



CREATIONS

For students in 3rd & 4th years

Creative Portrait Painting in Acrylic - Week One of Two Weeks

Overview: You have the option of copying the Van Gogh self portrait from the reference print, or using the style and techniques of Van Gogh to do your own self portrait.

Goal 1: To manage a painting project from start to finish without oversight. You should attempt to move through the Seven Steps of Painting.

1. **Inspiration** - choose self portrait or Van Gogh's.
2. **Reference** - use mirror or printout.
3. **Practice** - 3 kinds of sketches help: Quick Gestures in charcoal for Big Shapes / Thumbnails for composition / Pencil Studies for details.
4. **Set Up** - Workspace should be organized and comfortable. Canvas should be taped to a board, not loose or still in a pad.
5. **Guidelines** - use a canvas pencil to draw the main features.
6. **Create** with paint. Be creative with your color! How can you make this unique?
7. **Clean up** - Super-wash your brushes, and check work area.

Goal 2: Practice painting techniques: 1) dark to light or sunrise; 2) color splitting and using lots of color variations; 3) underpainting if desired 4) layers of opaque paints 5) brush strokes

Goal 3: Accuracy in your portrait - Not necessarily realism, but getting a reasonable proportion and placement of features accurately, makes a creative portrait look great.



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