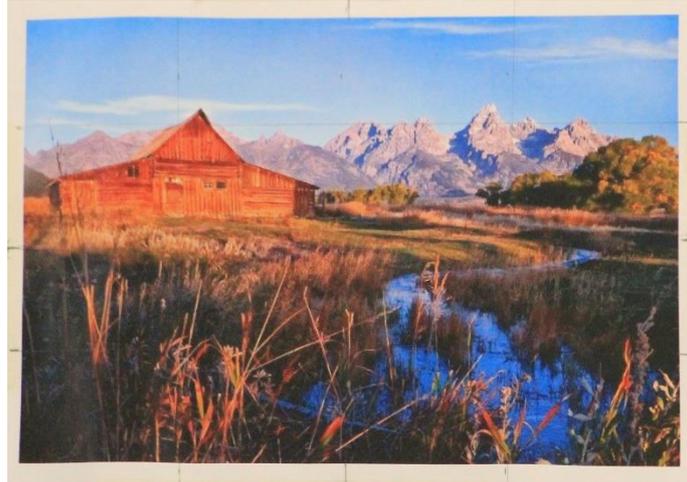


Angela Corben – Acrylics – 12 October 2020

Angela usually paints 'En Plein Air' but as that could be difficult for a demonstration, chose a picture from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming USA. The picture has strong shapes, colours, and contrasts.



She started with a charcoal sketch, working very quickly, to get the basic shapes and then used the side of the charcoal to get the main tonal shapes, squinting to work out where the key darks are and to capture the movement of the image.

Angela uses an 8mm board which had been prepared with Gesso, and Atelier Interactive Acrylic paints. She also uses an Atelier Unlocking Fluid which prevents the paint drying too quickly especially useful when working outdoors.

She starts with a blue wash as an underpainting covering the whole board with blue for the sky and the reflection in the river, then takes out some areas with a rag for the cloud areas. She says you must be careful not to dilute it too much otherwise the paint can lose its adherence quality.



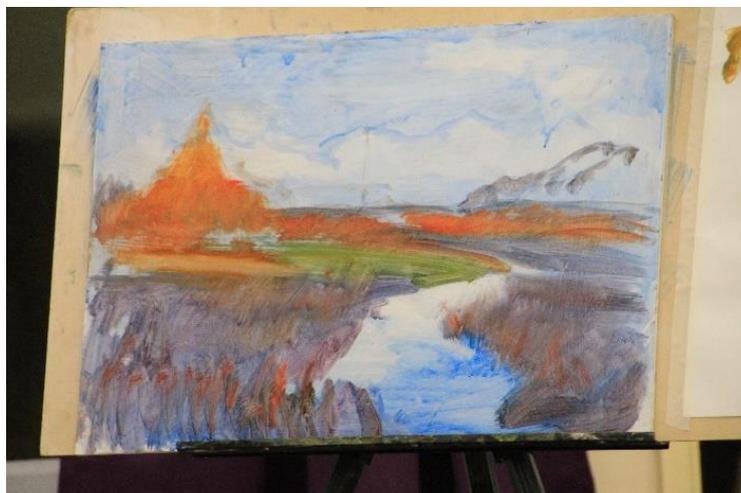
She then goes in with some thicker (darker) blue for the water reflection in the river and using a brush mapped out the shape of the mountain range by removing the paint.



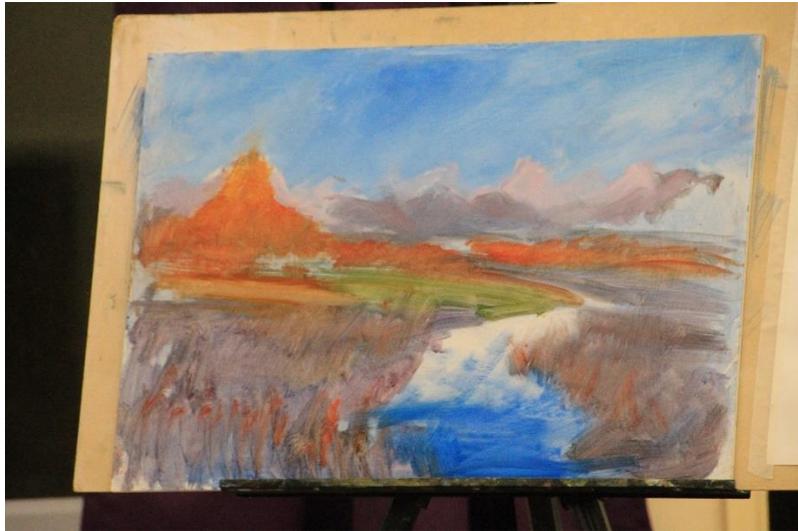
She then painted in some Yellow Ochre for the building shape and then Crimson Red and Phthalo Blue for the foreground dark shapes.



Then Cadmium Red and Yellow for some areas including the building.



Angela then put in some more of the darker shade of blue in the sky graduating down to the horizon. At the same time darkening the river reflection in the foreground.



She then started to put in the mountains using some white blended into the pinks to sharpen the edges of them. Then started to paint in the house using orange and raw sienna and put in a shadow running right across the picture with phthalo blue and raw sienna.



She used some lighter shade of cadmium yellow and white to highlight the edges of the building and put in some more dark shadow colour for the left and right foreground.

Moving back to the mountains, some dark blue was applied to give shadows and then some lighter blue to move against the shadows for contrast.



Angela then applied some light blue to the sky above the mountains to accentuate them which gave them more vibrancy. She then highlighted the edges of the house to bring it out of the mountains and make it more prominent.

Then she started to put in the middle-distance trees on the right-hand side using yellow ochre and phthalo blue.

She then put in some very dark blue on the foreground water which looked wrong until she blended it in with a rag following the shape of the river.



Angela applied some warm highlights to the foreground grass using red and orange. The dark shapes in the foreground hold the picture together and she said she should have been braver and made them darker earlier. She then used a rigger brush for some of the foreground grasses and then left the dark areas along the riverbank very indistinct but sharpening the edges. More foreground grasses were put in including some in the river.



The finished picture



Angela with the finished picture