

Note on The Angel Rolled the Stone Away Picture By Rick Nelms

I love all the paintings, but I keep being drawn back to this painting, 'The Angel Rolled the Stone Away'. I now realise, looking at it on the website, that it is absolutely magnificent. When the idea popped into being in my head my first thought was 'that's impossible', and then, 'that's going to be extraordinarily difficult' and then, 'I think the work I did on painting night time paintings might be the place to start' and then 'I know, I'll do a proof of concept sketch' and I did. I had a long think about how to improve the configuration of the painting program to deal with a very low-light level and implemented the changes that came to mind. Immediately it was obvious that the composition was absolutely right and the way the light goes through the backlit tree and gets reflected in different amounts from the trees up on top of the tomb just worked, so the configuration changes were absolutely right as well. So then I textured the trees, brightened the morning star, pressed the paint button and 12 hours later my computer was ticking and clicking as it cooled down after a marathon run at full speed and I was looking at a painting just like the image that was in my head and very much better than I ever thought it possible to do with the tools at my disposal.