

Portraiture - Using photographs as reference material

with

Dee Jackson

Materials you will need:

- Watercolour: - Any paints you have in your paintbox, including a yellow, blue and red. I use Winsor and Newton Quinacridone Gold; French Ultramarine Blue; Quinacridone Magenta – but you may prefer your own yellow/blue/red combination. AA or AAA rated.
or
- Oils, Pastels, Acrylics: Whatever colours you have in your paintbox including a yellow, blue and red.
or
- Pencils, Charcoal: I prefer HB pencils as they don't leave dark imprints when I paint in watercolour. However if you wish to create a portrait in graphite or charcoal please bring along your preferred graphite pencil/charcoal pencil or willow charcoal.

BRUSHES

Any water medium brushes you have; although larger brushes will give a looser portrait. It would be useful to have a 13mm flat brush, 30mm hake, 5mm pointed brush, and a finepoint calligraphy or liner brush.

I use sable brushes but you should be able to create a beautiful portrait no matter what brushes you bring along.

or

Oils – use whatever brushes you usually work with.

OTHER ITEMS

A photograph or photographs of your favourite subject.

- For people it would be better to have a clear close up of head and shoulders.

A $\frac{3}{4}$ pose gives more shadow and interesting shapes. With a straight on i.e. front facing face (in repose) it is often harder to illustrate character.

Just choose a photo that you love which shows the character of your subject - happy, laughing, cheeky, cute etc.

If you wish to paint/draw an animal i.e. cat/dog etc. then a clear photograph of the whole animal is preferred (seated/standing/stretching).

I have one table top easel and can bring 3 standing easels if you wish to paint in oils or use your paper/card in a vertical position. Please bring your own easel if you wish.

Paper or board for your chosen medium:

- Water medium - Arches 100% cotton 300gsm – SMOOTH (HOT PRESSED SATINE). A2 size (420mm x 594mm).
or
- Pastel/acrylic/graphite/charcoal - your preferred paper (card) – A2 size. White would be better but if you have coloured it won't matter as it is the value (shadow) and line (shape) that is important in conveying a realistic likeness.
or

- Oils – your preferred board and solvent (non-turpentine) & rags etc. – A2 size board.
- For water medium: bring a box of tissues or roll of toilet tissue - not ones with Aloe Vera or anything impregnated into them.
- Backing board for your paper or card – I use 5mm foam-core as a backing board size 55mm x 65mm (used as backing for framed paintings). This is stable, lightweight and can be easily held and tilted to horizontal or vertical position (allows watercolour paint to move across the paper).
- 2 medium size bulldog (butterfly) clips - not needed for oils
- Masking tape – not needed for oils
- Water containers for water medium or solvent containers for oils
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser (medium kneaded putty rubber)
- HB pencils x 2
- Ruler – marked in cm and inches