

Future students - This is a great way to organize. Please remember to write a brief intro on why you chose your project. And @ the end, reflect what you learned, what you liked, what you might do differently, etc.

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Honors English Summer Project
Journal

all 3 - well done

See me - can use

*Time is listed (important)

Week 1
6-28-12
Entry #1
Time Spent Practicing: Thirty Minutes

use copy of summer proj? she said yes

Here is her info why she chose the project

I can't draw. Or sketch. Or paint. Or anything artistic, really. I can't create anything via pencil or paintbrush that would be classified as (visual) art without criticizing it or saying, "I'm so bad at this." So I've decided to try and learn how to paint with watercolors.

Today I went out and bought a notebook full of watercolor paper, paintbrushes ranging from one to twelve in density, one being the thinnest and twelve the thickest; a paint palette, and an eighteen-pack of REEVES watercolor paints.

I practiced getting the right shade, tone, and transparency from the paint on a scratch piece of paper. As a complete newcomer to the activity, it took me longer than it probably should have to figure out that the more water you apply to your brush, the harder it is to control the paint from slipping off into another part of the paper you don't want it to reach. Obviously, the more water you let your brush absorb, the more diluted the paint becomes on the paper. As I don't particularly like the transparent, light look to paint, I don't use a huge amount of water and found myself using more paint to create a darker shade of color than the paint samples expressed.

I'm somewhat afraid to try painting an actual piece as I hate disappointing myself, and any other time I've tried to paint, it ends in catastrophe.



Week 1
6-30-12
Entry #2

Time Spent Practicing: One Hour

I tried painting a rose in a vase today. It went a lot better than I planned it would - it actually looks like a flower instead of a blob of wasted paint.

I sketched the outline of the vase lightly with a pencil first. It didn't look symmetrical until I started tweaking it with the paint. I used "payne's gray" for the vase, "permanent green hue" for the stem and leaves, and crimson for the flower petals and bud.

The actual rose is probably the best part of the scene. The stem is too thick and I used too much water, so it ended it up drifting out to the side. I could have used a thinner brush for the leaves so they weren't so disproportionate to everything.

The vase is downright awful. The outline of it from the pencil I used in the sketch shows right through, as the gray I used is incredibly light. Some parts of the vase are fine, but the lower

Good analysis here

right part of it is a mess. I used more paint and less water there, and it dried before I could spread it out to blend in with the rest of the vase.

It took me about half an hour to complete the piece. I kept trying to perfect it, but ultimately I don't think it would have turned out well in the first place even if I had done everything right.

I guess I shouldn't be too upset about how it turned out. It was only my first real attempt. Even with that in mind, it's not too bad considering I didn't really have a muse or model. I suppose it's just a process. Practice makes perfect, after all.

Week 2

7-2-12

Entry #3

Time Spent Practicing: One Hour

Today, I actually had a muse: a green pig from "Angry Birds". I based it off of a picture of a plush toy. I figured the shape and consistency of the color and pattern wouldn't be that hard to recreate in the form of a painting.

Evidently, I skipped a page when I made my first painting which resulted in miniature panic attack paired with a frantic, repetitive muttering of the words "Where's my painting?!"; the course of which lasted roughly three seconds.

I started at the middle of the page, where the nose of the pig would be. I made an oval for the snout with the "permanent green hue" and two nostrils with black. The lower lip, eyebrows, body, ears, and lastly, the eyes, followed suit.

The size of the brush makes a huge difference. This painting was pretty much just a few different lines, ovals, circles, and half-circles of different sizes. The thickest brush I have was perfect for coloring in the body and snout. A few thinner brushes worked well for the black nostrils, eyebrows, ears, and eyeballs.

One of the hardest parts of this piece was making a slight distinction between the body and the nose and lips, as some parts stuck out further in the photo of said pig. I used less water for this portion and more paint.

The white parts of the eyes were somewhat difficult to deal with. Watercolors are so light that they tend to have a white-like tint to them, so I was forced to use globs of white paint to make an obvious difference between the body and eyes.

Overall, I think this piece turned out a lot better than the first, even if the inspiration for it is generally eccentric compared to the subtle nature of wildlife.

This girl loves to write. She is writing very well in here. Don't let this intimidate you! Yours can be more of a journal format (just your thoughts)

Week 2
7-5-12
Entry #4

Time Spent Practicing: One Hour and Fifteen Minutes

My younger sister is hopelessly obsessed with pandas. I figured that they would be a relatively simple next piece, while still pressing a challenge upon myself and continuing with the recurring theme of trying something new.

I used one of her stuffed animals as a rough idea for what I was going to try to create. In the end, my piece ended up looking like a self-portrait of a human...but in panda form. The white part of the head blended into the paper, and I was afraid to color the background as I didn't want to risk ruining the entire piece, as well as the perfectly rounded panda's head (not that it was noticeable on the paper!).

I started with the shape of the head with a light coat of white paint. From there, I added the black facial markings, nose, and mouth. After they dried, I added a thicker coat of white paint to establish the face's presence. I barely used any water when I painted the eyes since I wanted them to be dark and stand out within the black markings. Once I was sure that the white paint was dry and wouldn't be affected by more paint, I added the ears. I then took my thickest brush for creating the neck and "shoulders" to complete the piece.

When I finally took a step back from staring at my painting for a good forty minutes, it didn't look that bad compared to my other attempts. I noticed a streak between the ears where the brush hadn't been completely clean and free of other paint and created a brown line, but besides the scattered smudges and and places where the paint ran, I was almost content with it.

Week 3
7-9-12
Entry #5

Time Spent Practicing: One Hour and Thirty Minutes

I decided to try another flower. This time, I depicted a sunflower standing in soil in front of the sky. It's probably better than the other attempt, although this one was far more complex.

The true beauty of the sunflower is highly understated. It's extremely hard to capture its essence in the form of paint. The shades of yellow and the different layers of the petals are nearly impossible to portray because the paints blend and dry as one solid when applied at the same time. Therefore, the actual petals only appear as a variety of protruding points around the center of the sunflower.

I started in the middle of the page, again, with a black circle. Once that dried, I placed several dark black dots within the circle to represent seeds. I then took "burnt umber" and made a thick ring around the circle. Those two colors didn't look very good together. I took some more of the burnt umber to try and lighten the dark center circle and tried to blend the two into a black that flowed into the brown. It turned out okay - much better than before, at least.

6/6/12

you are
hard on
yourself

✱ This is only a partial example (she did do 6 weeks)