

David Lobebnerg

Beginning a Painting



PRELIMINARY STEPS FOR A CALIFORNIA VIBE WATERCOLOR PAINTING

- Suggested for advanced watercolor portrait artists only. For all others, I will supply subject photos with matching tracing copies.
- Tape a sheet of see-through tracing paper or vellum over your personally photographed subject reference photograph (a minimum size photograph of 8 by 10 inches will do just fine).
- With a soft office pencil, trace head, features, and value pattern across the face. Do not overdo the tracing and make it look like a complex, paint-by-numbers oil painting kit!
- You will rely on your eyes to see most of the details during the painting process. But . . . what you do trace, must be done carefully and accurately.
- Reduce or enlarge the tracing on a plain paper copy machine. Consider if you want a vertically oriented or horizontally oriented composition.
- Have your subject's head or face dramatically fill up your composition like the photo on the top right.
- Make a plain paper copy of this tracing to eventually be used for small 7 ½ by 11 inch size sheets of 140 lb. professional-grade watercolor paper and a second plain paper copy of this tracing to eventually be used for 11 by 15 inch sheets of 140lb. professional-grade watercolor paper. You may have to use a do-it-yourself copy service if you do not have a home copy machine.

Again, remember that you can fill your composition space with parts of the subject's head going right off the edges of your vertical or horizontal composition like the photo on the top right of my "Don't and Do When Taking Your California Vibe Watercolor™ painting reference photograph".

It is important that you save these two master plain paper copies for use over and over again for tracing onto sheets of 7 ½ by 11 inch and 11 by 15 inch watercolor paper.