

Tara Choate

Title: *Page 1*

Artist's Statement

This piece was inspired by the vivid description of the Arctic Circle on the first page of the book. I wanted to suggest the mystery of the snow-covered landscape, but I also wanted to leave it open for interpretation as a space-scape. The triangle and circles within the painting are meant to allude to the scientific background that runs throughout the book.

The painting was started in acrylic with "ice painting", a technique where paint is splashed onto paper outside, when it is cold enough to create crystals in the paint. The next step was darkening various areas of the page with watercolor markers (a relatively recent development by Windsor Newton). Finally, gouache (opaque white watercolor) was added to enhance certain areas and provide finish to the piece.

This piece is supposed to be dark with only a few points of light, but with intense color. I felt this reflected the tone of the book itself. The title, "Page 1", references both my inspiration and what I believe happens after the book ends: a new beginning.

Bio

Tara Choate paints from her home base of Salem, Oregon. She has been painting since 2006, and was accepted into the Watercolor Society of Oregon (WSO) in 2009. While she paints primarily in watercolor, she has recently added some acrylic and collage to her repertoire.

You can view a gallery of Tara's works, as well as upcoming events and works in progress at www.tarachoate.com.