

# Intuitive Watercolor

## A Magical Process

M E L I N D A D E M E N T

For quite some time, I have been working (playing, really) with watercolors for their spontaneous, fluid nature, and the wonderfully convenient portability for traveling. With this technique, I often do backgrounds when I have privilege to paint, and later add doodles and detail with inks. Sometimes I see potential to work in more depth and layers.

In the *Abstract Daisies* watercolor sketch, I decided to use a very limited color palette to appreciate subtle contrasts among shapes. (As always) I looked at the piece in all directions, and decided to just enjoy making patterns from what was presented.

After using black, white and metallic inks to meander, the oval shape in the soft space at the top kept getting my attention as the center of a flower. I decided to tie together the pop-art florals suggested in the doodling, and define daisy-like flowers.



EARLY Abstract Daisies

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Abstract Daisies

In this *Celtic Bird* abstract sketch, I splashed and played with no thought- a welcome meditative method of spontaneous painting. More often than not in my intuitive work, this initial step, the background, seems to be a visually busy, even chaotic representation of what is going on in my 'inner world'.

With art emulating life, I always subconsciously seek balance. Again, viewing the piece at all angles, I *spotted the bird...* (Do you see it?) Then I set out to experiment with a playful pop-style of creating a Celtic design.



EARLY Celtic Bird



Celtic Bird

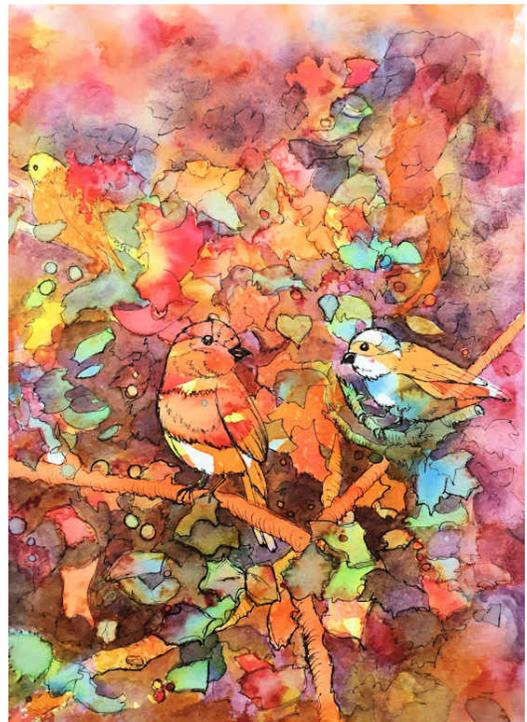
Here I painted a bright and cheerful orange based palette on a good-sized piece of watercolor paper. Upon inspection, it was my typically BUSY background. I saw *at least* three different potential miniature pieces within it!



EARLY Orange Palette & Joyful Bird Inset Area



Joyful Bird



Three Birds in View

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This watercolor was quite a complex surprise! Once again I painted a background that was very busy. I saw *several* potential subjects when looking from all angles. One *Fancy Lady* presented itself with so much fun and ready details:

An eye, a face! Replete with upswept hair, hat, flowers, feathers, lace, scarf- it was so exciting how much was pre-defined at once. I watched with delight as *Fancy Lady* unfolded with relative ease!

In the finishing details, white inks and metallic watercolors were used (the latter which do not represent well in photographs.)



EARLY Fancy Lady

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Fancy Lady

With the following *Merry Tangle* acrylic example, I was demonstrating a textured, dark and colorful background technique, having the intention to teach that one can always find something hidden. Upon enjoying the “hunting for treasures” phase, I must say I was a bit discouraged. While the \*background was fun and playful, I didn’t spot anything that wanted further expression, and decided to leave it alone.

