

Painting Churches by Tina Howe

MAGS

It's your portrait. I finished it. I stayed up all night. Well, I wanted to get it done before you left. You know, see what you thought. It's not bad, considering...I mean, I did it almost completely from memory. The light was terrible and I was trying to be quiet so I wouldn't wake you. It was hardly an ideal situation...I mean, you weren't the most cooperative models Oh, Oh, you're going to hate it! You're going to Hate it! Listen, you don't really want to see it...it's nothing...just a few dabs here and there...it was awfully late when I finished it. The light was really impossible and my eyes were hurting like crazy....I've done better with my eyes closed! It was so late I could hardly see anything...It's still wet...I didn't have enough time...It takes at least forty hours to do a decent portrait....*(as they look at the portrait Mags becomes more and more beside herself....wrapping her arms around herself, whimpering)* no...don't...Oh Please!...Come on, don't look...Oh, don't ... please...*(quietly in a whisper)* They like it....they....like it!