



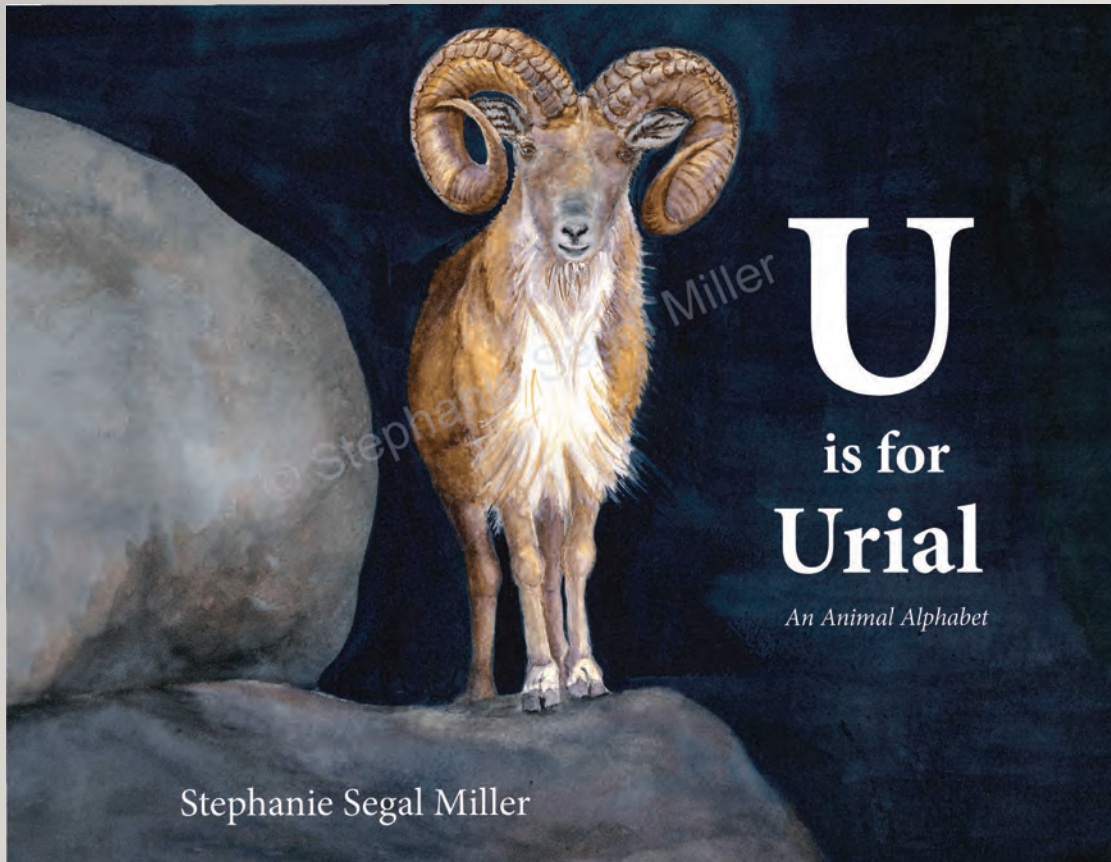
Noyes
Museum of Art
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

THE NOYES MUSEUM OF ART OF STOCKTON UNIVERSITY PRESENTS:

THE MAKING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK:

U IS FOR URIAL,
AN ANIMAL ALPHABET

Written & Illustrated by Stephanie Segal Miller



Artist Statement:

Having no plan has its benefits. So does doing what you love. I had painted a dozen animals before it occurred to me to create an animal alphabet book. Immediately and to this day, as I research and learn about animals, I am fascinated and astonished.

U is for Urial arises from that joy and my wish to engage children of all ages – our curiosity, intellect, and sense of wonder.

From the time of their birth, animals are allowed to live according to their nature, i.e. they are allowed – actually **TRAINED** – to be themselves. Indeed, whether I am painting, writing, daydreaming, or mixing colors like a mad scientist, I am able to reside in my true self, in all my splendor and imperfection. This is both how and why I create. Art does not let us fall asleep on the truth.



