

Dahlia Trio - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

I decide to capture some of the blooms from my newly created garden. The images will be quite small. The plan is to complete them at art group with dry materials making my project materials and equipment easy to carry.



Here's the outline drawing of the three red dahlias measuring about 9.5 x 7.5 inches / 24 x 18.5cm.



I was thinking of doing this in coloured pencils on black paper and transferred the outline drawing to the paper. I made a start with ordinary pencils which didn't work so I changed to metallic ones. The colours were dark with the black background but I enjoyed how they change as the light hits them. One and a half flowers photographed with a day light bulb. I enjoyed the creaminess and blendability of the metallic pencils.

I started by laying down an initial single colour of red for each petal and used a blending stump to create a smooth surface. Lines were added with varying colours to create texture and tonality. Outlined the petals with gold. Centre coloured in bronze and stamens in gold green



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2nd Dahlia completed.

Started debating at this point to buy a set of professional quality pencils if I decide on more pencil work going forward.



Completed the third flower and trimmed the paper to mount size. Photographed in natural light and edited to produce as near colours as possible with light directly onto the image.



Debated putting some leaves on but when I placed the image in the mount – leaves weren't required. Black frame finishes the picture.

Added to the [Flora gallery](#).
[Prints](#) and [cards](#) also available.

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