

Showery Morning 28 x 37cm (11 x 145/sin)

Varied and fairly heavy clouds imply a showery day, and in this watercolour my aim was to give the impression that the rain had just stopped and the sun had come out. The effect I have tried to achieve is that of high backlighting from the late-morning sun which causes a sparkling effect on the rims of puddles and beads of moisture on the ground. Painting in a light to medium wash of French ultramarine and cadmium red over the puddles, I stopped just short of the edges to leave a white rim, and then dropped in a few touches of reflections while the wash remained wet. The dark, muddy outer edges emphasise the white rim further. For the sparkling beads I spattered white gouache over the ground area.

Beefing up a sky that lacks impact



Evening Sky

This photograph shows a sky that has a strong directional pull, and this effect can be useful for highlighting a feature such as a castle or mountain peak, which could be positioned at the lower end of the cloud formation, in this case the bottom right.