

Abstract like Picasso

Girl Before a Mirror, 1932

Simplify shapes and emphasize line with colorful pattern

Here's how to get started.

Do some sketches of a reflected image of yourself and from a couple of different viewpoints. Try using markers/colored pencil in complementary colors with bold black lines.

Simplify and alter your shapes & lines. Tear up the images, rearrange the parts and glue to new background as a plan for the final painting.

Prepare the canvas with your new background, transfer/sketch the image onto the canvas. Work front to back and finish with black lines.

<http://www.moma.org/collection/works/78311>



The Old Guitarist, 1904

Create a monochromatic study of you with the famous work from Picasso as a guide.

Choose your color and paint the background like Picasso did. Notice the vertical and horizontal bands of values and the textured application in some areas that contrasts with the smooth opaque application in others.

Sketch/transfer your image onto the canvas and start with the middle value for your skin. Using the wet-on-wet technique create value transitions to show the highlights and shadows of the face. Remember to develop a full range of values.

A variation would be to work in just two colors (one for skin, 2nd for hair/clothes/background)

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/exhibitions/Modern/Guitarist>



Abstract like Chuck Close

Self-Portrait, 1997

Choose to work in small non-objective sections to create the overall sensation of an abstracted version of yourself.

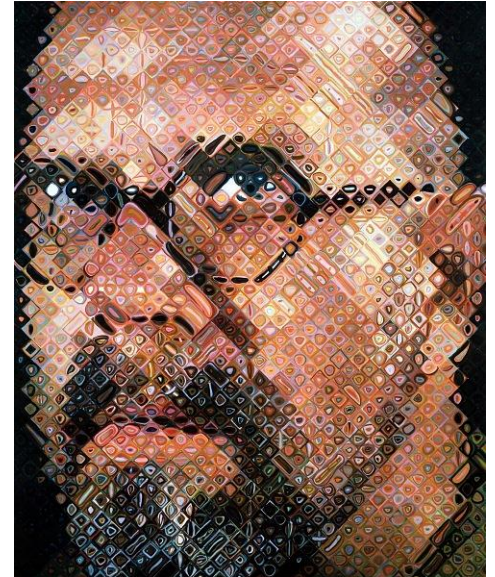
Enlarge your sketch so that your face fills 90-95% of the painting format.

Draw a 1" grid over the whole face (try it on a 45 degree angle like Chuck does for a higher degree of difficulty).

Mark each square H (high), M (middle), or L (low) and choose a neutralized hue to fill in each with the corresponding value. For example, for purple the

L would be an almost black neutralized purple, the M would be a slight tint of a neutralized purple and the H would be a not quite white neutralized purple. **Then paint** each square or rectangle with layers of bars or concentric circles/squares in ranges of those colors. Make sure to test the colors and layers of colors in your sketchbook first to ensure you don't have to go back and redo areas.

<http://www.pacegallery.com/artists/80/chuck-close>



Abstract like Paul Klee

Sinbad the Sailor, 1923

Use your reference image to make a slow, careful, detailed contour line study of you. Look back into your sketchbook for directions (when we drew our hands and the elephants/giraffes). **Draw** large so that the contour study fills the size of the canvas. **Think** of a color scheme that will communicate the mood you wish to express – write it down.

Use lines to abstract the face- divide the shapes into large angled shapes (no lines less than 1/2"). **Use** a ruler to divide the background into horizontal-ish spaces. **Transfer outline** of head to canvas, **repaint** an almost white in one of the colors you plan to use. When dry, transfer the rest of the lines onto the canvas and use glazes to fill each shape. When all color is finished use a Sharpie to trace over lines- some will be BOLD others not as much but most will be thin, so be careful and go slow.



Abstract like Amedeo Modigliani

Jeanne Hebuterne, 1919

Intentionally distort one dimension of your face; make it longer (nose will become emphasized) or wider (cheeks/brow/eyes will become emphasized). Do that by drawing that dimension 1.5 to 2 times more than what it should be. Use the proportions of the human face worksheet to help determine that measurement and how it will impact all the other features. Make sure the format fits the exact same size of your canvas.

Choose a warm or cool color scheme and **repaint** the background in the either a light or dark version of the color you want your eyes/shirt to be. Repaint the background of your canvas just like Modigliani did (floor, door, top of wall, bottom of wall). Try to get all the values and applications similar. When that dries, transfer/sketch the distorted version of you onto your canvas. Then paint yourself in the remaining colors, using good contrast.

