



Seven Steps to Making Art:

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1. Inspiration - Use photos and other artwork to inspire you. Collect photos that you want to paint someday, and look at books and magazines that feature artists you like.



2. Reference - Usually, the best reference is something you can see in real life right in front of you. Photos are also good, and easy to find. You can also copy other artists' work to learn.



3. Practice - The most accomplished artists practice every work. Make tiny sketches for composition (thumbnails), quick gesture sketches to learn the subject, and detailed study sketches.



4. Set up - Make your space feel right for the work and media you are using, and make sure you can get to all your materials easily. Keep all your wet materials on the same side of the work.



5. Guide lines - Create light lines that help you know where to make your art. Use graphite pencil on paper. On canvas, use either a colored pencil or some watered down paint.



6. Self-expression - This is *your* work. It doesn't have to look like the reference unless you want it to. If you're enjoying yourself, it will show in the work. Be realistic or wild. It's your choice!



7. Clean up - Put your materials away, clean your work area, check for stray supplies (even on the floor), and superwash any brushes you used.