



## Coin Corner and Hobby

I was walking through Oregon City and spotted some glass insulators in the window of the hobby shop on the right and began to notice how vintage the place looked on the outside too, which had probably not changed much since when it opened in 1962. The more I watched people coming and going the more I had the feeling they were regulars in their predictable routines, and a good part of the inspiration for the piece became about how familiar local residents, and often their vehicles or wandering dogs and cats, fit into a town and become just as much a part of it as the buildings and trees.

Sure enough, a local resident saw it in progress and confirmed “yup, there's Ray, ha ha, you got Al the barber in there too with his Crossfire, oh my God, he loves that car, he's going to be so happy!”, do they know you drew them?”

This scene had the other standard things that probably to most artists make a good cityscape; the distinct bridge, pretty streetlights, an assortment of typical businesses that often make up a main street, road signs stuffed here and there. However, even with that full plate of things to work with, I was looking right down the street from the elevator entrance, which made the perspective wide and the buildings low, and I had to use my method of compensating with a dramatic sky.

Oregon City in itself has special significance to me, being strikingly similar to Turners Falls Massachusetts, which I know well and will someday return to do a painting or two of to better share what I mean.