



Artistry Unleashed

Inspiration and Resources for Creatives

Edition 2



Overcoming Obstacles

A person wearing a yellow jacket and a blue hat is seen from behind, looking out over a vast mountain valley. The valley is filled with green trees and rocky terrain, with snow-capped mountains in the distance under a clear sky.

Dip low to the earth,
oh heavenly ambition,
walking on wooden legs as if mere men.

I'd envisioned loftier ideals
All for not?
I now wonder.

Do dreams die while drudging through dirt?
Wings of promise temporarily
tucked under reality?

Or, will they rise again?

-JoDee Luna

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Welcome Creatives

WHAT ARE YOUR OBSTACLES?

Talk to any creative, and they will confess to facing obstacles.

I've been revisiting portions of my book, [Refrain from the Identical: Insight and Inspiration for Creative Eclectics](#), and am amazed at how relevant the writings are concerning my current creative journey.

Chapter 4 addresses obstacles us creatives often struggle to overcome. I highlight topics such as dealing with depression (typical of the artistic temperament), steering clear of relational drama, and balancing multiple life roles.

Obstacles often derail our artistry, such as lack of skills, fear of failure, unmet expectations, disorganized creative spaces and supplies, or lack of time.

Here's an excerpt:

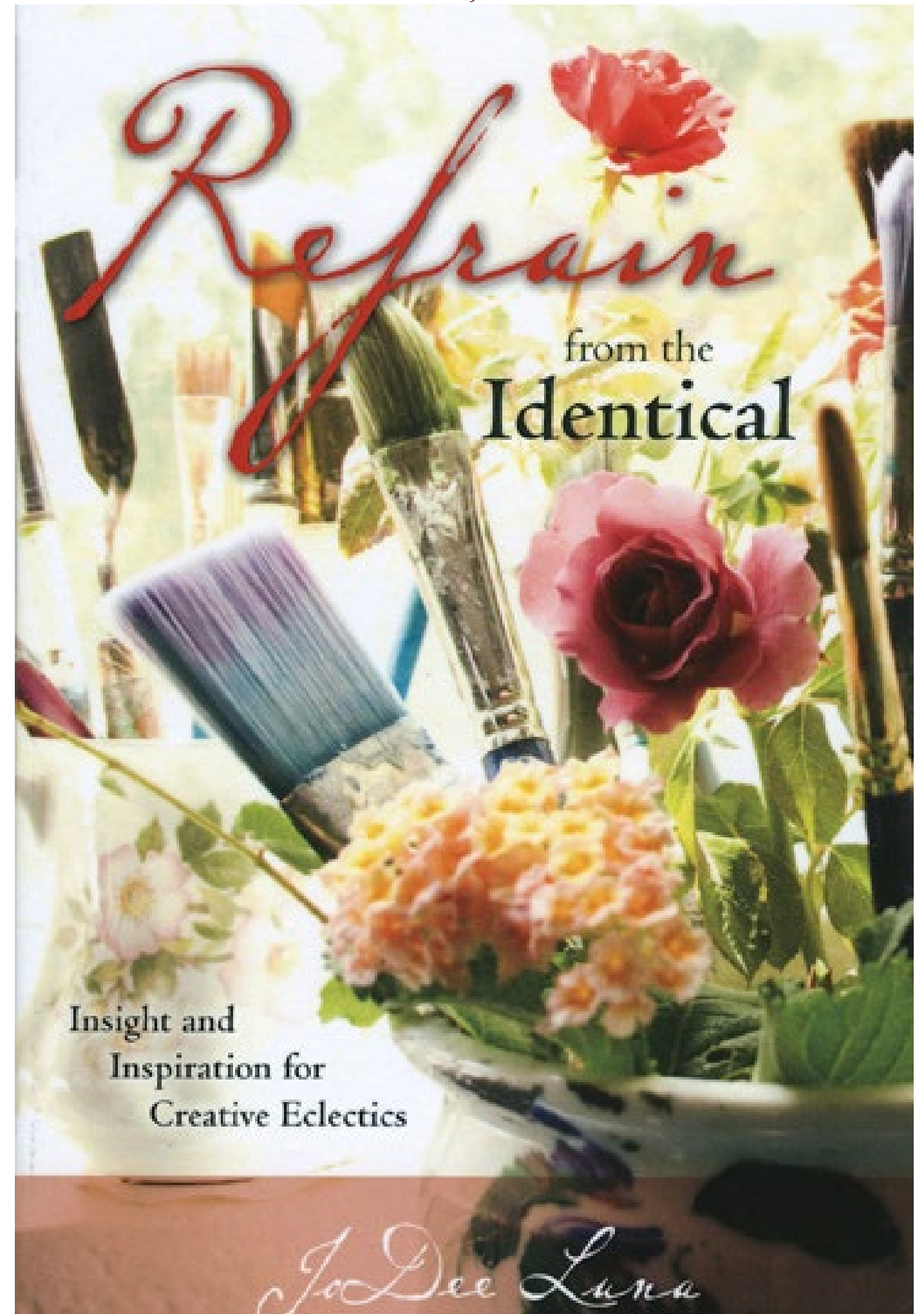
It is not uncommon for depression to precede those moments in our lives when we feel we are really walking in the gifts we were given. We grow weary from trying to fit our talents together, like puzzle pieces we repeatedly turn while we look for just the right fit.

I offer insights and solutions to help readers push through their obstacles. My hope is to do the same through this 2nd edition of *Artistry Unleashed*.

So, as you pursue your creative life, don't be surprised by the obstacles you face. Draw strength from other creatives. Those featured in this edition address the resistance they battle and share ways they push through.

And remember, you are chosen to create!

-Jo Dee Luna



Feature Artist

GINA MARIE WILSON

Instagram: [@ginawilsonart](#)



Gina Marie Wilson

Artist



Website

Fine Art America





Confessions of a Blocked Artist by Gina M. Wilson

Five years ago, when my husband and I had a sprawling modern farmhouse built on our five acres in the country, I insisted on a finished attic to be used as my art studio.

My studio attic was amazing...you should have seen it. It's too late now, because we have since moved to a much smaller two story in a city that's closer to my family. Nevertheless, what you would not have seen much of is me up in that attic painting.

Yes, I confess...I have been a "Blocked Artist" for a few years now. Sure, I've dabbled now and then...but. There are so many "buts." So many reasons why I walked by my easel in that gorgeous artist's attic time and time again and looked the other way. I was busy with my online job. We had guests visiting. The house needed cleaning. The wind was blowing. Let's face it...I've been blocked.

So yesterday I decided to get unblocked, and I started a small painting of one of my favorite places - the beach at Morro Rock. I love that Rock, and I painted it before, but I never did like that painting. So I painted it again, and this time it's.... just okay. I even put a little figure in the foreground. A woman sitting in the sand under a blue umbrella, her elbows resting on her knees, her hair blowing in the ocean breeze.

This painting is far from perfect, and I'd go so far as to say it looks a bit juvenile. But the theme is something dear to my

heart. The freedom I feel while I'm sitting in the sand looking out over the ocean and my hair is blowing in the breeze. Under an umbrella of course, because this 62-year-old skin doesn't need more sun damage.

But the painting is about freedom. Mostly freedom from the "buts" that keep me revolving around that tight little world of work, keeping house, and all the obligations that I'm so willing to turn into excuses not to create.

I like my work though, and it has a place in my life. It keeps me grounded.

This morning when I awoke at 6:00 am and checked my work calendar for the day I gasped in horror. I had forgotten to reschedule my second online session, and now it was going to be back-to-back with my first session without a minute in between.

This is not good in my work world, since our protocol is to open each zoom session 15 minutes early to allow participants time to sign in, troubleshoot their technology, etc. The manager on the account had reminded my team several times to fix our calendars. I forgot. I messaged the manager and told her that I would not be opening my second Zoom session early, but that I would open it on time. Then I forgave myself for making a mistake.



Confessions of a Blocked Artist Continued

While throwing my hair together and a bit of makeup on my face, I shouted out to my husband one of my favorite mantras for times such as this. “You know how to keep from ever making mistakes? Just don’t try anything new or do anything important!”

He shouted back the affirmations that he knows work for me at times such as these. I threw a few quick curls in my hair, brushed a bit of makeup on my face, and opened my first zoom session, and no one was happier with my performance today than I was. Was it perfect? Not by a long shot! But I pushed through and, as I shouted to my husband afterwards, “I pulled it off without a hitch!” Sometimes it’s not about how

well you do something...it’s about the fact that you dared to risk and do it at all.

You know how to never make paintings that aren’t good? Just don’t paint. Or, as Vincent Gogh said, “If you hear a voice within you say, ‘you cannot paint,’ then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.”

Since writing this article, I decided to leave my online job with the curriculum company to pursue artwork full-time. I will also be working with **Luna Arts & Ed** as a contractual art instructor. Stay tuned for more details in the next edition of Artistry Unleashed!



