

Pier CATching 2 - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Continuing with my CATching series. After completing Pier CATching 1 – 20 x 20 cm. I decided to continue with some larger images 30 x 30 cm.



Pier CATching 1

Here's my sketch for Pier CATching 2 ready to be transferred to canvas board.



Once transferred, underpainting underway with mixes of indigo, ultramarine and mixing white. Cats marked in with black acrylic marker and moon with titanium white.



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Blocked in the buildings with shades of grey mixed from ultramarine, burnt umber and white to create 3d effect. Blocked in the pier with a lighter line down the middle and widening the pier towards the foreground.



Then decided that the pier was too long and too wide, so alteration no two.



Onto the sky. I wanted the impression of clouds scudding across the moon. Achieved by layering and blending darks and lights. Working initially with larger brushes and going finer as the lines were refined. This took a few sessions as I had to let the paint fully dry between layers. Repainted in the moon and then with a fine brush dragged some pale blues over the surface. I did try to stop obliterating the buildings but, in the end, went over them.



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Marked the buildings back in with a pastel pencil.



Then repainted.



Building lights marked in with pastel pencil.



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Then painted lights in several different colours white, peach, pale yellow and light blue. I realised that I wasn't doing myself any favours when it came to reflections.

The reflections went very wrong and were wiped off twice. Peach band painted under the buildings to separate them from the water.



After some thought I copied the top of the painting into the water area to create reflections. Spent some time thinking how the reflections of the clouds will work and noted with an arrow.



Reflections painted in – and yes it was difficult matching up those lights, along with getting the cloud reflections. Marked the pier in with white.



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Looked back to the original idea and realised that the shortened pier wasn't right so marked the longer version back in. I also wanted to add more interest to the picture so drew in lightening rods on the buildings and added some stars.



Painted in the additions. With the final paint coat on the pier, lost the cats along the way.



Painted the cats back into the scene. Added a few more small stars and a few twinkles on some of the larger stars.

Heading into a grey frame.

Added to [CATching gallery](#).

Prints and cards available.

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