

PORTRAIT PAINTING SYLLABUS

WEEK I

The purpose of this first week is to get everybody on the same page with short demos. We will be painting from a live bearded model to simplify certain aspects of the process such as capturing likeness. Students are encouraged to bring a camera to document the stages of the painting.

WEEK II

After a demonstration of the palette system we will be using, students will begin a new painting of the same bearded model from week one. This palette is designed to simplify many of the color decisions a painter must make, while providing a huge range of options and a basic step-by-step process with a fairly limited range of colors. We will focus on building the painting from the dark side to the light and establishing concepts of color and paint mixing that will carry through the rest of the course.

WEEK III

During this week's class we will pay special attention to the basic lay-in of a portrait and establishing the structure of the head and face. Creating shapes instead of "drawing with paint" to create perspective will be of particular importance. We will also focus on determining the architecture of the skull and the various planes of the head and face.

WEEK IV

We will start to pay more attention to color theory and the idea of creating color values in a portrait. Students will work on establishing the "darkest dark" and "lightest light" of the painting. We will also introduce the idea of value groupings and how contrasts will aid in depicting contours and transitions.

WEEK V

This class will expand on the prior week's color discussion, introducing the concepts of temperature, saturation, and hue. The relationship of "warm" and "cool" colors will be of particular concern, demonstrating color's importance in creating the illusion of three dimensionality. We will utilize multiple light sources of different temperatures to highlight the role of light in determining color.

WEEK VI

Week six will introduce the handling of edges to create or eliminate focal points in the painting, while reinforcing all of the concepts discussed during previous weeks.

WEEKS VII & VIII

The final two weeks of the course will be an extended pose, allowing students to get more in depth with all of the concepts introduced throughout the course and gain experience in solving problems that are not easily handled during shorter painting sessions.