

LESSON #1 - Portrait Painting

Pamela Weisberg, Instructor

Introduction

IMPORTANT! Knowing how to draw faces is a plus. I advise beginners to learn to draw faces first before painting portraits.

The first step is to get to know your materials. Here is a list of materials needed:

Oil paints are recommended because they have a slow drying time. The following are good for beginners: Titanium white, yellow ochre, cadmium red medium, lemon yellow or cadmium yellow light, cadmium yellow medium, burnt sienna, alizarin crimson, burnt umber, and ultramarine blue, ivory black. Other colors can be added later.

Brushes that are bristle, synthetic & sable in medium and small size flat, round, & filbert (2,4,6) and a small detail brush.

Mediums: Non-toxic thinner like Gamsol, Liquin

Easels: Table top for small paintings or standing easel for larger paintings.

Canvas: 8 x 10" or 9 x 12" stretched canvas or board

Palette: Small paper palette.

Photos: good pictures of faces

Other Stuff: paper towels, wet wipes, apron

LESSON #1

Step 1: Set up your palette.

Step 2: Sketch out your facial features, hair, clothes, etc., on the canvas. Let dry.

Step 3: Decide on background value = Dark or Light? Paint with thinned paint.

Step 4: Glaze thinned face color, hair, etc.

Step 5: Proceed with more opaque color, being careful not to over mix colors.