

Pink Poppies- Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

At the art group I like to have a project that I can pick up each week without paints drying out. Therefore I tend to work with dry materials. Looking at my pastels I have lots of unused pinks and I'm still working with my gifted greens. I saw these poppies on an early fine June day and decided that these will become my art group project.



Not wanting to go too large – A4 on pastel paper is easy to carry. Gridded the image and worked an outline drawing.



Transferred the image to pastel paper and thought I may reduce the right side petal. I like the thought of a bud, a partially open flower and a fully open flower.



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Outlined with pastel pencil and selected a range of pinks to commence pastelling.



Completed the first layer of pinks, used a blender to create texture and transition from one colour into the next. Then working from left to right started on the second layer. At this point I did reduce the size of the right most petal.



2nd layers of poppies completed and decided to have the bud just opening so marked in the pink on that. Quite a nice effect achieved at this point.



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Added the centre of the poppies with dark purple and a very dark grey. Marked in the bud with a light green.



Made a start on the background without really thinking about where I was going. Needed to have a study of the reference photo and a think before I went any further.



Decided to plain colour the background to give me a blank canvas. Those poppies are vibrant against the green.



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After receiving recent feedback that plain backgrounds needed more interest, decided on lines and dashes to represent the foliage.



Next ramped up the lights in the flowers and the darks in the greens. Finally gently tapped away excess pastel before signing.



I think a natural frame and can work out overall sizes as frame maker (aka hubby) has just re-stocked framing materials.

Added to the [Flora gallery](#).

[Prints](#) and [cards](#) also available.

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