

Watercolor Portrait Project

You will create a watercolor portrait using a photograph of you or a family member at any age as a reference.

Objectives:

- Learn and demonstrate watercolor painting techniques.
- Demonstrate understanding of positive and negative space.
- Demonstrate understanding of the three dimensional aspects of the face using value, line, and form.

Requirements:

- Create a portrait of yourself or a family member
- Demonstrate a minimum of 4 watercolor techniques. You must include wash techniques and at least 1 texture technique.
- Use a specific color scheme. Maximum of 4 colors plus black and white.
- Include a range of values by diluting paint with water and LAYERING paint to build saturation.
- Include a surreal/creative element
- Minimum size 9X12"

Portrait Directions:

- 1) Once you've chosen a photo reference, grid it, enlarging to the desired size and draw out the silhouette on drawing paper. (You do not want grid lines on watercolor paper)
- 2) Trace drawing onto watercolor paper.
- 3) Choose a specific color scheme: Analogous, Complementary, Split Complement, Triad, etc. Limit your colors to a maximum of three or four.
- 4) Begin painting your portrait using a variety of watercolor techniques. You must demonstrate at least 4 different techniques in your portrait. Refer to your watercolor chart.
- 5) Add black ink for contrast. You may paint with the black India ink or use the calligraphy pen to create crisp lines.
- 6) Add white paint pen for highlights.
- 7) Add your own personal voice and originality:
 - Add surreal or stylized elements like birds, flowers, buildings, etc.
 - Add texture and variety with paint drippings, splatters, paint drips or alcohol drip.
 - Add crisp lines with watercolor pencils or ink or paint pen