



McLean Art Society - April 2022

ANNA KATALKINA

By Palette Editorial Staff

Anna gave us a live demonstration of her style following the general meeting at the McLean Community Center last month. Her works are small and rich in depth and luminosity. She achieves this look by keeping the surface smooth and free of brushstrokes. The background is usually dark and the subject stands out through some twenty-five layers of transparent washes. By varying the value of the wash she transforms flat objects into an image you can almost reach out and touch.

Anna doesn't normally paint from photos but rather sets up the object with proper lighting to achieve the shadows she wants. The subject matter is usually contemporary such as candy and animals. She will make preliminary drawings and when the composition is right, she transfers the drawing to the canvas.

Then starts the work of adding transparent colors to adjust and give depth with shadows. Each layer is allowed to dry before the next is applied. Anna has several pieces in process as drying can take time, even when a medium like Liquin is used.

Anna uses soft brushes and very little paint as she thins the paint to a glaze that is applied without brush strokes. Amazingly little paint is used and that is spread out over the surface which often is a hardboard panel.



Before



After



Many good tips were given as she worked on a sample piece: underpainting base is orange...put masking tape on the easel to keep it clean...rotate the painting to make edges easier to paint...blend with a soft brush to get rid of strokes...use a clean dry brush to clean up areas where paint isn't wanted (do not use solvent)...periodically step back and view at a distance of eight feet...first layers appear flat but final layers add depth and shadows...this is indirect painting by building the shadows in layers...and varnish only at the end when totally dry.

You can visit Anna at her website <https://www.annakatalkina.com/>