

Charcoal Portrait Drawing

Material list

With Traci Martin

- An 8x10" black and white portrait photo. It can be a self portrait or a photo of anyone they would like to draw. Pets would probably be fine too. The photo needs to be taken fairly close up and clear so we can get good detail. You all know my work so you have an example of the format we are going to be working with. The photo needs to be taken without flash.

Natural lighting makes the best drawing in the long run. The best photos can be taken near an open window inside, when it's daylight outside. If there are very few lights on inside, that makes the best shadow and contrast. It doesn't matter what is in the background, as we will only be drawing the subject. The higher the contrast, the more dramatic the outcome and the stronger the finished drawing.

- 18x24" drawing paper. Strathmore (comes in a spiral pad) at Hobby Lobby is great, or there is a large selection online at Dick Blick too.
- Black soft pastels or compressed charcoal, "Artist's Soft Pastels, 'Gallery by Mungvo'" at Hobby Lobby is really good.
- kneaded eraser
- graphite drawing pencil
- charcoal pencil(s), a variety set is always good
- yardstick & ruler
- ball point pen or fine tip Sharpie

Recommended, but optional:

- assorted blending tools (packets sold at Hobby Lobby)
- tortillions
- chamois
- rubber eraser
- vine charcoal
- eraser pen
- white pastel or Conte pencil/stick
- pencil sharpener
- spray fixative