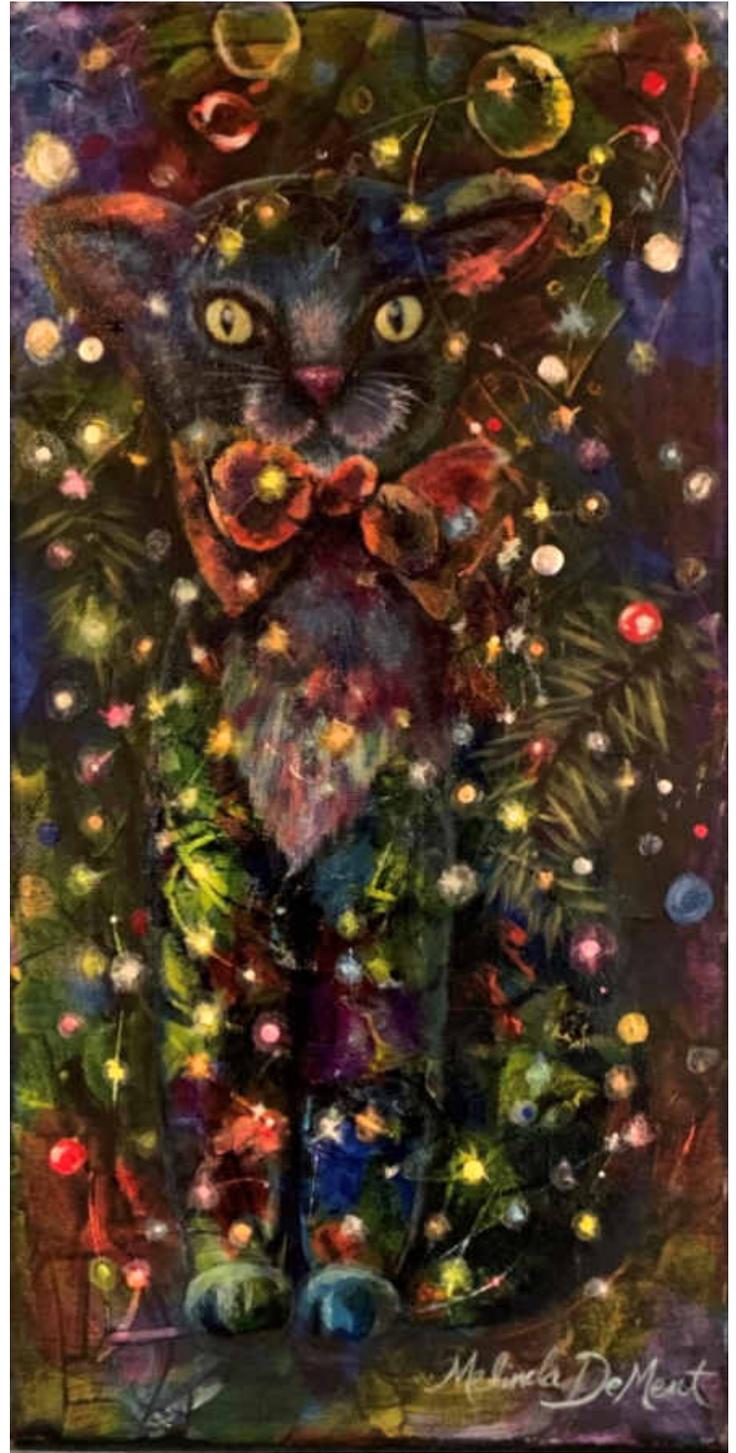
Later, in the wee hours actually, I revisited the art with a fresh eye. *There he was... A mischievous kitty all entangled in the tree lights!* (Perhaps the date of 12/23 was an influencing factor.) As always in my intuitive style of art, once I see something, *I can never ‘un-see’ it!*

\*Note: I didn’t get a snapshot of the earliest step of this piece. The next morning, I excitedly sketched and then finished *Merry Tangle*. It a big hit with my holiday hosts, and I was so pleased to gift it to them!



EARLY Merry Tangle

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Merry Tangle

***For additional intuitive art, poems, and the process explained, [check this:](#)***

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