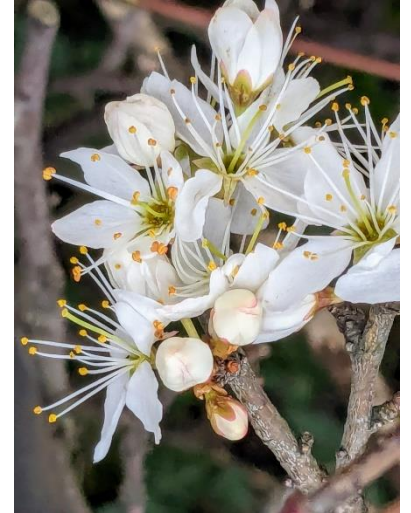


First Sloe Blossom - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

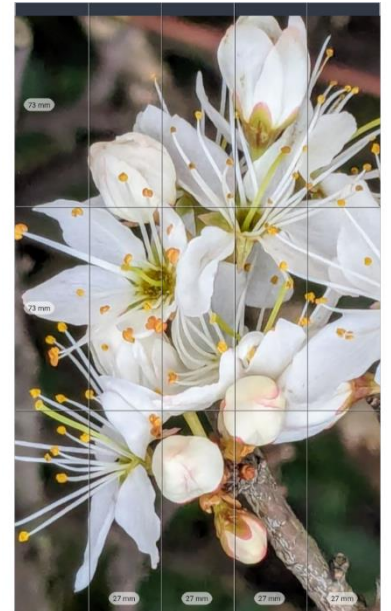
I spotted my first sloe blossom of 2024 mid March.

Took a close up photo with the phone and decided to paint.



Cropped and Gridded the picture and I was struggling to draw it. Lots of details that needed to initially be ignored to get the layout right. I have a mount and frame ready for this so needed to work to a specific size.

Realisation dawned why I was struggling when I discovered I'd got the measurements wrong



Started over again with the right measurements and decided to get some help from the pc by converting the photo into a drawing enabling me to find the main outlines. I quite like the effects of the pc conversation.

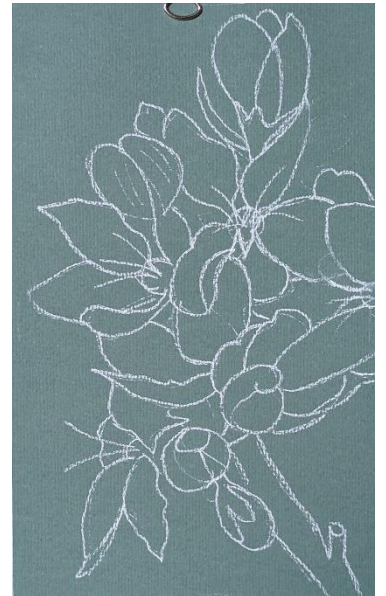


First Sloe Blossom - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Inked in the outlines and things became much clearer.



Transferred the drawing to pastel paper where things look much simpler. I also decided to bring in the centre of the right flower as the stamens will lead the viewer back into the picture.



Pastelling commenced with Derwent pastel pencils and Faber Castel polychromos pastels.



First Sloe Blossom - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Working through the individual petals.



Petals completed and started on the twig.



Twig completed and marked in the stamens. Tried the stamens with pastel pencil and the polychromos pastels but they need to be whiter.



First Sloe Blossom - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Tried ordinary pastels but didn't achieve the whiteness so turned to acrylics. Using thick tube acrylic painted in the stamens, lengthening the existing ones and adding some shorter ones. They're not as smooth as I ideally wanted but are very white.



Whitened some of the areas of the blossom as the stamens were overpowering the petals. Put the tips of pollen onto the stamens.



Looked at the potential mount and frame and I felt that the picture was lacking darks so needed to do some work on a background.



First Sloe Blossom - Artwork in Progress by Margaret Shaw

Filled in some spaces between the blooms with dark grey, then marked out a pattern to be filled with dark pastels and tinted charcoals.



Picture completed by filling in the pattern and then blending to create a dark background made up of several shades.



Brown Frame and white mount completes the image after several weeks of work as my take to the art group project.

Added to [Flora Gallery](#)

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