

Online gallery

Jane Stroud's selection of works from the PaintersOnline gallery

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Andrew Lucas is passionate about sharing his love of architecture with those around him. I've chosen this bustling street in central London for this month's spotlight, which Andrew has handled with great sensitivity. There's a solidity and permanence to the building that contrasts with the transient nature of the crowds ebbing and flowing around it each day. Here, Andrew describes some of his key thoughts as he painted the scene. If you would like to see more of Andrew's work, post a comment or have a go yourself and upload your own images to our free online gallery, visit www.painters-online.co.uk



▲ Andrew Lucas *Regent Street*, pen and wash, 8¼×6in. (21×15cm)

Growing up in the city of Salisbury, surrounded as he was by countryside, medieval buildings and, of course the magnificent cathedral, Andrew's love of rural and urban spaces started from an early age. "Drawing and art," he says, "have always offered me a natural platform on which to express what I feel about the world around me." He began painting in his late teens, using mainly watercolours, the unforgiving nature of which he says helped him to respect the medium and its difficulties early on and allowed him to forge a love and passion for the medium. Now living in Torquay in Devon, Andrew continues to create new work of various subjects and locations from his studio. He writes:

"*Regent Street* is a study of the wonderful architecture in London, captured in the form of pen and wash applied loosely over the page. I find it helps to concentrate on one initial focal point and create the rest of the piece around that point, as it is easy to become overwhelmed by a complex scene. It's important to add clarity of scale, which in this case I've done by giving due attention to the crowds of shoppers far below. These not only add movement, but also a sense of rhythm to the piece.

"I used several loose washes over the initial drawing, comprising burnt and raw sienna, and yellow ochre. This gave a warm glow to the stone of the buildings, while cooler shadows and accents balanced the palette. Some of the windows on the building are painted a light cobalt blue to emphasise the sense of distance separating them from the buildings opposite. I used stronger tones on many of the people walking on the pavement to draw attention to the crowd. As with all my paintings, the final stage was to add some birds flying above. This creates a sense of movement in the sky and to the composition as a whole.

"I hope that this painting conveys a real sense of the scale and grandeur of the architecture as well as the hustle and bustle of the crowd below that is so typical of this great part of London."