

Mini Tutorial for Painting a Portrait in Painter X

Barbara Ellison Hartsook

Photo reference, slightly enhanced with Equalize:



I used the default Artists category Sargent brush to sketch on tracing paper from a quick clone of the photo. This brush responds to hand pressure, as you can see.

I kept the photo pale under the tracing paper (about 60%). Just enough showing that I could get the right placement of features without too much detail.



I used the oil pastel brush to lay in colors, brushing in some from the under photo (with clone button clicked). Mostly I selected colors from the color triangle and wheel, and applied with the oil pastel's resat slider up to about 40. I just wanted to get some form with tones and values.



I like to work on only the sketch at this point, keeping the reference photo in the upper left corner of my screen. That way I can see what to paint where. (If I get into trouble, there's always the undo button and a quick toggle to show the photo under the tracing paper to redraw the mistake.)

Next... I blended the pigments I'd just put in. I alternated adding more color with the resat at 30-40 and blending with the resat at zero. Over and over and over, until I had enough pigment where I wanted it.



Next, the hair... I still used the oil pastel, with the grain raised high enough the paper texture wouldn't show to get plenty of pigment down. Then I messed it up with Marilyn's messier brush, following the general direction of the hair. Back to the oil pastel at zero resat to brush it into place.





In the background I added thick hand-made paper (in Painter default papers) texture with Davi's Add Grain brush, found here:

<http://www.conceptart.org/forums/showthread.php?t=95750>

I also painted in the individual hairs with a small oil pastel brush.

A lot more blending, then, on his face, ears and clothes. His eyes at this point were too dark, so I redid them (see below), tweaked the nose, and added highlights to the lips.

The last step was to equalize (Effects>Tonal Controls>Equalize) and sign it.



Here is the final... I did this portrait one snowy day, posting as I went along to the daily doodle forum at www.PainterTalk.net - not because it was a doodle, but because my doodling friends were there and I wanted company as I painted it. ☺ Their encouragement helped me meet my deadline.

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