

Shells - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

I had this idea to paint some shells as

1. I have rather a large collection
2. I thought they looked good when I saw some.

Set off with selecting some shells that when glued together would make a butterfly.



A large scallop shell and a whelk shell that have naturally beautiful patterns. My line of thought was "enhance".

I smiled when I realised that the stands I have make them look like they have legs.

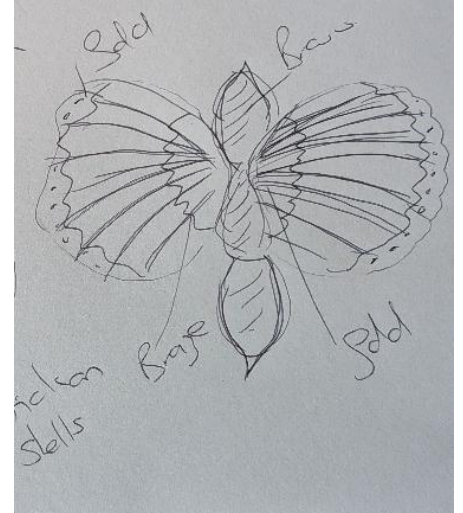
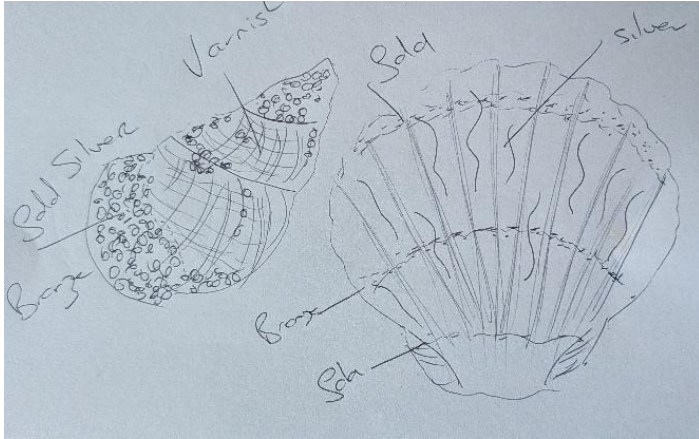


I was pleased when I managed to glue the butterfly together. My first experience with a hot glue gun.



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Then some “design” sketches sticking to embellishment rather than painting.



I decided on metallic acrylic paints, gold, silver and copper. Finding that the silver disappeared into the shell I mixed that with the copper. Then I started to paint following my designs. I recently bought a set of fine brushes designed for painting models and found they are perfect for the small details.

The whelk shell took the longest as I painted each barnacle with one of the three colours. Next came the scallop shell where I increased the bands to three sets of three from the design. The butterfly followed a similar design to the scallop. I mixed a third metallic with silver and burnt umber which formed the lines on the butterflies body shells.

Here they are. Hubby is going to think about wooden natural stands for them.



Added to my web page "[shells](#)"

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