



ARTS PLUS

# Painted Paper Portraits

A fun Saturday workshop for adults

## “Part Three: Fill in your Line Drawing as a Paper Mosaic”

Time from start to finish = 2 – 3 hours (or longer depending on how detailed you want to get...)

You will need the following materials:

- **Your painted paper**, torn up into pieces
- **Glue** (regular white glue or glue sticks)
- **Clean scrap paper**, computer paper or newsprint is good
- **Scissors** and an Exacto knife if you have it

### Brief description:

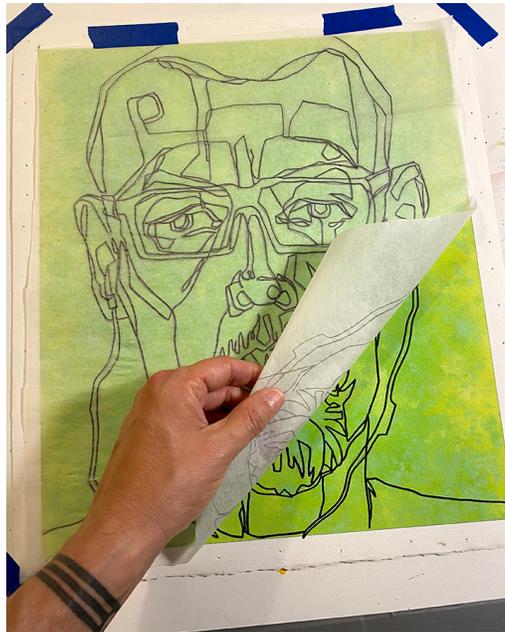
The final part of this project is the most intricate and time consuming, but also presents an opportunity to really sink deeply into working with your hands and eyes. We are going to fill in the shapes of our blind contour drawing with pieces of painted paper, as if we were filling in a mosaic floor or countertop.

There are several approaches you can take to this final part of the project: you can cut individual pieces of painted paper to fit exactly into certain shapes, you can chop up your painted paper into smaller pieces and fill in the shapes with many tiny bits, or you can go more free-style and make rough cuts of the collage material, overlapping and shifting the shapes of the drawing as you go. Regardless of our approach, you don't have to fill in every single shape, and you can allow yourself to be selective with areas of detail (in other words, leave some shapes on your face blank and fill in other shapes with more precision.)

There is no set way to do this, but before you start, think about how much time you really want to spend on this project and then choose your approach accordingly. Also, be inventive with color! Don't worry about matching the painted paper pieces to the actual colors of your eyes, skin or hair. Be bold and have fun!

## Steps

• **#1:** (Optional) If you have tracing paper, you can do a **trace of your entire drawing**. This will come in handy later if you choose to cut collage pieces exactly to fit the in shapes of your design. When doing the tracing, make sure you tape down your paper and tape a hinge at the top of the tracing paper, so that your work will not shift around as you work.

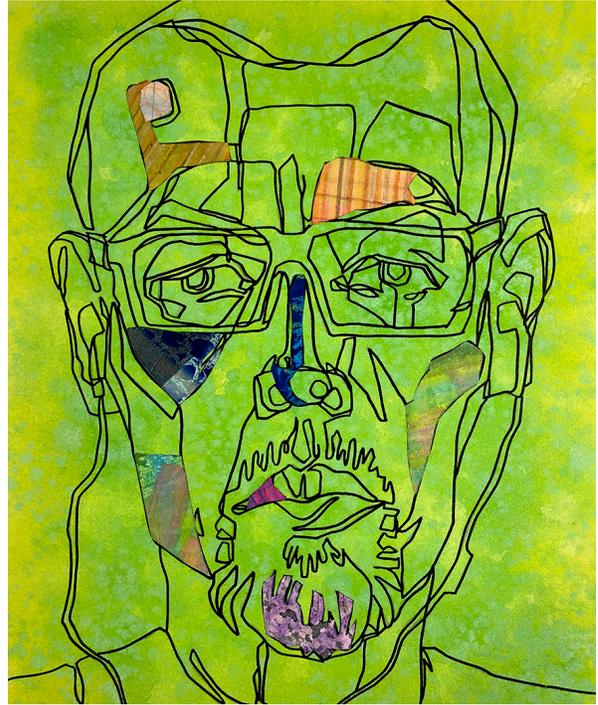


• **#2:** (Optional) If you were working from a webcam or the video camera from your laptop, and you saved a photo of your face from the drawing session, consider **printing this photo and using it as a rough guide** for your collage work. Again, we are not trying to match the actual colors of our skin, but we can fill in shapes with light or dark, warm or cool color pieces in relation to the highlights and shadows in your reference photo.

• **#3:** Now start in on the collage! I think the best idea is **not to over-plan it**, but just to begin by placing a few different colors around the page and see what works. This is just about testing out combinations and seeing where you may want to fill in with certain colors or patterns.



• #4: Move things around until you come up with an interesting color scheme. Once you have decided on a pleasing design, **go ahead and glue these first pieces down**. If you are trying to fit your collage pieces exactly inside of a shape, use your tracing paper as a stencil. To do this, cut out the shape you want to fill from the tracing paper first. Then use that as a stencil guide to trace the exact shape onto a piece of painted paper. Now you can cut out this painted paper shape and it will fit exactly in the corresponding shape on your drawing.



it comes to doing this type of intricate collage work, people's initial instinct is often to try and figure out the whole page first. Then they will want to work in one small section and complete it before moving on to the next area. Don't fall into this trap! It will drive you bananas! Instead try to **work a little bit in different sections of the page**. **Trust your intuition**; lay down paper, glue it in place and then respond to the final piece as it slowly grows and changes.



- #5: Continue working until you are satisfied with the composition, but I recommend **leaving some space still open at the end**. Otherwise, these painted paper collage can seem over-busy and chaotic. As a final step to finish off the piece, you may want to **redraw the border lines** between the pieces of painted paper with your Sharpie or permanent marker.

Above all else, have fun and enjoy!

And please photograph your completed “Painted Paper Portrait” and share on Instagram or other social media platforms, with the hastag **#artsplusathome**

