

Simple Image Abstraction Process

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Learn how to trigger imagination for painting faces and figures through a look at Mystele's intuitive painting process.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Canson Art Board
Gesso
Acrylic paint
Water Soluble Wax Pastels
Colored Pencils
Scratching tools like a toothpick, needle or skewer
Pencil
Brushes and scraper (an old credit card, piece of chipboard, etc...)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Gesso the board.
2. Once the gesso is mostly dry, make marks with pastels, pencil, and paint on the surface as desired. (There are so many more things you can use in this process like stamps, stencils, inks, collage.)
3. Create layers and contrast (light and dark values) until the painting feels 'full' or until something recognizable catches your eye.
4. Abstracting faces and figures is akin to seeing images in clouds or the floor. Squint at your painting ground. Turn it to look at it from different perspectives/sides until you're able to see the shape of a face or an eye or mouth, body, etc. Sometimes there are many faces and images to be seen. You can include as many or as few of these as you wish.
5. You can sketch out what you see with pencil or you can use paint to give shape to what you see.
6. Sometimes the painted ground gives you so much information that you only need to add little bits of detail to bring the face/figure to life. Other times, the painted ground is too noisy and you need to add more information to bring it to life.

There is no right or wrong way to go about this. Trust your intuition. The more you play this way, the easier the abstraction becomes and the more confident your voice grows.

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