Urial





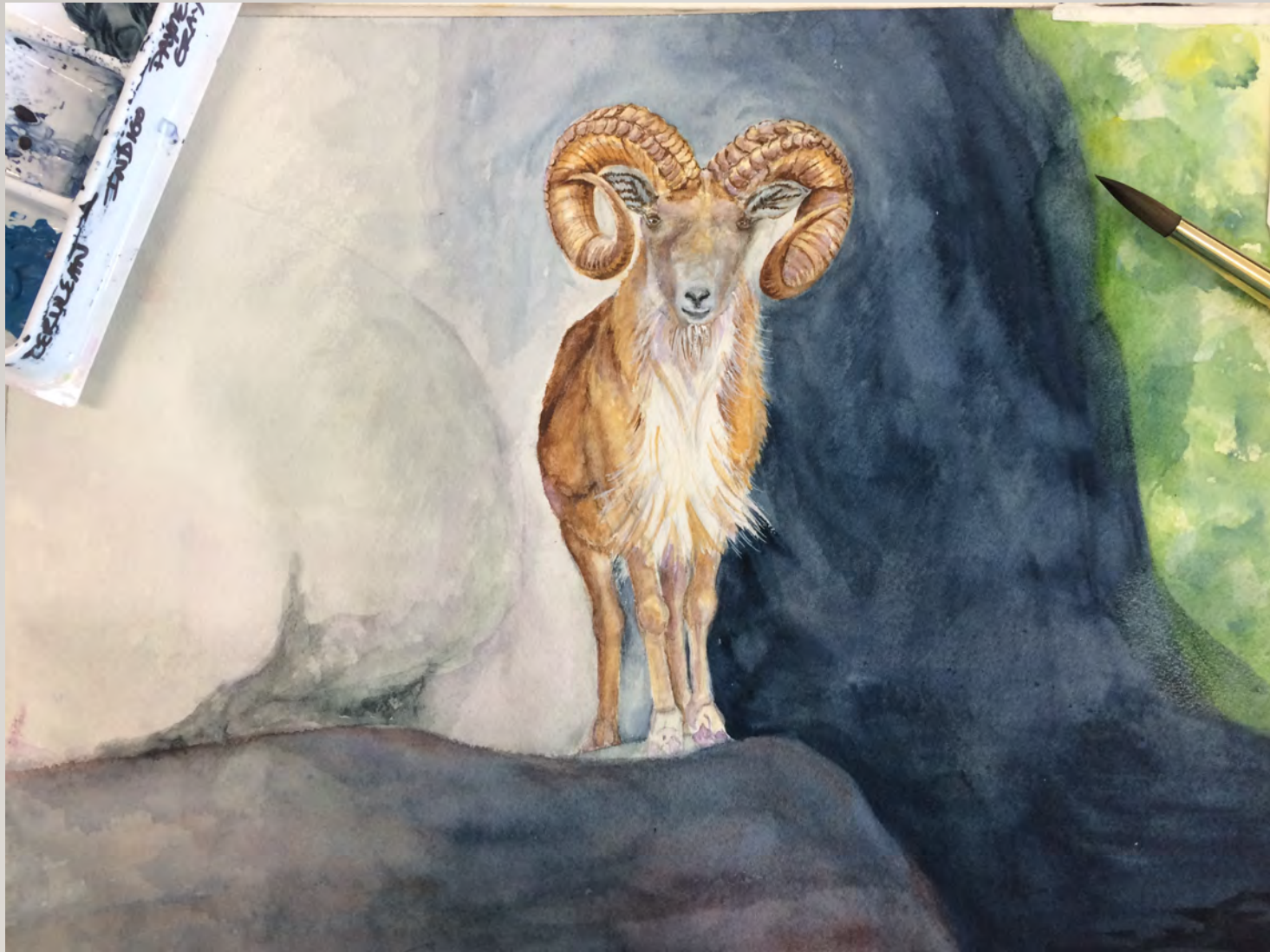
Urial:

I begin with a rough sketch and then start painting, light to dark. Blocking in base colors comes first. The urial got his start with two of my favorites, yellow ochre and ultramarine purple.

To create the detail in the urial's eyes and beard, I used a tiny "000" brush (aka the "triple zero"). Initially, the background had green foliage, but I changed my mind and painted over it.











Jaguar





Jaguar:

I was smitten with this jaguar my cousin Lauren Polansky photographed in Belize. I gasped when I saw the way she captured the jaguar peeking and sneaking through the jungle. While I was sketching and painting, I was certain there might not be an end to the jaguar's zillion spots.









Peacock



Peacock:

