

How I Became an Artista // Community Art LAB

Portraits with Jazmin Herrada

ARTIST INTRO:

Jazmin Herrada is an interdisciplinary artist based in Phoenix, Arizona. She specializes in fine arts, specifically drawing and painting. Her most common subject is portraiture and the nude figure. Herrada's artwork deconstructs the neat boundaries of gender in an overly saturated masculine state through the brown figure, a recurring theme in her work. The symbolism and motifs found in her work are primarily drawn from her Mexican American traditions and culture. She also draws inspiration from artists such as Kehinde Wiley (United States, b. 1977), Richard "Dick" Ellescas (United States, b. 1937), Fabián Cháirez (Mexico, b. 1987), and early 20th-century artist Alphonse Mucha (Czech Republic, 1860-1939).

ARTWORK:



Workshop:

We are going to start with the general outline of the face. When starting off the sketch of a drawing you will want to start with a light shade such as H or 2H and keep a light hand. I want you to observe the form along the edge of your head, forehead, cheeks, chin, and jaw. Also think about the type of face you have such as a round face, long face, square, etc.

Steps

1. Outline then detail

- Light pencil strokes for sketching then darker for lining
- Keep your hand light and quick then go heavy handed and more precise
- Basic knowledge and observation of anatomy is good to keep in mind
- Don'ts: Smudge with your finger

2. Features

- Nose
 - Big nose, small nose, wide nostrils, narrow nostrils
 - Bridge shape: roman, hooked, angled
- Eyes
(Eyes are considered to be one of the hardest parts of the face to draw, but, don't let it discourage you! Generally, the shape of the eye is an almond shape so you can start from that.)
 - Monolids, double lids, droopy eyes, almond eyes
- Mouth
 - Thick lips, thin lips, big mouth, small mouth
- Chin
 - Big chin, small chin, strong chin, square chin
 - Jaw shape
 - Square, round
 - Shading

3. Hair

- Start off with a general outline then shade, then add hair strands
- What's your usual hairstyle?

4. Finishing

If you want to take it a step further, you can spray your drawing with a finishing coat such as Krylon to have a protective layer over it and prevent yellowing or smudging.

Notes

- Darkest part is the pupil and maybe the hair
- Explain the range of shades
- Different shading techniques
- Crosshatching

Materials:

- Drawing pencils (or any pencil you have available)
- Drawing paper (or any paper you have available)
- Eraser
- Personal item
- Satin finish spray can (optional)

Objectives:

Participants will learn key elements of a portrait such as understanding value, structure, and proportions

Participants will learn how the artist uses portraiture to convey identity while exploring a subject's individual, community, and cultural identity

Participants will create an original work of art using objects/items that represent themselves

Reflection Questions:

How can portraiture convey identity?

Why are objects sometimes included in a portrait?

What kind of personal information might a subject want to include in a portrait?

How can we use portraiture to self-express ourselves and how do we want the world to see us?

What did you learn about yourself throughout the process?

Key Terms to consider:

Identity, Identity politics, migration, memories, and gender identity

Additional Reading:

Rohmer, Harriet. *Just like Me: Stories and Self-Portraits by Fourteen Artists*. Clearinghouse for Specialized Media & Technology, 2004.

Mendez, Yamile Saied. "Yamile Saied Méndez " Where Are You from?" *Yamile S. Mendez, Author*, HarperCollins; Illustrated Edition, 4 June 2019.