DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

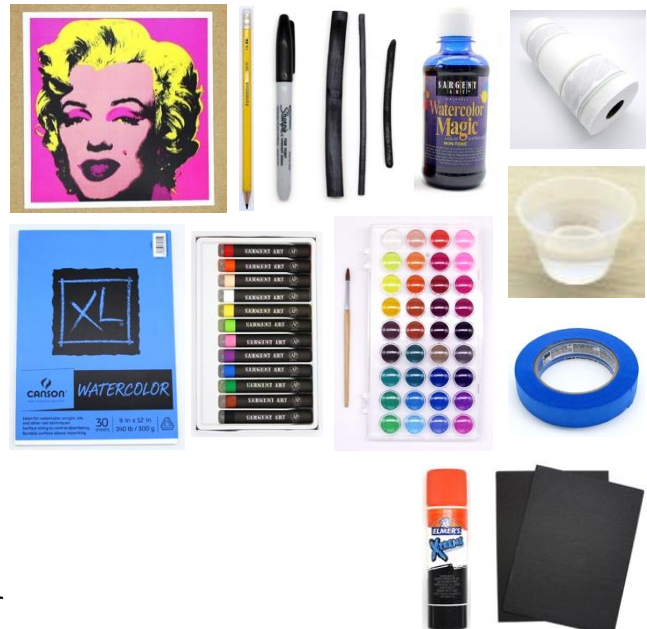## ARTventures ... at home!

Watercolor Pop Art Portrait

Create colorful portraits inspired by the art on-view
in *Changing times: Art of the 1960's*

Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987), *Marilyn,*
1967, screenprint in colors on paper. Museum
purchase, 1968.60.5

Materials Needed

- watercolor set or liquid watercolors
- 4-6 sheets: 6x6" watercolor paper
- watercolor brush
- printed portrait(s)
- several colors: oil pastels
- black permanent marker
- soft vine charcoal sticks
- pencil or colored pencil
- bowl or cup for water
- masking tape
- paper towels

Optional

- glue stick
- 2-4 sheets: 9x12" black construction paper

Step 1

Find a portrait of a person (yourself, family member, celebrity, etc.) to use as the focus of your artwork. Images can be from magazines, photos, newspapers, etc. Portrait should be no larger than the watercolor paper.

Note: portrait will be marked on. Use only paper copies of any photos you wish to keep. For best results, use papers with a matte finish.

Step 2

Apply charcoal to the back of the printed portrait. Smear charcoal with fingers to fully cover paper. Flip over and place charcoal-side down on top of watercolor paper. Tape top and bottom of portrait to watercolor paper.

Step 3

Pressing firmly with a pencil, trace the lines of the portrait to transfer the image. Once finished tracing, remove portrait from the watercolor paper. Keep original printed portrait for later use.

Step 4

On the watercolor paper, trace over all charcoal transfer lines with an oil pastel or permanent marker. Color any areas of the portrait with oil pastel or permanent marker as desired.

Helpful hint: leave blank white spaces for watercolor paints later.

Have time for a short survey? Let us know how you're enjoying our digital resources!

Step 5

Using a paintbrush, paint the entire drawing with watercolors, using more than one color if desired.

Helpful hint: use brush to lightly wet drawing with water before painting. Dab dry with paper towel then apply paint while paper is still lightly damp so that the watercolors flow smoothly.

Helpful hint: use the complementary, or opposite color of the dominant oil pastel color in drawing (ex: purple watercolor for yellow pastel). This way, your colors "pop" the most.

Note: apply thin layers of watercolor to prevent paper from tearing. Dab wet areas with a paper towel to dry any excess water.

Step 6

Add new layers of color to the painting with either watercolors and oil pastels as desired. Experiment with mark-making techniques, add words or designs, and decorate as desired. Lightly dab painting dry with paper towel.

Note: permanent markers will not work over oil pastel marks.

Step 7

Use steps #2-6 to repeat the portrait transfer process and create more artworks. Add more charcoal to the back of the portrait after each transfer. Experiment with color combinations to make different variations of the same portrait, making as many variations as desired. At least 4-6 portraits are recommended.

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Step 8

Select your top 4 portraits and arrange them into a square grid. Glue to a colored construction paper background large enough for all. You can also create a larger gird if desired by creating more portrait transfer (ex: 9 portraits in a 3 x 3 grid, 16 portraits in 4 x 4 grid, etc.).
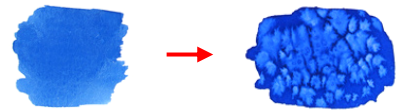
Helpful hint: place portraits of opposite color combinations together for greatest "pop" effect (ex: yellow portrait between two purple portraits).

Optional: glue portraits to black construction paper to create a dynamic contrast with brighter colors.

Extra Challenge

Sprinkle salt to your watercolors while they are drying to create unique effects. Allow watercolor to fully air dry.

Take a photo of yourself, friends, or family members. Transfer the photos to create a friends and family watercolor collage!

Resources

Extra watercolor effects
Oil pastel techniques
Learn more about Andy Warhol

Questions about or ideas for ARTventures? Email edu@daytonart.org