they go into the sky. Along with something across the pond – some distant trees. To be decided.



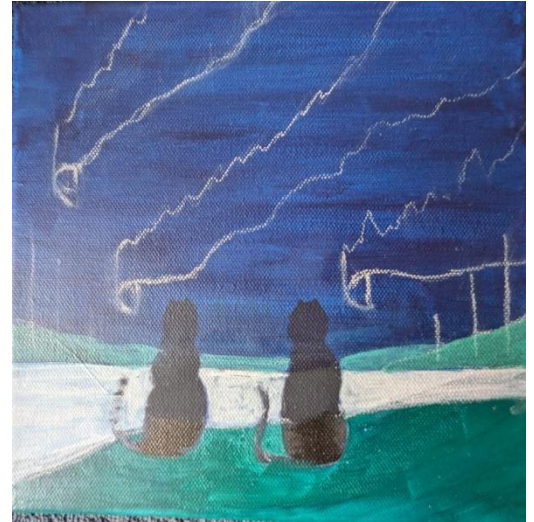
Put the second layer of paint on the night sky using a mix of ultramarine and prussian blue. Then drew in the lights and changed the composition of the ground using white pastel.





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Painted in the ground changes



Added the lights using mixes of prussian blue, mid green and cadmium yellow with titanium white. Didn't worry about covering the cats as they will be re-painted in towards the end.



Using the same colours as the sky lights painted in the water. Another compositional change of the cats sitting on a peninsula.



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Added the trees at the horizon with a mix of green, prussian blue and paynes grey. Staying with the greens and blues painted in the grasses. Time to put the cats back in with an acrylic marker.



A couple of tweaks were needed on the cats to create a better shape with a top coat of black paint. Added some large trees at each side and stars in the sky completed the picture.



A white frame enhances the scene.

Added to the [CATching gallery](#).

Prints and cards available.

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