

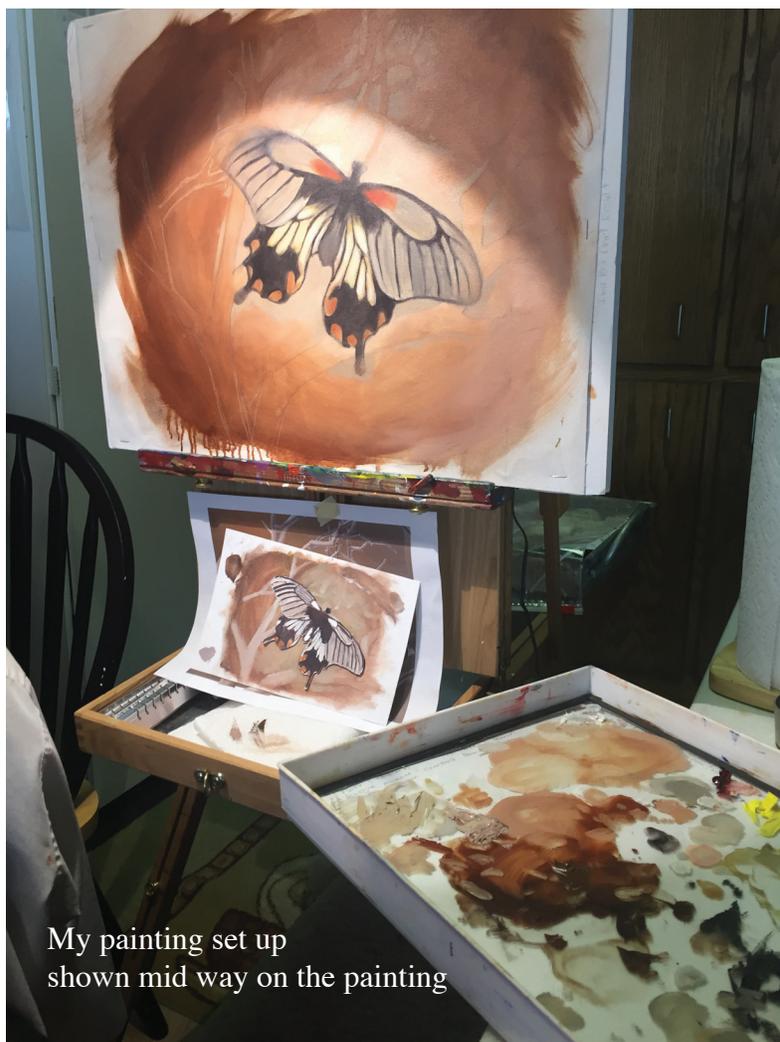
## The Painting of a Butterfly. Thoughts and Procedures by Julie Dobson Miner



This time I worked out my composition and even somewhat the color in photoshop. I start my notes on the oil color study on card stock. A fair amount of planning goes into a piece before I ever start painting.

### Color Study

I did 2 different ground colors. I liked this ground the best. I cut the butterfly out and placed it on the ground I preferred. I stapled it in place. Now.. I'm ready to paint:)



### My painting Set up

I keep my color study close by. When I'm not painting I keep my mixed up paint in the freezer. I tried our porch but I don't think it was cold enough.

I prefer painting first thing in the morning. I have the best focus then. I also listen to calming music and once I start painting it's hard to move on to anything else. I can tend to hyper focus and I'm happiest when I am painting. Well, when it's going well that is. :)

I mixed up conceivably all the colors and also how MUCH paint I will need for this project. That's my goal, but I usually need more. I can also change my mind on color but it's nice to go in with a plan.

I mixed my black with Burnt Sienna and Ultramarine blue (pretty much equal parts)



Underpainting:

I did a under painting wash under on the whole canvas of Burnt Sienna. I think I went in and strengthened my pencils lines

I thinned my paint with turpenoid. This will dry pretty fast.  
\*(make sure you have good ventilation for this part)  
You could also use acrylic paint to do this under painting.  
\*You can paint oil over acrylic but not the other way around.



Underpainting softened

I smoothed out the burnt sienna wash with a large hake paint brush.

A house painting brush would work well for this too. Some of the paint was lifted more than I wanted by I can fix it later.





If you used acrylic paint for the under painting you could continue on with acrylic paint in painting the black of the butterfly. In my case I used oils so I need to continue the rest of the painting with oils.

Next I started blocking in color on the butterfly. I wanted the black in first so I can soften the colors into it. I prefer using the oil mix for my black instead of acrylic so I can soften transitions in this stage.





