

Panther Lily

Watercolour & acrylic

This painting started out as a demonstration for an art group simply to show a variety of techniques in flower painting - hence the wet into wet section of background at the top using waterdrops and salt.

There were just one or stems drawn in at the time. Later on I developed the composition more fully, adding additional stems, leaves and buds. All the components were then painted, using softer bluegreens for the leaves I wanted to portray as set back visually into the picture plane.



Next I needed to decide how dark to go with the background. It would have been very safe to stick to the softer tints for the whole, but I wanted to see if I could incorporate some rich darks for a bolder interpretation.

Using acrylic inks and watercolour, I started in the bottom right corner to establish the shadow areas first, then fanned outwards into the lighter areas, evaluating the overall effect as I went, working wet into wet.

The textures came from sprinkling salt, and flicking water drops from my finger tips into the wet paint. The sense of movement in the initial demonstration area was an important consideration for the whole. I then glazed over some of the foreground leaves with yellow to brighten them and strengthened the veining on the blue green leaves.

After using so much water for the background, I couldn't resist painting in a few actual water droplets as a final touch.