Transforming Shape into Form



WATERCOLOR APPLE LESSON

Select the link above to learn how to create a watercolor apple. Gina Wilson's step-by-step YouTube lesson will show you the process as well as offer tips and tricks along the way.

See how she uses color to transform a 2-D-shape into a 3-D Form

Shape is a closed line, a two-dimensional area defined by other elements of art. There are geometric (i.e. circle, square) and free-form shapes.

Form has three dimensions – height, length and depth.



Art Lesson by Gina Wilson

Feature Artist

ELYA MOLINE



Creating art amidst the demands of raising four children, managing work, and battling fatigue often feels like an insurmountable challenge. Time slips away, leaving little room for personal creativity. However, I overcome these obstacles by integrating art into our daily lives. Designing art lessons that I can share with my kids not only fosters their love for creativity but also rejuvenates my own artistic spirit. Through these shared experiences, we discover joy and inspiration together, transforming our home into a canvas where imagination thrives despite the chaos.

Bio: Elya Moline is a multi-talented artist, writer, and educator, originally from Lancaster, CA. She pursued her undergraduate studies in Global Studies at UCLA, with immersive experiences in Madrid and Shanghai during her time studying abroad. Teaching opportunities took her overseas to South Korea and Thailand, where she shared her passion for learning with students from diverse backgrounds.

Elya's adventures have taken her far and wide, exploring the cultures of Europe, Asia, and South America, which have deeply influenced her art and teaching approach. She holds a teaching credential in English and a Masters in Teaching from UCI.

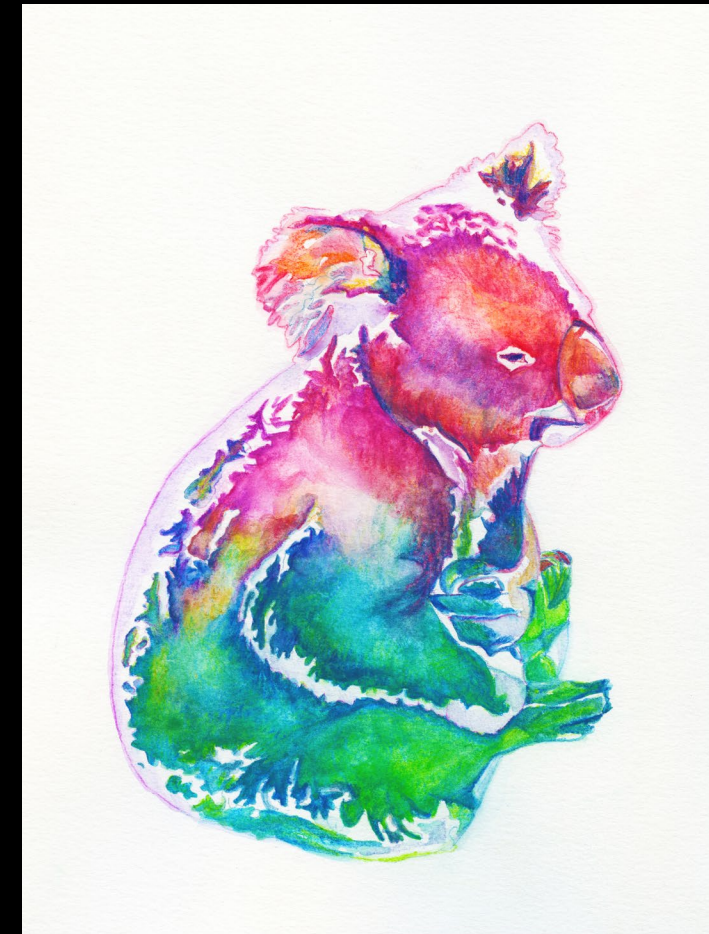
Currently residing in Oceanside with her family, Elya is deeply engaged in her creative pursuits. She's working on captivating children's books while also providing professional development in art integration to teachers and virtual art lessons to students, aiming to inspire creativity and curiosity in both educators and learners alike.

Etsy Store: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/elyamolinecreations/>

Website: <https://www.elyamolinecreations.com>

Instagram: [@elya_moline_creations](https://www.instagram.com/elya_moline_creations)

Fine Art America: <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/elya-moline/shop>



Feature Artist

JODEE LUNA



Sunrise visualizes those seasons of life when we dare to explore and believe in new possibilities.

Sunrise reproductions are available on my [Fine Art American Shop](#).

Sunset celebrates contemplation, seasons of settling, and the end of a perfect day! So much of life pushes us forward but sunsets arrest our attention and bid us to sit, to think, to give thanks.

The painting's eyes search the viewer's soul as if to say, "Are you making time for what is most important?"

For life is fleeting at best and it would behoove us to enjoy a few more sunsets.

Sunset reproductions are available on my [Fine Art American Shop](#).

Bluebird envisions hope, faith, and perseverance amid hopelessness, despair, and depression.

Bluebirds are known for their joyful songs, tendency to fly long distances, and ability to survive in the most difficult of surroundings. These qualities have led bluebirds to be used in religious icons and as symbols of peace.

This bird, painting, and song will encourage you to trust that a new day is dawning. You can emerge triumphant and discover the grace of God needed to pursue your destiny.

Bluebird reproductions are available on my [Fine Art American Shop](#).

[Connect Around the Web](#)



The Rose

ART BY [JODEE LUNA](#)



“The Rose” was inspired by a message I received in my early twenties while walking through a forest in the Netherlands when I was a youthful missionary.

These words entered my thoughts: “You will blossom into a woman through many thorns, watered by your tears.” The thorns and tears did follow as well as the blossoming.

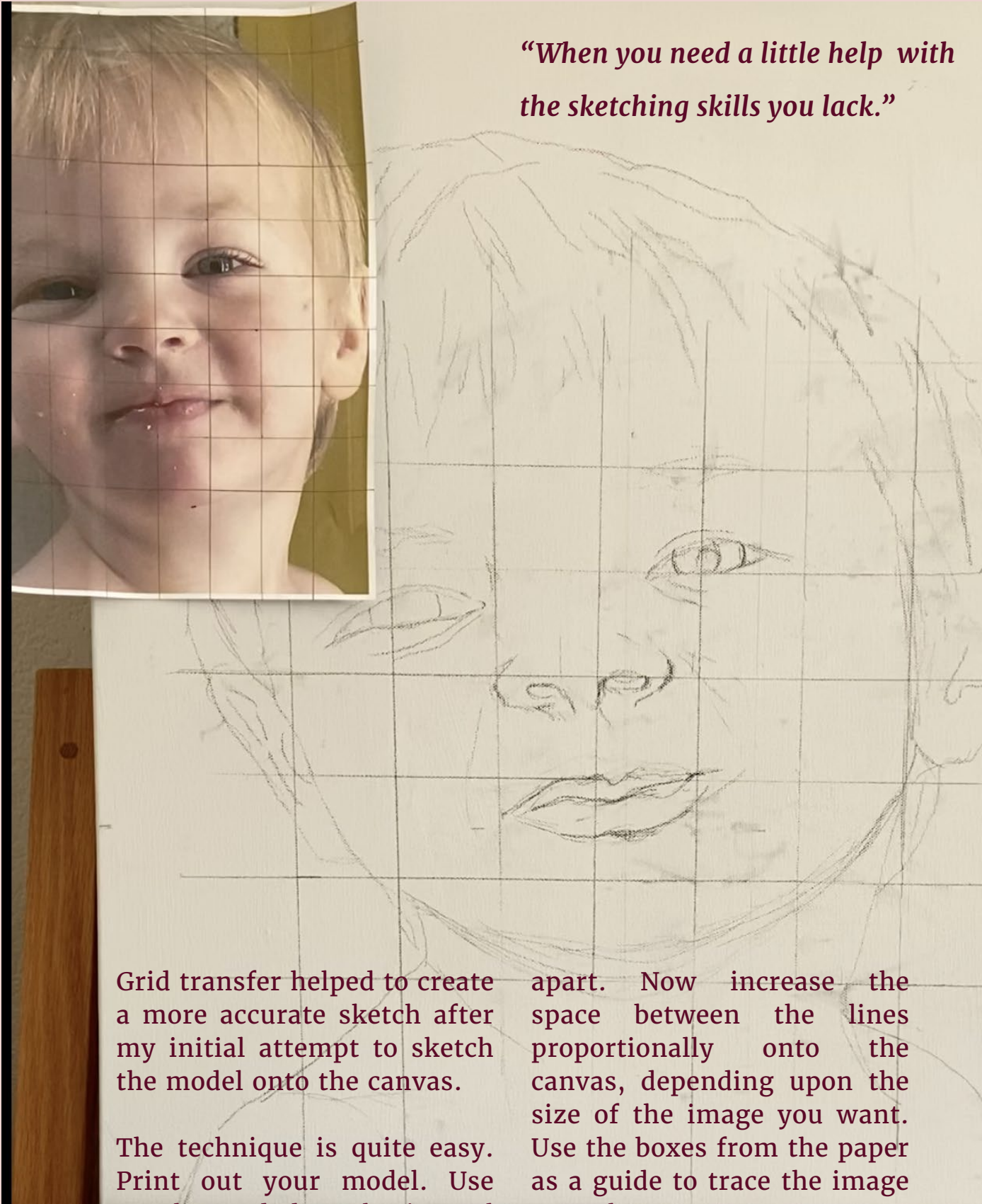


[The Rose Process Video Link](#)

Image Transfer Techniques

GRID

“When you need a little help with the sketching skills you lack.”



