

Esterita Austin

PORTRAITURE ~ WITH A TWIST

This is a class that beginners as well as advanced students can find their own comfort zone. You will be taken, step-by-step, through a very orderly yet creative method of creating expressive portraiture. Rembrandt, La Tour and Carravagio all incorporated the technique of using a light source from a single direction to create drama and mystery in their imagery. Using age-old compositional techniques you will create modern day portraits using light and dark as our tools of intrigue. You will start from your own photograph.

Taking the Photograph please read

Choose a single (or multiple portrait), I suggest no more than two subjects. One is sufficient. I recommend keeping it simple. For example, set up your model in a room either near a window with a direct light source or in a room with a single light source directed on the subject. Make sure your subject is not in the distance but close up in the viewfinder of your camera. If you would like still life objects in your composition and/or a room or out door setting that's fine. Simplicity is often more effective than too much detail, although detail can always be eliminated if necessary. If photographing outside it is preferable to photograph toward the latter part of the day or evening when one can get decent shadows in the room (or outside) Keep in mind that you are trying to high light one side of the subject and keep the other side in the shadow. This creates strong high lights and dark shadows. Do not use overhead lighting and please don't use a flash on your camera. Whether your light source is from below/ side or under, one direction light is the key. You may choose just to keep a single portrait and not include any other objects, but keep your options open to be able to include more in the composition if time allows. You can always simplify later. If you are photographing outside, again, I find that the end of the day, when the sun's rays are low and create strong highlights and long deep shadows, creates drama in a piece.

Once you choose your photograph we will make a pattern in class either with opaque or overhead projector. Or if the class is near a copy center we can also have the option of having the tracings blown up. Please bring in, 1- 8x 10 black and white, 1- 8x 10 color, and 1- 11 x 17 color copy

The technique we will be using is fusing, but if you prefer to work with your own method, please feel free, I may or may not be able to assist you technically with your own method. After your piece is assembled you will be taught how to paint on the quilt surface with textile paints to completely enhance the depth, add detail to accentuate your image. No previous painting experience is necessary.

Continued on Back

Supplies:

Small Rotary cutter, x-acto knife, scissors, cutting mat, flower head pins, ballpoint pen, black sharpie marker, very fine point black micron marker, pencil, freezer paper, Reynolds parchment paper, painters tape and scotch magic tape, multi-plug extension cord with surge protection, table-top light and sheet to cover your work at night.

There is a kit fee of \$20.00, which includes: Textile paint, materials for textile paints, the use of brushes, 2.5 yd fusible web, 18" x 22" transfer paper, handouts

Fabrics:

Background: 1-2 yards black cotton fabric (this depends on what size you wish your finished piece to be. One yard will more than likely be enough.)

Assortment of fabrics: Recommendations are cottons with strong multi-value/multi-color in the patterning: commercial batiks (the "splotchy" kind), hand dyes, etc. specialty fabrics: velvets, burnouts, satins, tulle, sheers, laces etc. The more texture and the wider the variety of fabrics, the better. Please make sure there are some intense darks and very light fabrics in your selection. There are hand dyes that work very well, as long as they have a FULL range of value from light to dark in one piece.

Please bring a large assortment of fabrics.

NO SEWING MACHINE REQUIRED (unless you are a fast worker and are driving)

Website: www.esteritaustin.com