

Woodland walk in pastels by Lynda Kettle

Lynda began openly sharing her background. Currently living in Sidmouth, daughter of an oil painting father and an accounting mother, she attended Stourbridge School of Art. Through Theatre design, TV set design, and Art director at BBC, now she is retired and devotes herself to painting, teaching at Art Clubs and running demos. She begins by taking a photo which she edits and adjusts on her Apple computer, concentrating on black and white tones.

Addressing the picture, she already has a frame size in mind before she begins. She expounded the rule of thirds and the three C's, Colour, Contrast and Composition, plus the need for focal points. Her original sketch was drawn in 6B graphite pencil. Her paper choice for pastels is according to the tooth texture, like sand on the surface, this can be applied to any smoother surface by painting on Art Spectrum multipics primer. Use the best quality pastels you can afford, quality pastels equals a quality product! Unison colour soft pastels is her preference.

Use an easel to keep your picture upright and clean, collect the dust below and place the easel on a plastic sheet. Her style was based on pointillism (a technique of using small dots of pure colour whose patterns visually blend to form an image). Working from light to dark, she had already produced the background, fixed with Frisk Pastel Fixative. She began with light colour leaves then multi coloured, working in layers. Her first piece was completed by the mid evening coffee break, following which she rapidly produced a snow scene on pastelmatt paper with shadows in blues, moody sky and suggested trees and grasses - all in about 20 minutes, inspiring.