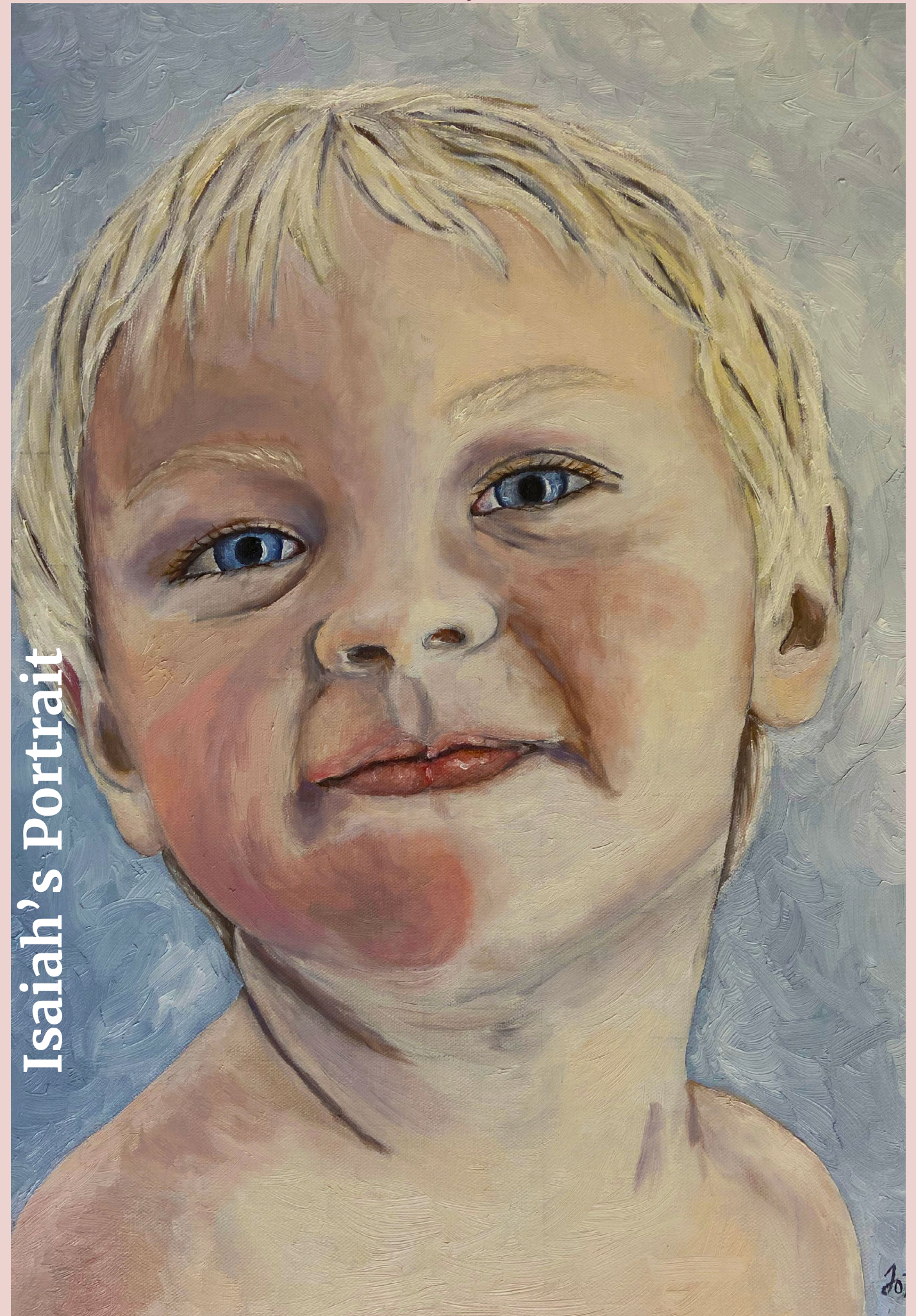
Grid transfer helped to create a more accurate sketch after my initial attempt to sketch the model onto the canvas.

The technique is quite easy. Print out your model. Use a ruler and draw horizontal and vertical lines one inch

apart. Now increase the space between the lines proportionally onto the canvas, depending upon the size of the image you want. Use the boxes from the paper as a guide to trace the image onto the canvas.

Isaiah's Portrait Progression Video





Isaiah's Portrait

CREATING MODELS USING PHOTOSHOP

Photoshop is a wonderful tech tool for designing painting models. You can layer various features. My painting model for Nightingale is a combination of a previous painting, Sunset, and AI technology.

