Thanks everyone for joining me last night for our Winter Wonderland demo. It felt like a warm celebration, much needed on a dark winter night. Here's the final piece, along with a picture of my palette of pastels.

A few notes on the palette: the whites/lights range from Nupastel, Holbein, and Rembrandt on the hard end to Roché, Diane Townsend (Terrages and Soft), Terry Ludwig, and homemade on the softer end. The darks and midtowns are mostly Nupastel, Rembrandt, Townsend, and Ludwig.

The painting was nearly complete at the end of the two hour demo, and I would have been happy enough to simply frame it as it was, if necessary. However, I decided this morning to refine a few details, as follows:

1. I felt the three trees on the right were a bit too evenly spaced and weighted so I redrew them slightly to make their weight less symmetrical.

2. I brightened and warmed up the distant sky, adding brighter sky holes above and behind the trees to enhance the treeline and create a bit more sparkle and sense of setting sun.

3. I took more care and attention with the way the tree trunks on the left met the snow, creating more variety in the negative space and seating the trunks more solidly into the snow.

4. Finally, I enhanced the 'dance' of tiny snow-covered branches across the middle of the piece, adding a few more for a final layer, even some in a pale pink. This as I mentioned was the main visual idea that inspired the painting and I wanted to give these maximum impact.

Magic in the Trees 12x16

Jeanne