

Dry brush technique. Portrait drawing technique

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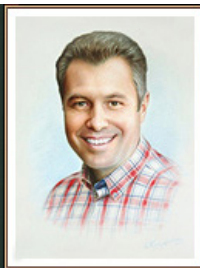


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Cartoon drawings video



Portrait of girls



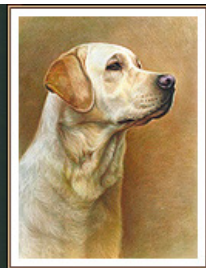
Man's portrait



Family portrait



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Dry brush technique, a modern style of oil painting on paper, quite similar to drawing portraits in pencil.

What is a drybrush technique?

Dry brush technique is a modern style of painting in which oil paint, bristle and synthetic brushes are used on watercolour paper or fabric. A few drops of solvent is used as well and a rubber eraser for highlights and details.
Why it is called Dry Brush technique? Black oil paint (of any kind) is squeezed from the tube onto the palette, only a little bit and if desired, 2-3 drops of domestic sewing machine lubricating oil or diesel fuel is added as solvent. Slightly touch the paint with the paintbrush and rub it on a palette so that the brush is actually almost dry.



For a black and white portrait about 0.5 cubic centimeter of black oil paint is enough. Then apply a very thin layer of paint on watercolor paper or fabric. The result: the surface is not greasy when you touch it, therefore you can frame it or roll it up for transport without a frame. At first glance Dry Brush is very similar to pencil portraits. In fact, pencil is actually used: some artists depict the picture initially by drawing a pencil sketch and only then do they start using a brush with oil paint; while other artists do not use pencil at all and use dry brush technique from start to finish - like some of the artists of Moscow's Arbat street used to do.

The most important feature of dry brush technique is that it allows speed drawing with excellent quality in a very short time, so a portrait artist can earn much more money this way than using any other drawing techniques. More information can be found here: [How to earn money by drawing](#)

The dry brush method of drawing first came into existence roughly about the mid 20th century.

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Soviet artists made such black and white and color portraits by rubbing brushes with paint on white cotton cloth - ordinary white sheet stretched on a frame. Paper was also used but this was short-lived because of the conditions (sunlight, etc.) and the size that made it non-practical. The size of the portraits were often as big as three meters and therefore only canvas was practical to use - although it was expensive. They were mostly portraits of political figures of the Socialist era: Lenin, Stalin, Brezhnev and other important people. In the days of Leonid Brezhnev there were

court painters -so called "retouchers"- whose jobs were to touch up someone's image: their imperfections, clothes/uniforms - especially the images of very important persons: members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of the USSR, who wished to appear in the portraits as immaculate - hence, more respectable. The dry brush technique used in such portraits involved several techniques: dry brush, watercolor, colored pencils, tempera. In modern art dry brush is perceived as a non-traditional technique, it has mostly been used by free/street artists. Not in one art institution this technique of drawing is taught. A new painting



technique simply can not be recognized in academic circles for various reasons, conservative views - despite the fact that we live in the 21st century now and portraits in this brilliant painting technique have gained popularity. You can find no information about dry brush technique of drawing in bookstores either. Therefore, many skilled artists have trained independently. . Currently dry brush technique is considered to be one of the most advanced drawing techniques. It is the fastest way to draw a portrait from life, yet some artists from different countries do not know about dry brush at all and so they draw portraits using the old method of drawing with charcoal, pencil, sanguine, pastel, etc., thus they lose more of their time - and, of course, their earnings.

see FAQ How to Dry Brush.

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At present I am getting a lot of emails with various questions from many portrait artists from different countries about this popular technique of drawing on paper with oil paints. The technique today is recognized by many freelancers throughout the civilized world, the popularity and demand keep growing and growing every day.