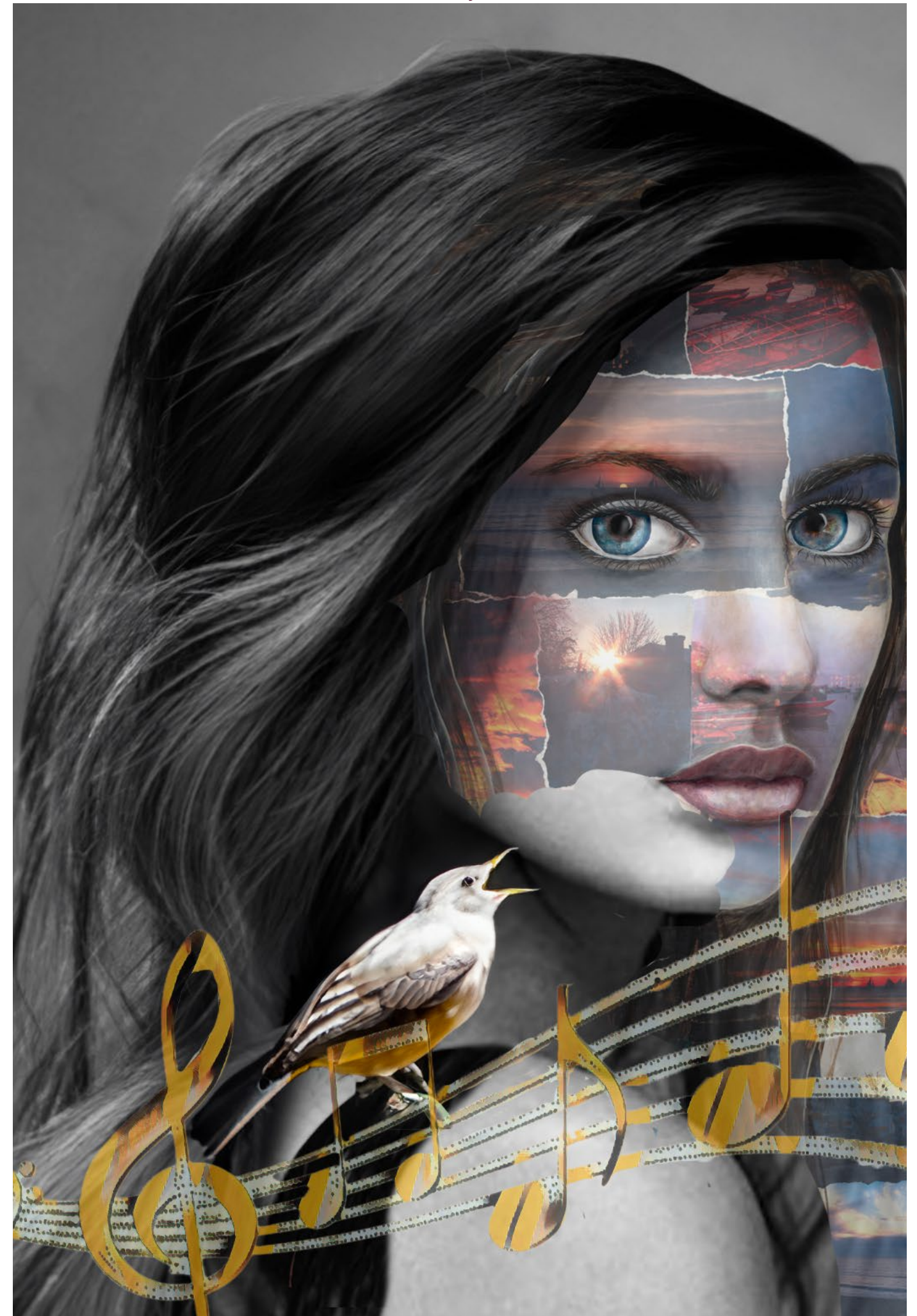


Image Transfer Using Projection

EXPLORE COLORS AND SHAPES

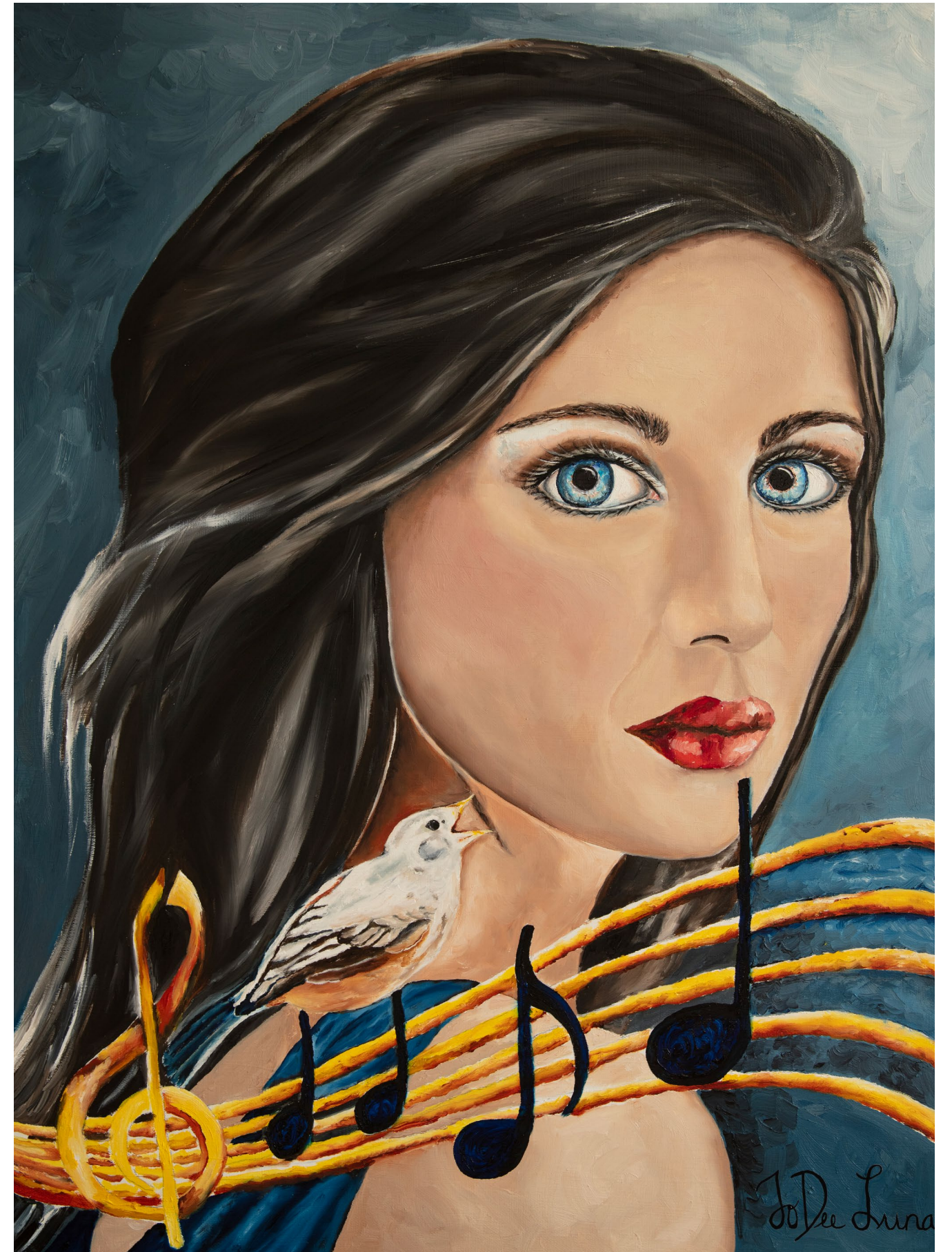
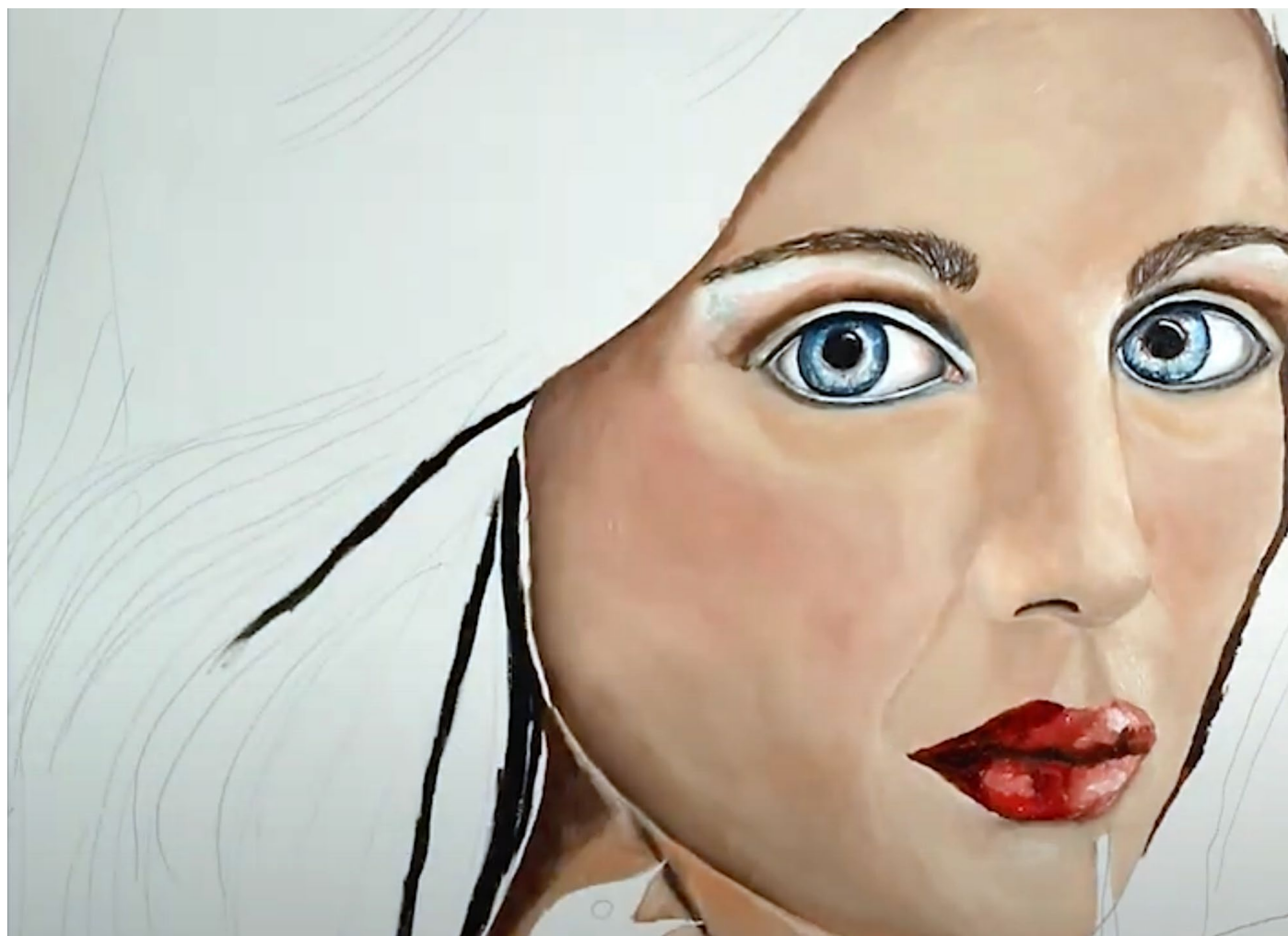
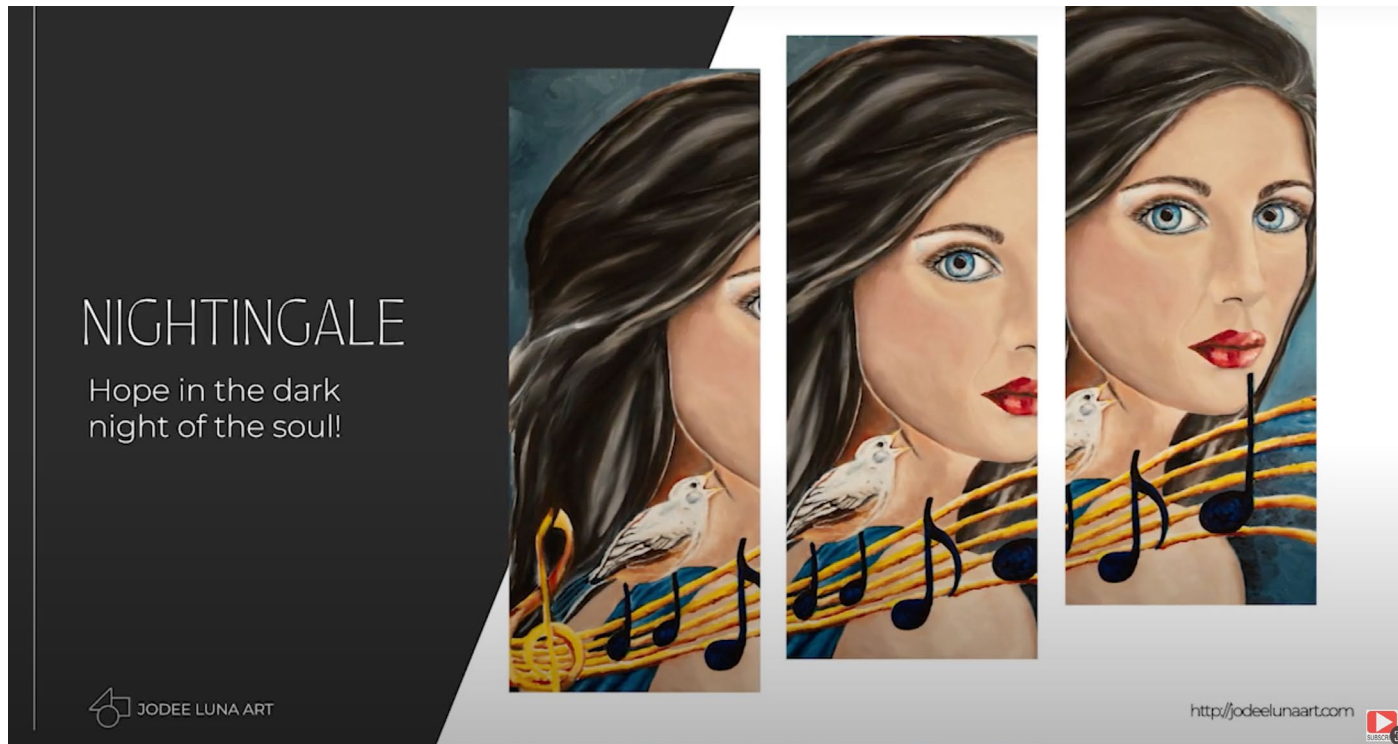
Painting by projection works well for large canvases. Try using a watercolor pencil that will dissolve once paint is applied. Use a circle template to trace the iris of each eye accurately.



