



Life in the Tree House



March

There's a collective sigh of relief from my plants at the beginning of this month as I crack open the plant food again - they've made it through another winter. Admittedly, some with more enthusiasm than others, but nothing that can't be rescued. I love watching everything literally springing back into life. Spring is the season of creativity and you can definitely feel the energy arriving. It's also time for our first holiday of the year with a little weekend trip with the hubby to Porto - home of the Pastel de Nata and Port. Really what else do you need?!



Artist's Notes

One of the things I love about having a fairly large indoor jungle, is the variety of leaves and colours there are and I'll quite often paint a new plant just to document its start. These are usually in watercolour and serve either as a successful reminder of how small a particular plant started before it took over the house or a reminder of one that is no more! It's also a good way to practice mixing the colour green, which can be quite tricky, and all the variations you get with the light and shadows. Of course, having the extra daylight hours not only makes the plants grow, but also gives me more time to paint as I don't really like to work in artificial light - I find it alters the colour too much - so I'm really looking forward to my day being longer and not having to cram everything into the few daylight hours of winter. I'm also very excited about our first trip of the year to Porto. I love travelling and as we haven't been there before, I'm hoping it will provide bucket loads of inspiration. I'm taking a small sketchbook, one pen and one pencil as I'll only have a small bag with me and I'm not sure if I'll have the time or opportunity to sit and draw, but I always like to have something with me just in case. If not, I will be taking many, many photos of anything I spot along the way, then I can have a good look through when I get back and use them as reference or collage material.

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Spotlight On ...

Willow Green: Acrylic and collage on canvas board. Painted in March 2022. I'm thinking about this painting every day at the moment as it's on our dog walk and once again, the Willow is just coming out with beautiful fresh lime green leaves which really pop against the dark water and trees. I painted this one afternoon when I'd got back from the park. I'd taken a photo as a reference and it was still fresh in my mind, so I was able to work quickly, adding some texture with collage, and even though it's only 8 x 8 inches, it's still one of my favourite pieces.



What's Inspired Me

Well, our new sofas arrived after what felt like an age to wait, although it was actually a perfectly normal amount of time, but it feels so good to finally have everything in and done and they're so comfy, we all keep falling asleep!

Currently Watching:

Well, we haven't been falling asleep watching this .. yes, it's our guilty pleasure at this time of year, Married At First Sight Australia! Nothing intellectual here, but it's all good fun and at least they're all trying to make their relationships work and we do love the accents!

And Listening To ..

Beyoncé's new album Cowboy Carter as I was sitting at my desk this afternoon doing a bit of doodling. It's really good and I'm loving the different genre theme.

I'm also enjoying the Zoe Science and Nutrition podcast, which offers lots of practical advice and discusses latest research to improve health, nutrition and lifestyle in a science-y but still easy to understand way.



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Based in Teddington, West London

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