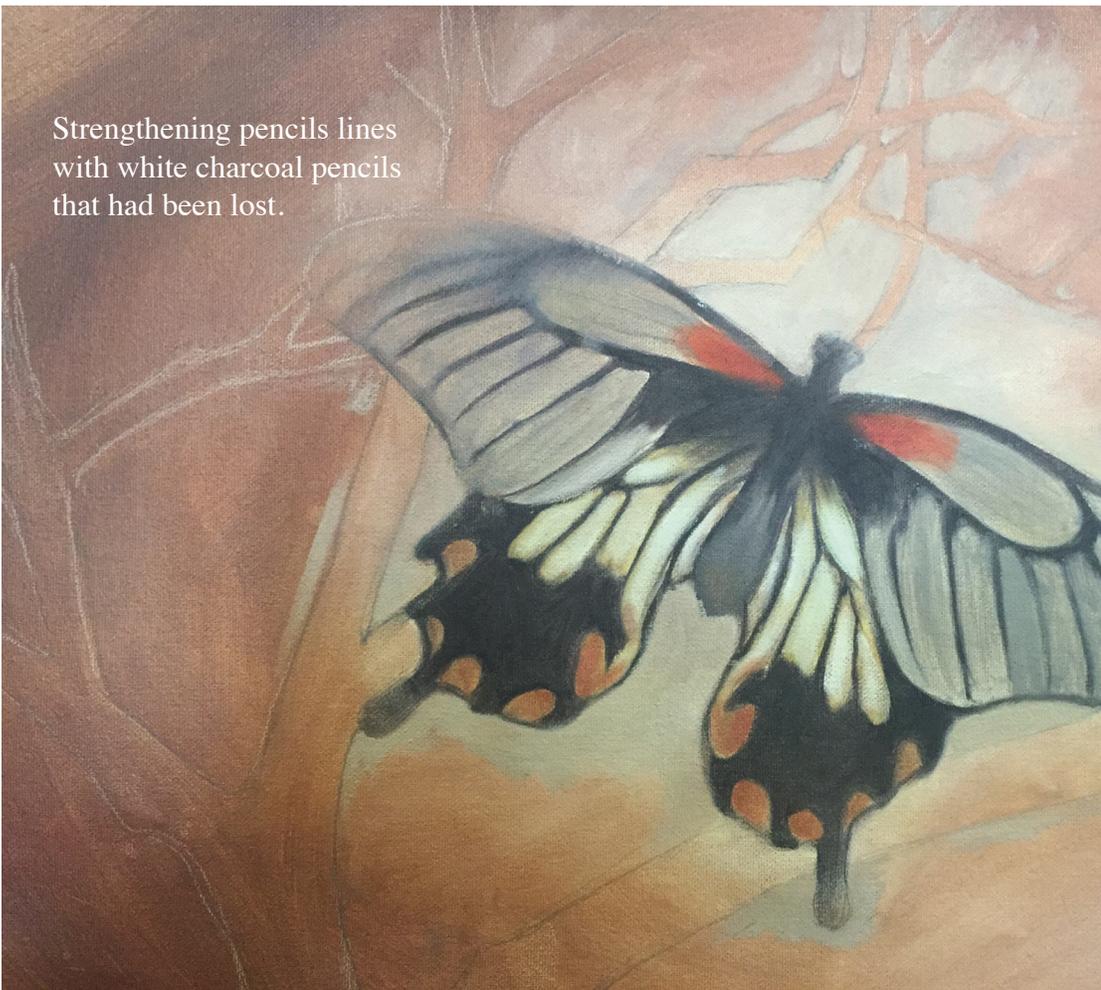
The butterfly color is blocked in but not completed. I will come back later. I intend to work the painting as a whole and not finish any certain area prematurely.

I needed to deepen the value of the burn sienna back ground. I added some white (I was careful because I used Titanium White and its an opaque color. I could easily have lost my pencils lines of the background branches. I did loose some and had to sketch them back in at this point.