Use a ruler to draw perpendicular lines to center the pupil. Then use a smaller circle for the pupil.



NIGHTINGALE FOLLOW ALONG PAINTING TUORIAL LINK



Feature Artist

LYNNETTE BASS



Instagram:
[@lynnettesartspace](https://www.instagram.com/lynnettesartspace)

I enjoy sketching out my vision or looking at a photo and drawing it with pencil, I enjoy the translucency of watercolor, and I love the smoothness and forgiving nature of acrylics. So far

We all could use encouragement and validation from our artist peers. Whatever stage we are at as artists. It's nice to know how others perceive our work that we put so much of ourselves into even if it's just a simple thumbs up.

There's a multitude of stages we go through as we create a painting; we are all faced with the blank paper, and we

must all decide to paint the first stroke. We all dip the brush in water and paint and make lines, shadows, and color.

The process of creating something with so few materials is so exciting and to me scary sometimes because I want my painting to be good! Problem is, is that art is subjective, Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and comparison is a thief. If you allow other people's paintings and their techniques make you feel inadequate, you will be stuck forever. Your voice "painting" counts in this world too.



Happy Autumn

Watercolor on watercolor paper



TEXTURE

Texture is the degree of smoothness or roughness.

Texture is created using of various artistic techniques and art media.

Texture can be real when touched or implied to appear so visually.

The textured robe was created using Golden Coarse Pumice Gel mixed with acrylic paint.

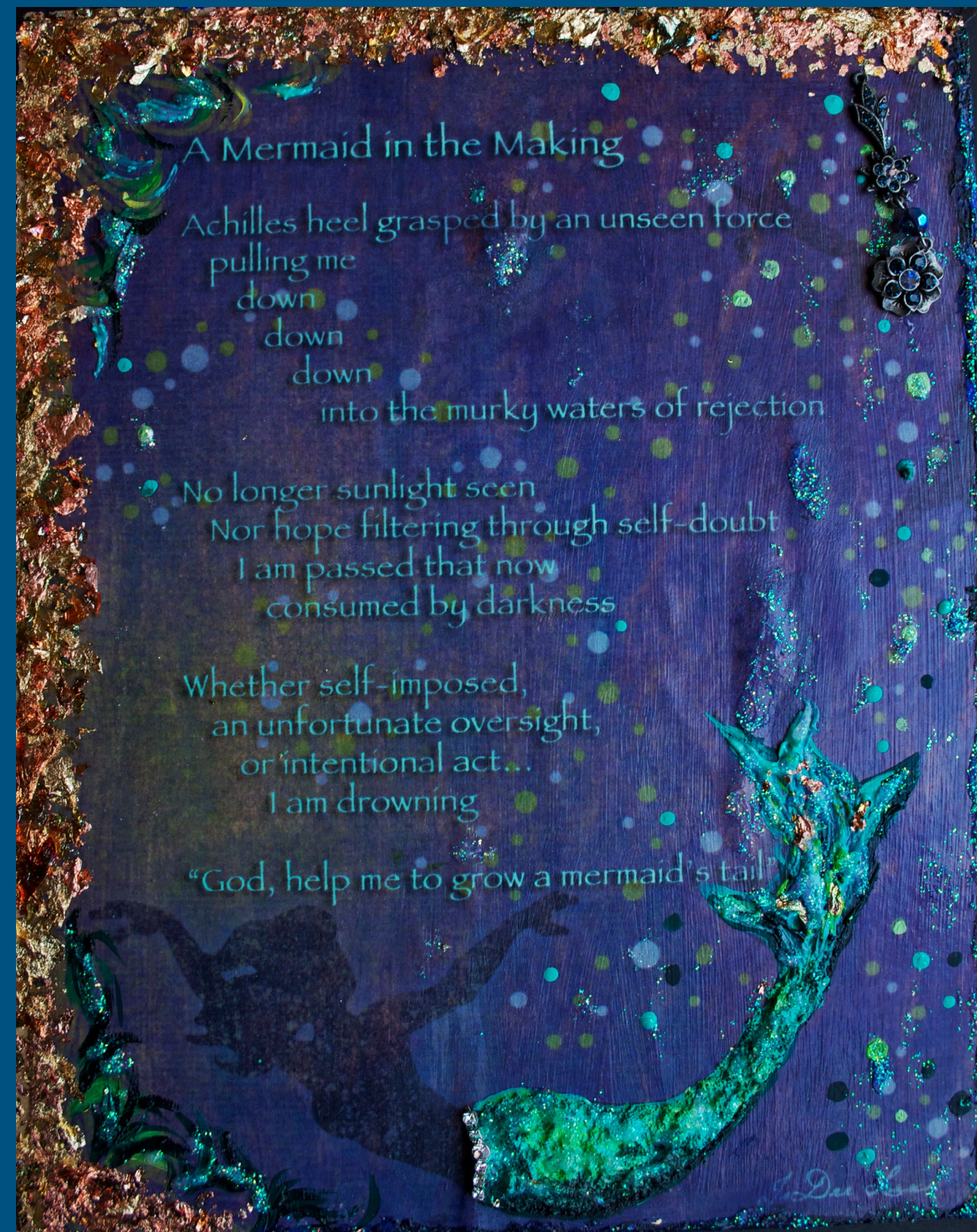
The Beard of “The Messenger” is implied texture, created with various hues and tones of brown.

Reproductions of “The Messenger” are available on my [Fine Art America Shop](#).



Creating Texture

The edges are textured with gold leaf flakes and glitter glue. The mermaid's tail is a mix of acrylic paint and Golden modeling paste.



