

Chiarascuro: An Interior Scene in Watercolour

- Original photograph of my sitting room in low light
- Photo of my studio table with the drawing on my easel
- 1. I sketched the scene lightly in 4B pencil onto a Saunders Waterford watercolour paper - 'rough' surface.
- 2. A view of my painting materials - ready to go!
- 3. Using a small nylon brush, I applied masking fluid (blue) to any areas of bright light.
- 4. I thoroughly wet the paper with a large wash-brush over the whole image, taking the water further than I needed, to ensure soft edges
- 5. I had mixed a soft purple from Cadmium Red (Hue) & Ultramarine, plus a little Cerulean blue (be sure to make enough paint!). I now applied this across the whole painting, varying it's strength in places by adding more water. (Leave the masking fluid on until much later)
- 6. While paint was still wet, using a size 8 round, I added a more of the purple mix, adding depth of tone to the armchair! I painted the mirror frame with the purple mix, adding more colour but no more water. I added definition to small areas of shadow at this stage too.
- 7. When the underpainting was completely dry, I laid a mix of Cadmium Yellow and Lemon, with a tiny bit of Cadmium Red, over the cushion, the armchair and the blind in the mirror...
- 8. Using the Cadmium Yellow mix again, I laid a wash of paint over the armchair and used the same mix to create shadows on the cushion and wash in the window blind. I added details to the vase and the frame, using a small brush. The fireplace was painted with a strong mix of Ultramarine, Cadmium Red and a little Cadmium Yellow - this almost creates black.
- 9. This is the painting with the masking fluid removed and the window bars painted back onto the bright reflection on the floor. I deepened the colour and tone of the armchair to help with the contrast. The final touch was to add a suggested pattern onto the rug, by using a 'deerfoot' brush and very little paint.