Here I am doing some negative painting of the background around the branches. I do however intend that branches will be lighter than the background like in my color study

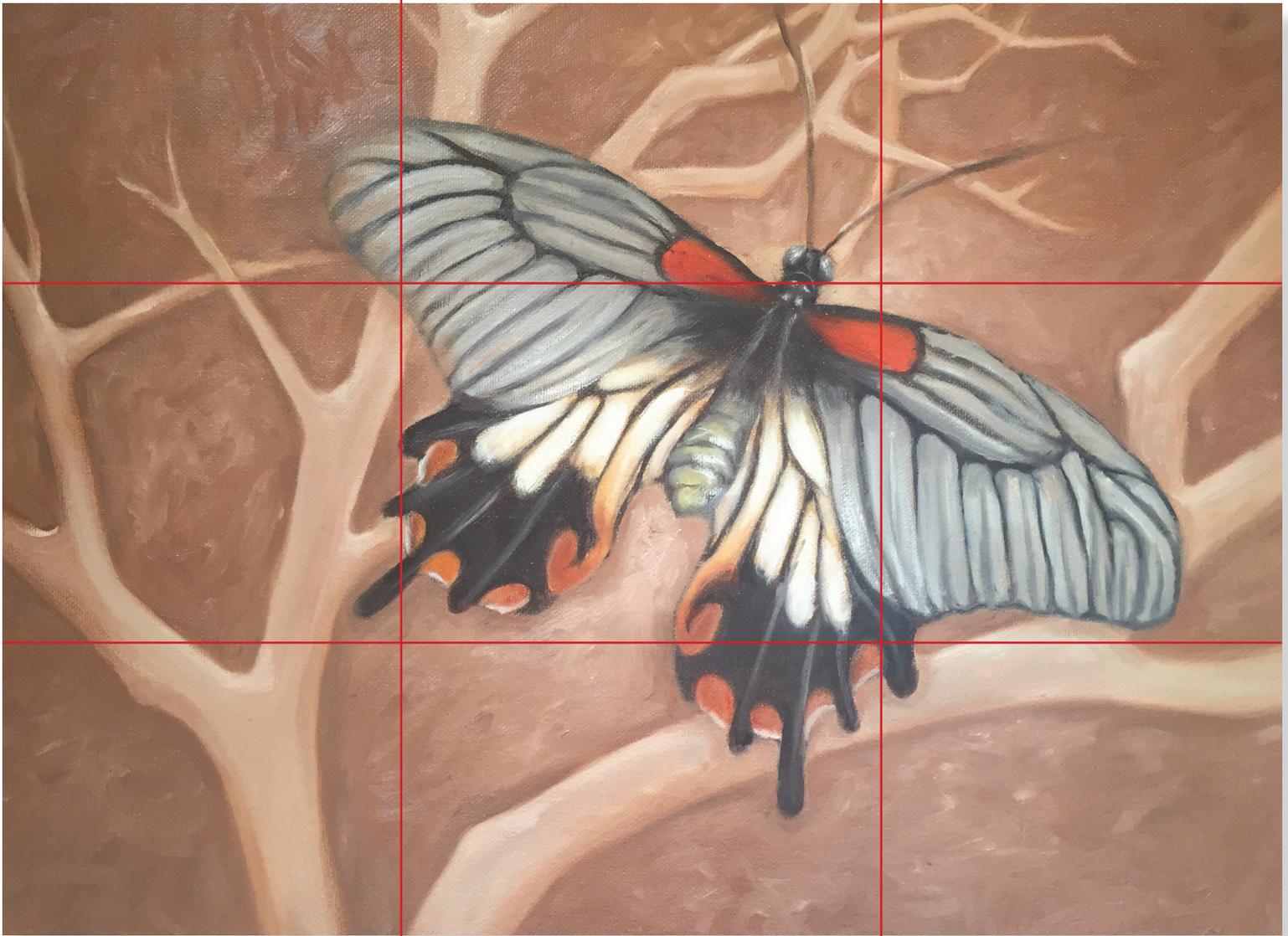


Strengthening pencils lines with white charcoal pencils that had been lost.

Notice on the far left I am using a white charcoal pencil to reestablish my background branches. I changed my mind on a few of the branches and made corrections to my branch drawings.

I'm starting to work on the butterfly and the back ground as I move forward.

The rule of thirds states that an image can be divided into nine equal parts by two equally-spaced horizontal lines and two equally-spaced vertical lines. The four points formed by the intersections of these lines can be used to align center of interest portions of the artwork.



This is the final cropped painting.

I modeled form of the branches somewhat but wanted them only as a support and some interest in the background. The butterfly is the center of interest. Human nature draws us to the head and face of people and other creatures. I wanted to make sure the head looked believable for that reason and its placed using the rule of thirds.

It is my idea that the painting presents a calm feeling. I personally find more success in using a limited palette in other words limiting the number of colors use in a painting. I also Like work towards lost and found (soft and hard) edges to help support the center of interest and create calm and harmony. Notice the soft edge of the left wing tip.

I do enjoy working with oils and find it is a very flexible forgiving medium.

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