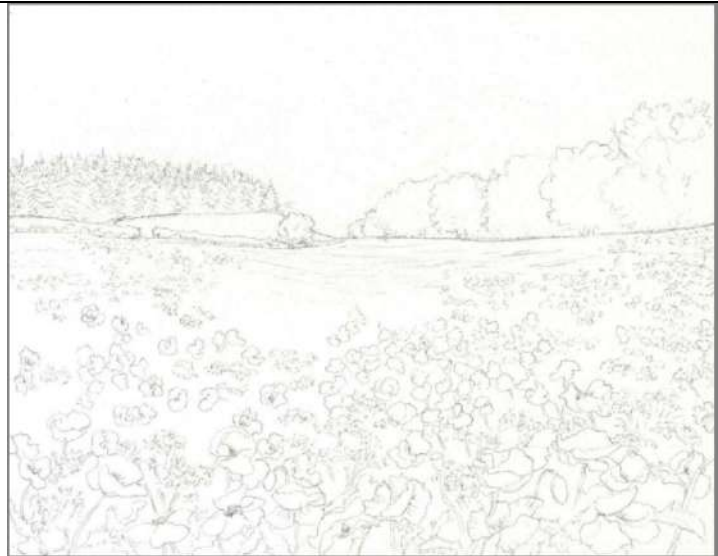


Poppy Field
watercolour
18.5 by 23.5cm

This is a largely imagined scene using some features of Scottish Borders scenery, such as the plantation of firs and sculpted hawthorn hedge.

First the features were drawn lightly in pencil, using a few reference photographs for the foreground poppy shapes. Most of the poppies and ragwort, which flower through July and August, were masked to protect the shapes from adjacent washes. These masked shapes become stipples near the horizon.



First stage washes of greens, reds and yellows were drifted onto the field, making the reds more crimson in the far ground to aid visual recession. All the masking fluid shapes were removed, leaving the white of the paper.



Next the poppies and ragwort were painted in from foreground to background, with texturing and modeling, but using smaller and more impressionistic brush strokes further away from the viewer. It is the shifting scale that made this an interesting subject for me.



The vermillion reds became more crimson, the cadmium yellow more lemon yellow for an illusion of aerial perspective. I also made the reds on the left a warmer red orange to suggest more sunlight in this area.

I infilled the negative areas between flowers and stems with shapes of darker tones of greens to convey density of foliage, again with the left side slightly lighter and warmer than the right.



Finally, the trees were painted using light, medium and dark tones, taking care to retain a softness so as not to compete with the more graphic foreground interest. A naturalistic 'scudding' cloud sky was chosen with the clouds smaller towards the horizon, again the aim being not to detract from the foreground poppies.

