

To create the illusion of shimmering light, I applied short strokes of color from the same color families.

ARTIST
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Plowed Field, acrylic, 19" x 23 1/2" (50 x 60cm)



my inspiration

It was August and I was driving through the countryside of Norfolk, looking at all the wonderful variations in color that spread across the landscape. I was amazed to find this freshly plowed field that glowed in the setting sun.

my design strategy

By sheer luck, I found the subject already perfectly composed. All that was needed was to crop into the composition quite hard to position the focal point of the white farmhouse just off center. The curve of the road and verge naturally carried the eye into the hedge row and along to the building and beyond. I quickly produced thumbnail sketches and took photographs before the sunset.

my working process

- Using photographs and the sketches as reference, I redrew the scene onto a canvas board in pencil.
- Using quite a large brush, I quickly and loosely painted in the basic color structure of the picture.
- Next, I established where the light from the setting sun touched the trees and field, leaving the dark shadows behind. I applied the acrylic paint quite thickly to achieve a more rounded impression of a glowing sunset.
- From a range of pure colors, I rapidly mixed colors, even allowing some colors to mix on the canvas itself to maintain their vibrancy. I used the tips of several flat No. 10 brushes to lay down strokes of lighter and darker greens in the fir trees, as well as dabs of earth colors where the sun catches both

trees and hedges. This technique was then used for the plowed field.

from site to studio

When weather and light permit, there is nothing more enjoyable than working directly outside. However, circumstances often

require me to photograph my subject, download the shots into my computer and use those as reference. I find that preliminary sketches, color notes and even written notes on things like the weather conditions, smells, sounds and so forth are always helpful back in the studio.

what I used

support
Canvas board

brushes
Flats Nos. 8, 10, 12;
round No. 4

acrylic colors

