



Molly Murrah ❖ Expressions in Watercolor

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“Watercolor Portraits: A Different Approach” with Molly Murrah

In this 2-day workshop, we will paint our subjects using a different approach — combining transparent and opaque techniques that will help you create vibrant, engaging portraits.

Elements of the workshop...

- My process for planning and executing my paintings
- Determining the best composition
- The technique I use for transferring images to paper
- Laying in colorful underpaintings (in both transparent and the more opaque pigments)
- Finishing your paintings with bright, opaque accents that will bring your portraits to life.

I will provide reference images to paint in quarter sheet size (11 x 15). Then, after we have gone over composition and how to transfer your drawing, on Day 2 you can bring in your own image at the actual size you will paint it OR you can bring in a completed drawing ready to paint.

There are some very fine artists out there who won't even attempt painting portraits. We'll remove the anxiety and have nothing but fun instead!

See supplies list on next page...



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“Watercolor Portraits: A Different Approach” — Recommended Supplies List

1. Paints & Palette:

PLEASE NOTE, these are suggested pigments to have on hand. Paints shown in RED are definitely recommended for the opaque applications used in this approach:

DANIEL SMITH:

Buff Titanium
Azo Yellow
Naples Yellow
Raw Sienna or Yellow Ochre
Cadmium Orange Hue
Quin Burnt Orange
Pyrrol Scarlet
Quin Rose
Burnt Sienna Light

Cobalt Teal
Cobalt Blue
Cerulean Blue
Ultramarine Blue
Imperial Purple
Phthalo Blue Green Shade
Sap Green
Hooker 's Green
Titanium White

CHEAP JOE'S AMERICAN JOURNEY:

Janet's Violet Rose

HOLBEIN (more opaque pigments):

Compose Green
Jaune Brilliant #1 **and** Juane Brilliant #2
Lavender
Verditer Blue
Horizon Blue
Lilac

To save on costs, you can purchase smaller 5ml tubes of the Holbein colors you don't already have.

I like to use a fairly large palette with separate mixing areas. Some of the smaller folding palettes are good if they have separate mixing areas. With folding palettes, be sure and squeeze your paints into the wells at least a few days prior to use so they can get a “skin” on them and won't run when lid is folded over.

2. Paper:

Arches 140# Cold Press paper (22" x 30" sheet size, and then tear to size). Start with 3 sheets, then buy more if you need it. **GOOD PAPER IS VERY IMPORTANT**, but there are other good brands out there, if you have a preference.

3. Brushes: Brushes that are a mix of synthetic and natural bristles are good and not as expensive as all natural brushes. For this more opaque style of painting, you will use mostly FLATS, but have a few rounds, too.

2" Flat wash brush (can use a soft hake brush if you like)
1", 1/2", and 1/4" Flats
#12 and #8 Rounds
#4 Rigger (a script brush)
Scrubber Brushes

4. Accessories:

Sturdy brush holder
3/4" white artists tape
Masking fluid and dedicated applicator (if you already have them)
Rubber cement pickup
#2B pencil
Small pencil sharpener
Kneaded eraser
Artist's gray scale/value finder
2 water containers (I use large yogurt containers)
Roll of *absorbent* paper towels
Adjustable spray bottle or atomizer with fine, even spray
At least a 12" ruler, bigger if possible
1/2" thick gator board cut to at least 12" x 16" to hold quarter sheet paper something sturdy to paint on (and staple to if you stretch your paper like I do)

See pigment comparisons on next page...

STRAIGHT FROM THE TUBE VERSUS MIXING YOUR PIGMENTS:

This technique for painting portraits combines more opaque pigments with traditional transparent pigments. I use Holbein paints for the opaque accents I put in my portraits, and it is easier to use them straight from the tube. However, you can also mix colors that come close by adding Titanium White to your normal paints. Mix enough of the colors you need so you won't run out in the middle of your process.

HOLBEIN OPAQUE PIGMENTS STRAIGHT FROM THE TUBE:



Compose Green



Horizon Blue



Lavender



Jaune Brilliant 1



Jaune Brilliant 2



Verditer Blue



Lilac

COMPARABLE PIGMENTS MIXED BY ADDING TITANIUM WHITE TO TRANSPARENT PAINTS:



Hooker's Green



Cobalt Teal



Ultramarine



Raw Sienna



Naples Yellow



Cobalt Blue



Janet's Violet Rose