Create *Texture* with Mixed Media

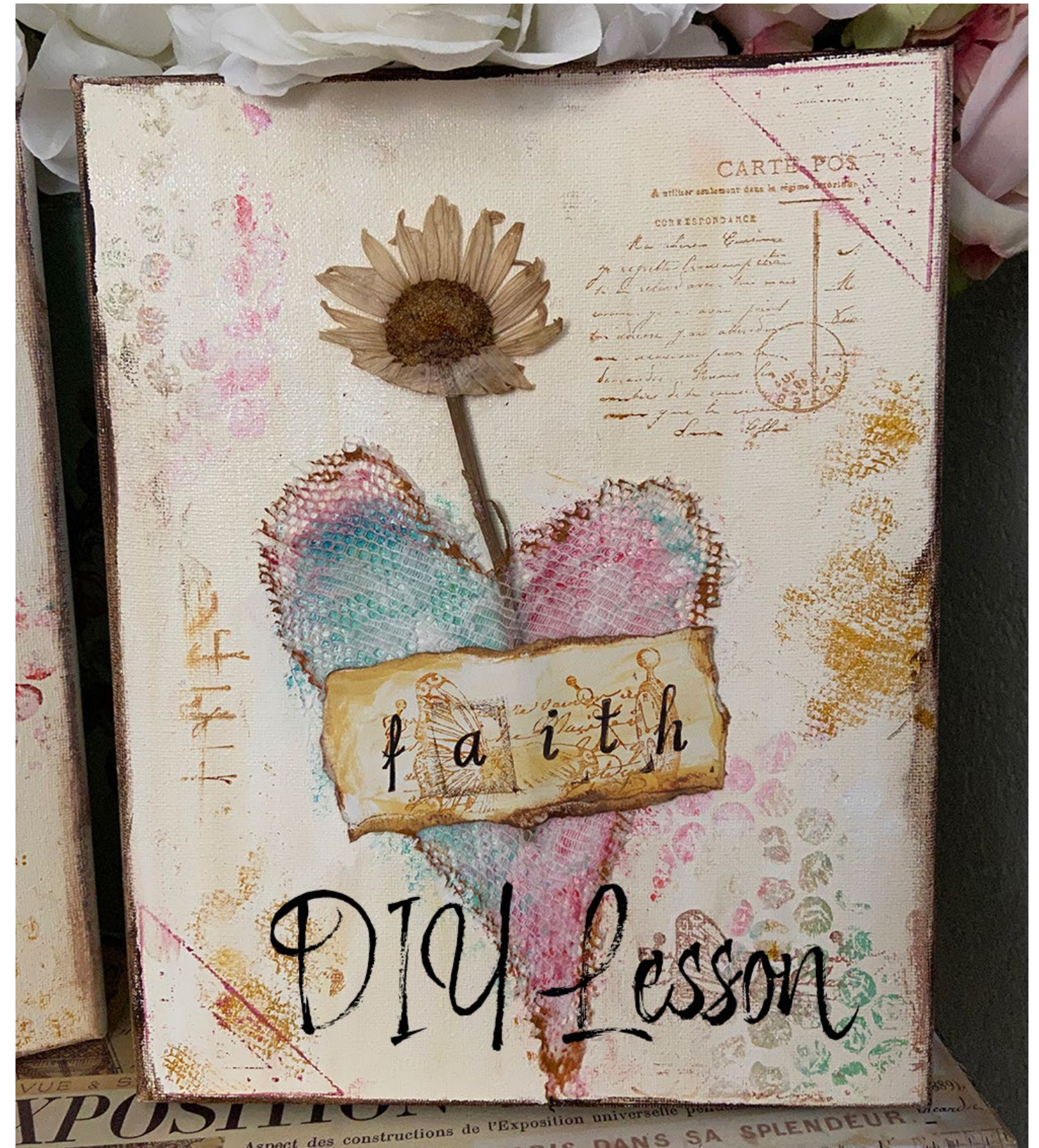


[How to Create a Mixed Media Masquerade Mask](#)



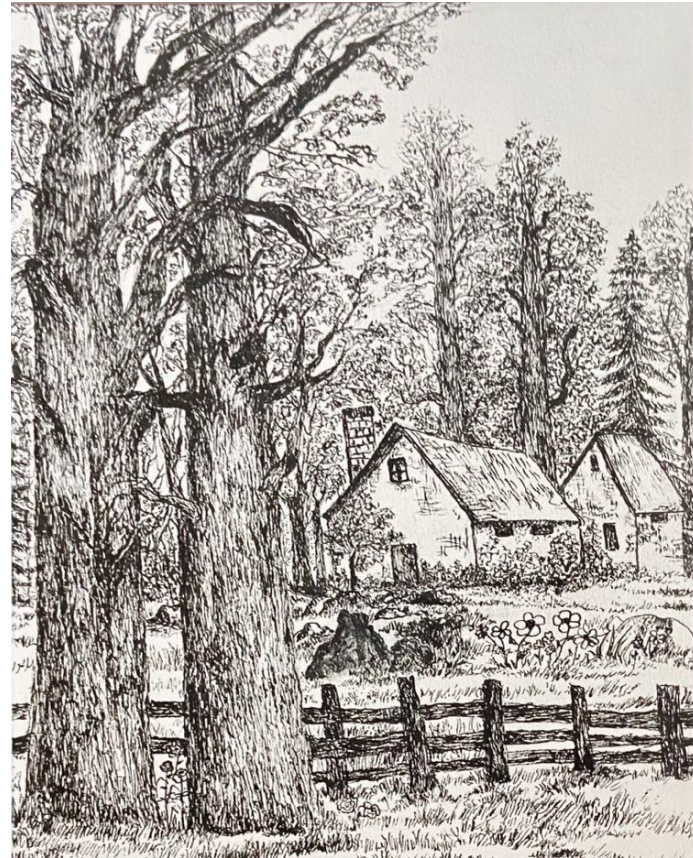
FAITH MIXED MEDIA HEART

Here's a step-by-step lesson to show you how to create a Faith Mixed Media Heart



DIY Lesson

Feature Artist PHYLLIS SOUTHWORTH



What are some of the walls we face as artists?

There are times that every artist faces that seem like a huge roadblock to our positive development. How do we deal with that voice that says “. You think you are an artist, but are you really?”

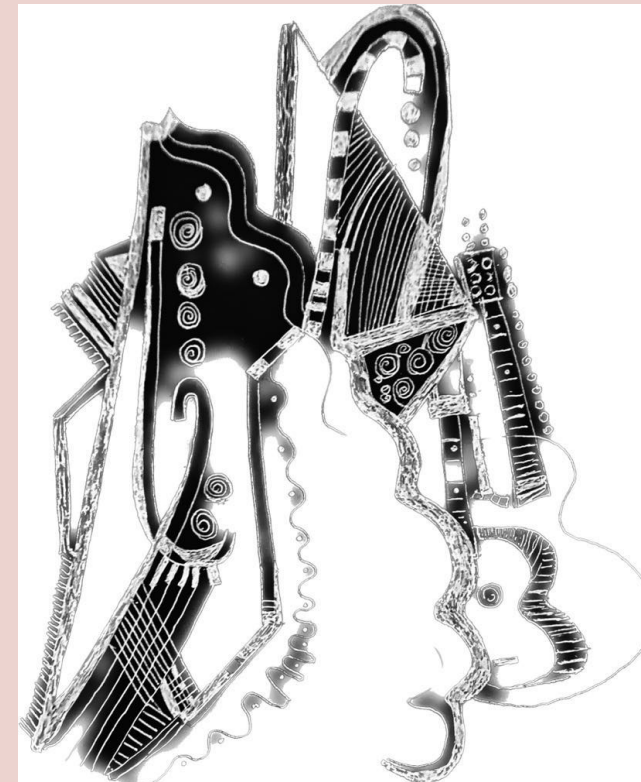
The worst for me is to compare myself to other artists. I hear the death tolls ringing. You are a unique person, and your life experience is different from all others.

You may recognize the extreme talent of other artists that are working around you, yes! However, only you have your own voice in expressing your art. Have

you ever seen paintings from other people and wondered what makes their work so good? There are some obvious reasons that their work is successful, but your work is unique.

I have been learning to look inside my heart and finding some messages that are unique and worthy of recognition. Narrow your vision to see the gifts that are there. Do not focus on your mistakes. Focus on one thing at a time.

Every artist has his own time and space to create. Don't try to copy but take inspiration from them! You have a special voice and are worthy to do and enjoy God's gifts to us all!



Space

CREATE SPACE WITH SCULPTURE

Space is the area between and around objects. It can be illusionary or real. Salt dough sculpture is a fun and inexpensive way to



Select this link, [How to Make an Apple and Rose Basket](#), for a step-by-step lesson and link to a step-by-step video.



My [Salt Dough Art Sculpture Playlist](#) has more step-by-step videos.

A screenshot of a YouTube playlist titled "Salt Dough Art Sculpture Lessons" by Jodee Luna. The playlist is public and contains 36 videos with 2,200 views. The video "Salt Dough Apple and Rose Basket Lesson" is currently playing. The playlist includes other videos such as "Easy Salt Dough Recipe and Heart Ornaments DIY Lesson", "Salt Dough Sculpture Snowman Ornaments", "Salt Dough Sculpture Reindeer Ornaments", and "Dough Art Sculpture Bear Ornament".

1 unavailable video is hidden

Sort **All** Videos Shorts

Salt Dough Art Sculpture Lessons
Jodee Luna
Public
36 videos 2,200 views Updated today

Step-by-step lessons for learning how to sculpt with salt dough, an easy and inexpensive art medium.

