

Jane Puckering – 10 Nov 2014 – Pastels

Jane uses 4mm MDF board for her paintings which she prepares with White JESSO primer using a big brush, not brushed carefully, so lines are left on the board for texture. The board is then covered with 'Golden' acrylic ground for pastels which is a type of Jesso. Sometimes she uses an Aubergine coloured base depending on the subject of the picture and the colours required.

Tonight Jane was using a photo which she had enlarged on her computer of Mousehole (Mous'le) Harbour, Cornwall , taken from a Hotel window; she normally works with photo's as she does not like painting live.

She started painting with Marine Blue Acrylic with splodges of pink and some black.



She says it is better to have a dark undercolour as they can be lightened later with pastels.

Jane then went on to Newquay Old Harbour, already painted as above but on a white background.



She then started with the pastels and said to start with that they should not be all held in the hand at once whilst drawing as the colours will mingle. Jane uses 'Unison' pastels as they are nice & creamy & fat & stubby. She said that if you are blending colours on a board, such as the MDF she is using, you have to press harder which the 'Unison' pastels are ideal for.

It is fine for the under-painting to show through as it can add texture to the picture. She said you should work from the top downwards as when the dust falls it could ruin a section that had already been completed further down.

She drew in some sky using pink and light blue, emphasised the harbour wall and the background beyond which is the surfer's beach (Fistral) then drew in some boats in outline



If some part is textural it will leap forward so to push it into the background, smooth it over with a/the finger(s).. You can also use a brush with water on it which, when dry, can be pastelled over again.



Jane added some figures and said it is best to get the shoulders and hips correct and add the head later on.



She then added some rocks, a huge chain and some mooring lines.

Below the completed picture



Returning to Mousehole Harbour, now dry, Jane started with blue and yellow in the sky. Added some darkish blue to the water and purple to the hill.



A grey roof was added to the right foreground, detail added to the sea wall and some rocks to the foreground; who said there was no such thing as black?



Jane with the finished picture



As a final tip, Jane said that the best way to clean pastels is use Ground Rice in a plastic container and shake gently. Do not use a glass or tin container as they are too hard and could damage the pastels.

Jon Wright

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