

Simplified Portrait > Acrylic Portrait Sculpture

Materials

Computer with Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

Digital photo

Cover stock / tag board

Glue

Scrap mat board

Scrap Plexiglas + Plexiglas cutter

Colored pencil

Scrap wood / router

Sharpie marker

Procedure

1. Open your digital photo in Adobe Photoshop
2. Go to the top menu bar > image > mode > grayscale
3. Go to the top menu bar > image > adjustments > posterize. Select a low number of levels (3 or 4), trying to keep the features of the portrait, yet simplifying the image.
4. Crop the image to zero in and improve the composition.
5. Change the size of the image to about 5 x 7". The resolution should be 300 pixels/inch. To do this, go to image > image size. Type in the size but make sure you click the "constrain proportions" checkbox so that the image doesn't get skewed.
6. Print the image onto to a piece of cardstock.
7. Glue the image onto a piece of mat board and trim the mat board so that it is the same size as the portrait.
8. Use colored pencils to color over the different values on the portrait. You may wish to use hatching or cross-hatching to be consistent.



9. Now, use a Plexiglas cutter to cut a scrap piece of Plexiglas the same size as the printed image.
10. Place the Plexiglas over the image and use a sharpie marker to create a contour drawing of the portrait.
11. Cut a scrap block of wood about 6 inches long. Use a router to make two grooves in the wood, wide enough to hold the Plexiglas and the mat board. If you don't have access to Plexiglas, you could create a "stand" for the sculpture by making a clay base with grooves.

