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Painting Expressive Pastel Portraits



Synopsis

Techniques for creating life-like portraiture with pastels. Contains eight step by step demonstrations which feature a variety of ages, complexions and expressions. Teaches how to build form and realistic features, the types of marks and textures produced by different papers, and palettes for creating an array of skin tones and hair colourings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paul Leveille is truly a master of Pastel Portraiture. The book reveals many of the mysteries of properly building up a pastel painting to achieve a lifelike, realistic looking portrait. The book takes you through eight detailed portraits, start to finish. One drawback for me was, Paul does not give us a starting photograph of the subject, so during the stages it is difficult to know why the lights and darks, colors and shadows are placed where they are until you see the finished portrait. More a tutorial of techniques than a means of following along and copying his works step-by-step. Still, an excellent source of learning that will leave you able to create realistic portraits in pastel.

This great oversized book gives good illustrated step by step projects on portraiture pastel painting. It takes out the complications of starting a painting of someone. Though on a few projects some more steps could have been included, but this does not diminish the overall guidance the book provides. It has superb color and a well explanation of tools and materials, and how to take care of them. Composition, perspective and light is also explained for the rendition of your project.

Paul Leveille is a wonderful pastel painter, the images are beautiful. He gives from 14-18 steps in

the painting of each portrait and there are 8 portraits in total - more detail than most "how-to" art books that I've seen, not that I've seen a lot. Of course, you have to practice, practice, practice if you hope to get good yourself. Am saving my pennies now to purchase his pastel painting DVD. Highly recommend you buy this book if you were thinking about it, before it's hard to get.

What an brilliant book, it really explains how to develop your pastel portraits, from which side of the paper to use, smooth or rough depending on your subject, to how to begin the portrait and how to improve step by step. This artist has an amazing technique and the end results are superb.

I liked the book and learned some things from it but I wish that there had been more emphasis on technique. It was more like the author would show his steps for some of his portraits and then said, "Do this". Well, my question is how? HOW do you do it? There is no doubt that he is a talented artist but I think to learn from him that dvd would be a better route.

Great book for learning flesh tones but doesn't really explain how to sketch in initial face or get correct proportions. That's why I didn't give it 5 stars. I was looking for initial phases of portraiture and the author assumes you already know it.

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