Extreme Realism Graphite Pencil Portraiture Drawing Lecture Notes From the Masterclass

In this comprehensive lecture, renowned artist and instructor Kevin Murphy shares his insights and techniques for creating highly realistic graphite pencil portraits. Drawing enthusiasts will learn about the materials, techniques, and mindset needed to achieve extreme realism in their artwork.

Extreme Realism Graphite Pencil Portraiture Drawing Lecture Notes from the Gallery513 School of Art & Portraiture - Part One by George Roland Wills

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 17 pages
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Materials

- Graphite pencils in a range of hardnesses (6H to 9B)

- Drawing paper with a smooth surface

- Blending stumps and tortillons

- Kneaded eraser

- Reference photo

Techniques

Murphy emphasizes the importance of developing a strong foundation in basic drawing skills, such as:

- Observational drawing

- Value control

- Shading and blending

For extreme realism, Murphy recommends using a combination of soft and hard pencils to create a wide range of values and textures.

He also demonstrates his unique "Murphy Method" for blending, which involves using blending stumps and tortillons to create smooth transitions between values.

Mindset

In addition to technical skills, Murphy stresses the importance of having the right mindset for creating realistic portraits.

- **Patience:** Realistic portraits can take many hours or even days to complete.

- **Precision:** Extreme realism requires meticulous attention to detail.

- **Perseverance:** Don't be discouraged by mistakes or setbacks.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Murphy guides students through the entire process of creating a realistic graphite pencil portrait, from the initial sketch to the final details.

1. **Sketch the outline:** Begin by lightly sketching the basic outline of the face using a 6H or 7H pencil.

2. **Establish values:** Use a range of pencil hardnesses to block in the darkest and lightest areas of the face.

3. **Refine the features:** Gradually refine the details of the eyes, nose, mouth, and hair using a combination of hard and soft pencils.

4. **Blend and soften:** Use blending stumps and tortillons to smooth out transitions and create a more realistic appearance.

5. **Add details:** Once the main features are established, focus on adding details such as skin texture, hair texture, and highlights.

6. **Final touches:** Use a sharp pencil to add the finishing touches, such as highlights in the eyes and subtle shading to define the face's contours.

Tips for Success

- Use a reference photo with good lighting and high resolution.

- Start with a light touch and gradually build up the values.

- Be patient and take your time.

- Don't be afraid to make mistakes.

- Practice regularly to improve your skills.

Extreme realism graphite pencil portraiture is a challenging but rewarding art form that requires a combination of technical skill, patience, and dedication.

By following the insights and techniques shared in this lecture, aspiring artists can develop their skills and create stunningly realistic portraits that capture the essence of their subjects.

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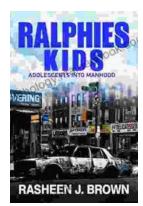
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