Now playing

Easy Salt Dough Recipe and Heart Ornaments DIY Lesson
Jodee Luna • 8.3K views • 4 years ago

Salt Dough Apple and Rose Basket Lesson
Jodee Luna • 3.8K views • 4 years ago

Salt Dough Sculpture Snowman Ornaments
Jodee Luna • 5.5K views • 3 years ago

Salt Dough Sculpture Reindeer Ornaments
Jodee Luna • 4.9K views • 3 years ago

Dough Art Sculpture Bear Ornament
Jodee Luna • 1K views • 3 years ago

Feature Artist

DEBORAH KEILY HANSON



Meet the multi-talented Deborah Keily Hanson: pianist, composer, teacher and so much more! I play her music while creating because her unique arrangements inspire my creative muse.

I first met Deborah over 30 years ago when I returned from living in Europe. My children attended El Dorado where Deborah produced and directed over 20 musicals. I choreographed dances for a couple of her amazing productions. However, both of us

didn't realize, at the time, that her father was my favorite teacher of all time. Back in the 6th grade, I had the privilege of benefiting from his artistic approach to making learning fun and innovative. Her collection titled "Pianoscapes" is inspired by his paintings. Read more about Deborah and our creative collaborations:

<https://jodeelunaart.com/2023/06/15/deborah-keily-hanson-pianist-composer-teacher-2/>



Bluebird is finally published. Deborah Hanson's song is the perfect match for my painting. Her song starts soulful and ends joyful. Bluebird is on Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, and YouTube.

YouTube

Amazon

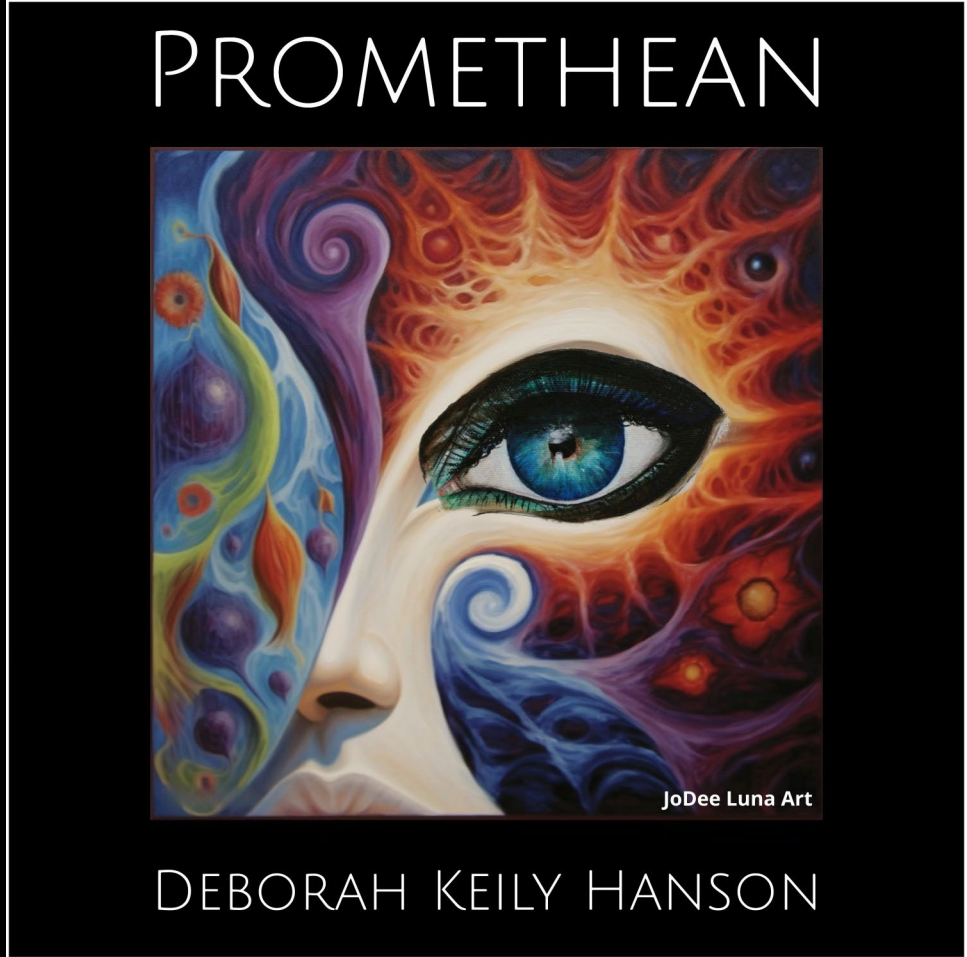
Fine Art America

Inspired by the mixed media Promethean: Dare to Create. Promethean Cosmos imagines the creation of the universe, stars and planets. The music honors the Creator of all with its fiery rendition in musical form. [Read more...](#)

YouTube

Amazon

Website



Color Mixing Using Self-Drying Clay

Here's a fun activity children can do to learn about mixing primary colors, red, blue, and yellow, to create secondary colors.

Colors made using primary colors:

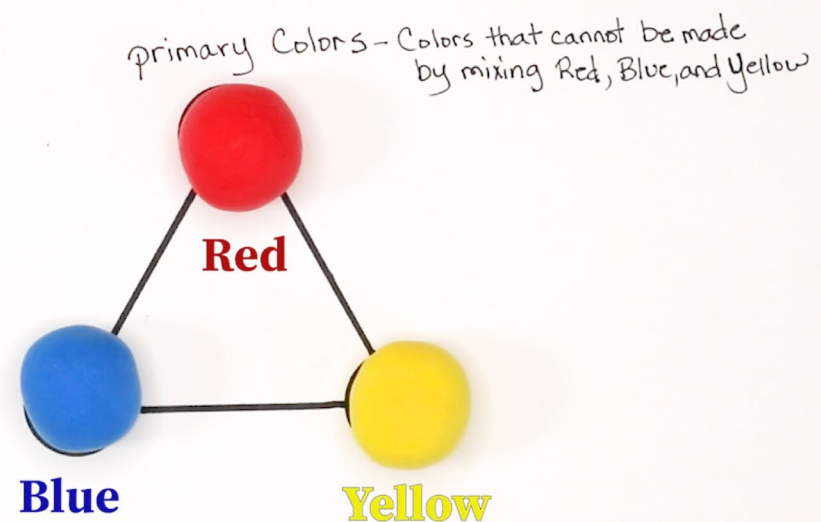
Red + Yellow = Orange

Red + Blue = Purple

Blue + Yellow = Green

Use the instructional video below to introduce the concept and to practice color mixing: [Color Theory Mix Primary Colors to Get Secondary Colors.](#)

Color Theory: Primary and Secondary Colors Using Clay



SECONDARY COLORS

See what children can do with this simple art lesson: [Color Mixing with Self-Drying Clay.](#)



Learn How to Create 3-D Fabric Folds

HOW TO CREATE FORM

Follow this “Be Brave Process Video” to learn how to create the illusion of material folds.



Add various amounts of white to a color to make tints and darker for shades. Tints bring objects forward and shades recess.

Notice the use of tints and shades to create a 3d hat. The scarf appears to have folds by using tints to bring some areas forward and shades to make other areas recede. Elements of the face are also examples of form, such as the nose and lips. Reproductions of this painting, “Be Brave,” is available on my [Fine Art America Shop](https://fineartamerica.com/featured/the-rose-jodee-luna.html).

Explore Tints and Shades



Follow this step-by-step tutorial, [How to Paint a Rose](https://fineartamerica.com/featured/the-rose-jodee-luna.html), to learn how to use tints and shades.

Reproductions of “The Rose” are available on my Fine Art America Store: <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/the-rose-jodee-luna.html>

She felt afraid to

create...

*but she did
anyway!*

-JoDee Luna

Conquering the Fear of Creating

She felt afraid to create, but she did anyway!

There's uncanny resistance creatives encounter when contemplating creating.

This unwelcome push back often comes in the form of fear:

What if I can't?
I'm not talented enough.
People will snicker when they see my creation.

Sometimes the resistance arrives without words, but with a feeling of foreboding or anxiety.

Sometimes the block happens after our feeble attempts. For example, whenever I start a new portrait, I'm riddled with negative thoughts:

You can't do this again!
You've forgotten how to paint.
Your portrait isn't going to turn out very good.

Now I have a choice: Either listen to the fear or push through and continue painting.

I know enough to choose the later because I've painting enough portraits to have experienced success. It wasn't always that way. In the beginning of my portrait painting days, the results were dismal and the fear crippling.

If you're a creative who's encountering fear, I want to encourage you to feel the fear and create anyway. In time, your skills will improve.

Fear can strangle creativity if you let it.

Be brave!

Create!