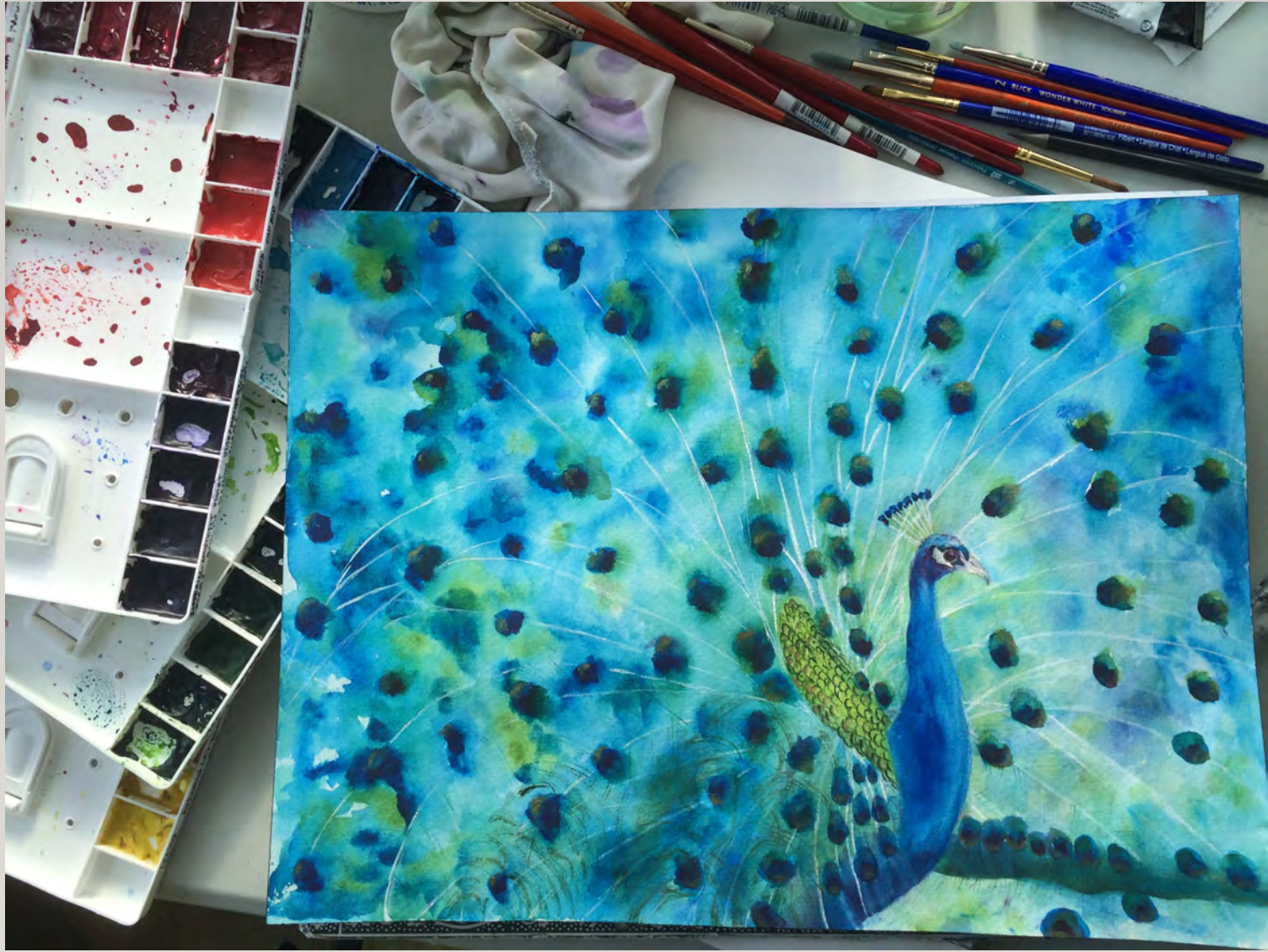
My muse for this painting was actual peacock feathers. I used a photo I took at the Cape May Zoo for reference and I spent several months experimenting with various brushes and color combinations.

I even tried pinks and purples, in an attempt to distract my brain from painting what I thought a peacock *should* look like.









P

peacock

The peacock has around 200 brown feathers. Wait. What? *Brown* feathers? That's right. Those magnificent, shimmering feathers only *look* blue, green, turquoise, gold, and bronze.

Scientific explanation: The combination of light, feather design, and brown pigment creates the colors you see. The feathers have tiny, crystal-like structures which filter and reflect different wavelengths of light, like blue or green. The space between the microscopic crystals, and the angle of light create the peacock's stunning color and iridescent beauty.





About the Artist:

By nature I am curious and contemplative, and have been so since my crib, where I slept with books. My mother was my first art teacher and my appetite for learning instilled in me a passion to study and enjoy marvelous things, including watercolor, writing, stained glass, collage, and pastels. A recovery attorney, but always a serial creative explorer, I took my first watercolor class in 2009, and I have been painting ever since.

In 2012, I had my first solo exhibition at the JCC in Bridgewater, NJ and a painting featured on the cover of *The Connection* magazine. The following year, I opened a studio/gallery at the Noyes Arts Garage in Atlantic City, NJ. I was invited to the exhibition, *From the Page, Book Illustrations*, at the Atlantic Cape Art Gallery in Mays Landing, NJ in 2017, and to an exhibition at the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences.

In 2018, the *Drawn from Nature*, 12th Annual Juried Art Exhibition at the John James Audubon center in Audubon, Pennsylvania, selected two of my paintings, *Jaguar* and *Peacock No. 2*. Also in 2018, the Noyes Museum Gallery at Claridge in Atlantic City, New Jersey featured the watercolor paintings from my book, *U is for Urial, An Animal Alphabet* in a solo exhibition. *Peacock No. 2* was on the cover of *The Connection* magazine's December 2018/January 2019 issue. Also in 2019, the Atlantic City Free Public Library and the Linwood Library held exhibits for my children's picture book, *U is for Urial, An Animal Alphabet*. I squeezed in exhibits in Ventnor and Pleasantville libraries in 2020, and Margate and Brigantine exhibits are postponed.

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