

CA VIBE WATERCOLOR

“mess around”

PORTRAITURE

Paint: Professional grade tube watercolor paint only such as Sennelier (I love their l'Aquarelle watercolor paint), Daniel Smith (another favorite of mine), Schminke, Holbein, Winsor Newton, etc.

Colors:

- Opera
- Alizarin Crimson (or close to this color)
- Cadmium Yellow (or close to this color)
- Cobalt Blue
- Phthalo Blue (green shade)

Brushes

- **A #16 or #20 large round watercolor brush.** I suggest a combination natural and synthetic hair. Don't go too cheap.
- **A smaller #6 or #8 round watercolor brush.**
- **half inch watercolor flat brush**
- **soft graphite drawing pencil** (can simply be a soft Ticonderoga office pencil)

Paper

- **One or two 140 lb., full sheet (22X30 inch) cold press. Fabriano Artistico extra white watercolor paper** (by far my favorite to paint on!) or you can use 140lb., full sheet5 cold press Arches watercolor paper. Cut at least one your full sheet of paper into four 11 by 15-inch quarter-sheets.

Palette

- A good size **rectangular plastic palette** with paint wells around the outside and a good size mixing area in the inside. The palette should measure about 10x16". There are various manufactures of these palettes, but they are all around this size and configuration.

Additional materials

- Half to one-inch-wide **3M blue painter's tape** or any other masking tape that can keep out water but will not harm the watercolor paper when pulled off.
- A roll or two of **absorbent kitchen paper towels**, and a flat kitchen sponge to help take off excess water on your brushes.
- A set of about eight or more of **liquid chalk marker pens** with white and bright colors like pink, orange, and yellow. You'll want the ones with the rounded tips. There are *a lot of different brands on the market*, but they are all about the same. My fav. brands are Arteza, Bandle B, and Loddie Doodle chalk markers.
- One black Pigma Graphic 3 chisel point non-water-soluble pen.
- Something to hold about a **quart of water**
- A small to medium water spritzer.

Stage 1: Print the outline drawing (that you will eventually need to trace onto watercolor paper in Stage 3) onto letterhead-size sheets of paper on your home printer. At this stage, you need not worry about the final painting size.

Stage 2: Enlarge the outline drawing on a plan paper copier, so that it **fits snugly** on individual 11 inch by 15-inch quarter-sheets of 140lb. professional grade (I like Fabriano Artístico watercolor paper) cold press watercolor paper. You can go to a copier service to do this (or there are even online enlargement services). If you have a digital projector, that may be a way to go, whereby the enlarged drawing can be projected for tracing directly onto your watercolor paper.

Stage 3: You can now take the outlined enlargement and **trace it onto a quarter-sheet** of 140lb., cold press watercolor paper. You can use a light table (i.e. an inexpensive, light weight, and LED light table, if you don't already have one) or simply use a window during daylight hours. During the tracing procedure, **apply medium pressure on your pencil** (use a soft office pencil) so that the resulting tracings are not too light and would run the risk of being obscured during the painting process. **The heavier pencil lines that may show up in parts of the final painting add to the energy of the portrait!** Any dashed lines that you may see in some of my outline drawings are there to indicate areas that need to be blended during the painting process. **I would suggest that you do a tracing on two**

separate quarter sheets. This will allow you to paint two painting studies if we have the time during one of the two Zoom meetings.

Stage 4: The outline drawings have a corresponding reference photo. **Print the reference photos** on your home printer. **You will need to look at each one during the entire painting process.** These photos are in black and white **because, we will be painting in expressive colors.** Below are examples of how your outline tracings should fit snugly onto your individual quarter-sheets of watercolor paper.



Reference photo



Outline drawing for tracing



Subject should fit snugly on a horizontal 11X15 inch quarter sheet as per this photo



Reference photo



Outline drawing for tracing



Subject should fit snugly on a vertical 11X15 inch quarter sheet as per this photo



Reference photo (ignore all those stars around her nose!)



Outline drawing for tracing



Subject should fit snugly on a vertical 11X15 inch quarter sheet as per this photo