Feature Artist

CHRIS CLARKE

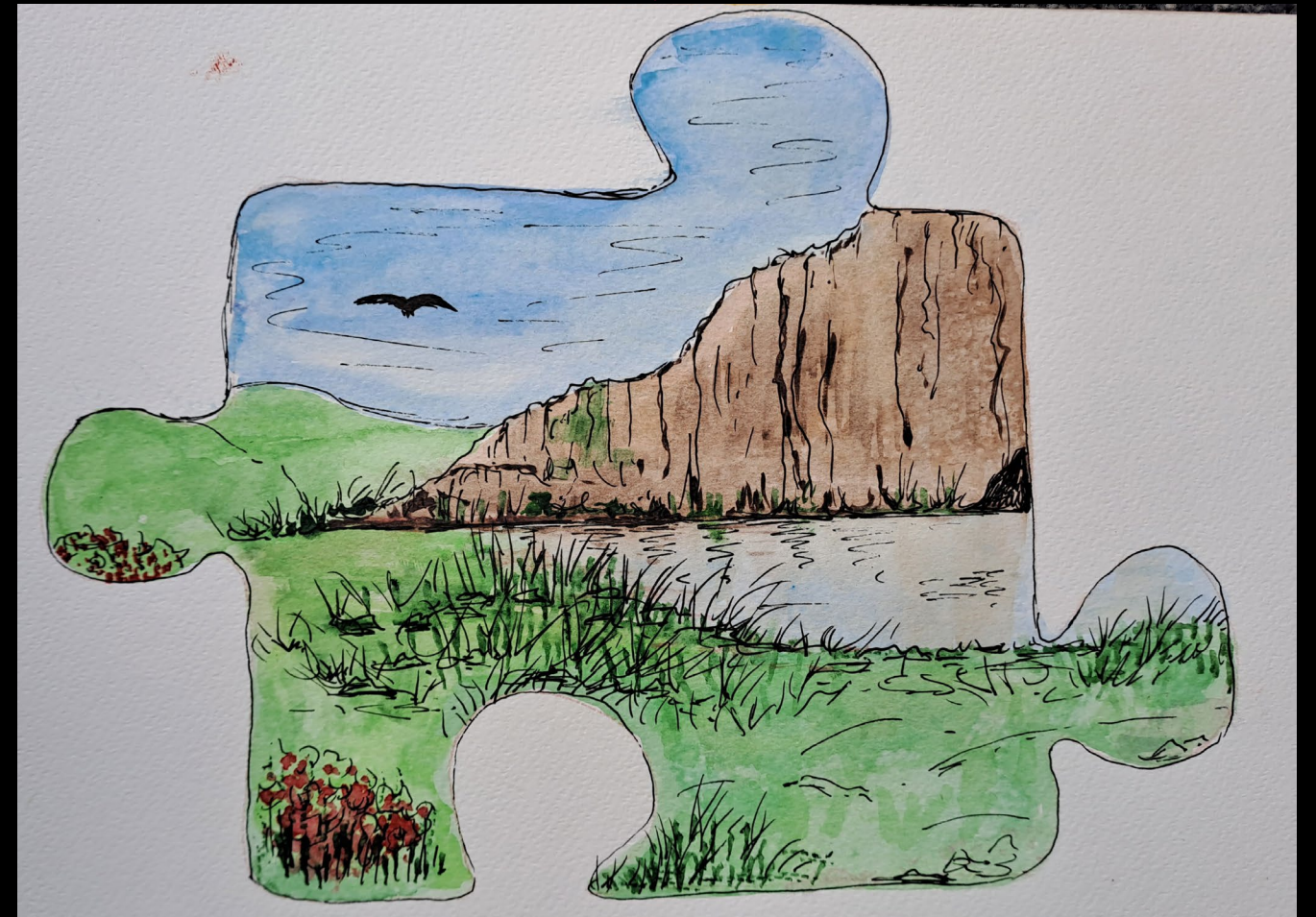
One of the blocks to my creativity is perfectionism. I think many will identify with this. With my painting, I see every small stroke that could be better. When I began painting prayers, I was anxious. The whole concept was to sit quietly with God and quickly paint whatever I felt God gave me then send to whoever God told me... 10 - 30 minutes maximum.

One morning I quickly painted the footprints in the sand. I knew who it was for but when I looked at it the perspective seemed all wrong. So, I decided I would do a better job later in the day when I had a little more time when a little inner voice said "it's now they need it!" So, in obedience I sent it and the response was, as expected, how much they needed it then.

Another stumbling block is time. The phrase "If you want something done, then ask a busy person!" I am always being asked for a huge variety of things... then I get stressed because there is no time for my creativity. I am sure this will be an ongoing, learning experience, but I now know how to say... "really sorry but I can't!"

Art and creativity are in my DNA and it's as much there as the need to eat. This year I have undergone breast surgery. My art alongside music was my huge safety net with God.

I cannot thank God enough for the creative gift God has given me... my encouragement to you is open the present... we all know how it feels when we give a present to someone and they cast it aside.



Feature Artist CELESTE YOHAI



Greetings from Amsterdam!

I may need to introduce myself to you all, I'm Celeste Yohai, and I'm from Los Angeles, but living in the beautiful city of Amsterdam! I came to Holland in 1980 to work with YWAM, Youth with a Mission, as a Musician/Worship leader. That's where I met JoDee!

Growing up, and during my school years, I did well in music, art, speech, and gym classes! That wasn't really encouraged. My Twin sister (Did I mention my mom had 2 sets of twins 10 mos. apart) who was Blind, was excellent in everything except Gym. During Jr. High school She had some music classes and started learning how to play guitar.

In elementary school I was put in a music class, and learned to play my first instrument, a clarinet. In Jr. high I was in choir and tried other instruments. But since my sister was learning guitar and teaching me what she learned, we began singing and playing together. It's how we spent a lot of our spare time.

As I got into adulthood and out on my own, I stopped doing anything that had to do with music. I was too depressed to sing or play. Life wasn't working for me. Fast forward to 1974. I was working with Christians, who were all witnessing to me about Jesus! But I was Jewish, and I told them, "We don't believe in Jesus!"



Feature Artist CELESTE YOHAI



Well to make a long story short, on May 18, 1974, I gave my heart and life to Jesus!

One of the first things that happened was I started singing and playing my guitar again. Worshipping the author of life. I started leading worship in home bible studies and eventually, women's' retreats, and at different church services. It was during a women's retreat that I got called into missions and came to work with YWAM.

Although, my creative gifts weren't really encouraged in my younger years, as I became a Christian and got into a community of believers that were releasing people in their gifts and talents, I discovered I don't just sing and play guitar, I'm a creative!!!

And that's expressed through my song writing, my speaking, my photography, my problem solving, and my latest art form,

The Dutch Pour or Fluid Art! I am having so much fun and feel so much freedom expressing my love of colours, getting beautiful results, and being surprised with abstract results.

One thing That I've discovered is to create, I need to be free to create! Be free to try, try the un-try-able! Do the "never tried this before without the what if's???? that block any creative attempts!

I was a prisoner in the cell block of the " the "Don't try it" because if you don't try it you can't fail, and if you can't fail you can't be rejected! But on the inside, I wanted to try sooooo much. I'm thankful that the greatest Creative of All has opened the door to my creativity and released me to enjoy all things, and my newfound art form....

Additional Resources

Don't miss an edition! Subscribe to [JoDee's email list](mailto:jodee@jodeelunaart.com).

<http://jodeelunaart.com>

[Fine Art America Shop](#)

Social Media

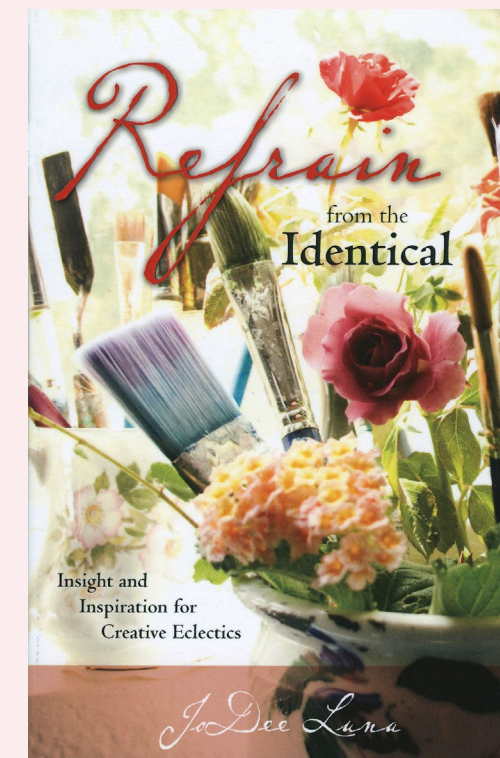
[Instagram](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[YouTube](#)

Book

[Refrain from the Identical: Insights and Inspiration for Creative Eclectics](#)



ARTISTRY UNLEASHED EDITION 1