

under^{the} sea

by Linda Stevens



Silk Painting with Inktense Pencils

This is a painting I created using Inktense on silk. I've used silk that is easily obtainable in any fabric shop. It is heavyweight too, which makes it easier to use for beginners.

I used a silk outliner (clear) to draw out my design; if you are not confident with drawing, simply sketch onto a piece of paper and place behind the silk so you can trace the outline. When the outliner is dry, start applying colour.

1) On the small seahorse I applied Sun Yellow as a wash, taking colour from the end of the pencil using a brush. I transferred the colour to a small saucer, as this gave me constant colour. Once the yellow was applied, I then took oranges and pinks and started to spot these on (which involves extracting the colour from the pencil with a brush and making lots of spots; you'll find they blend in to make a lovely texture.) Use the Shiraz to create the darker ridges on the spine. You can create the colours you require just by working them into layers.

2) For the medium seahorse, I blended Sherbert Lemon and then used the turquoise colours which blended into greens and I used Iron Blue for the top head and fringes.

3) The large seahorse I used a base of Cadmium Yellow, Sicilian Yellow and Sienna Gold. I then used Fuchsia, Dark Purple, Mauve and Deep Rose to create the design using a blending technique. For the outline I applied Iron Blue.

4) For the bright coloured fish I used the same blending technique as step 3. The little yellow and blue fish I used Cadmium Yellow and a mix of Iris Blue and Deep Blue.

5) The yellow and pink fish I worked the colours up to a strong hue, working in layers to build up the colour.

6) I created the kelp using a range of greens, blending and mixing in some browns to create the tones of kelp. I used Iron Blue to emphasise the lines on the kelp.

7) As I needed a large amount of colour for the background, I shaved off some of the pencil strip into a saucer and mixed with a little water. It created just the effect I needed. It may take a while, but the result is an effective background that does not run or overlap too much.

Finish off by dropping salt (coarse and table) onto the wet surface and remove when dry.