Watercolour Girl

Constantly compare your drawing with the subject matter to create the most realistic and detailed effect possible. The subject matter is vitally important to your success.

Draw everything very careful, either using a grid, or tracing your image. Do not spend time using the same reference photo as we used in this tutorial, rather spend time on a similar photo that you can find on pixabay.com or pexels.com

Use the watercolour techniques to create your own magic. This is not a medium to be controlled.

Detailed step-by-step tutorial from Artist Brush
Additional exercises to foster skill development
The materials that we use in the process are described on each photo
The drawing of the subject matter is on the last page for you to print
It fits on a A4 paper but you can draw it on an A3 or bigger to allow for the background
Even though your image is an A4, it will appear much bigger

Strokes

WET ON WET
wet paint disperses into the wet wash
produces beautiful diffused textures

WET ON DRY
with wet on dry you can paint gradients of color

DRY ON DRY
also known as the "drybrush" technique
great for textures

DRY ON WET
produces subtle details
paint with a slightly damp brush on a wet surface

Materials used
Watercolour pencils (no specific type)
Watercolour paint
Palette
Bowl for Water
Serviette's
Watercolour paper A3

We have kept the supplies as limited as possible so that ALL can do this project. You are welcome to use any medium you have, but our suggestion is to use what you've got. You can even use a ink pen even though this tutorial does not cover the techniques.

PRINTING OPTIONS

This tutorial is designed for the artist to be printed. This gives you the advantage not to sit on your phone or ipad all the time. Printing options can be used to print 4 pages per sheet. See you software options.
You can then fold the printed pages into a booklet format.

STEP 1
Grid your image onto your paper or use tracing paper, or lightbox. Image is a .pdf attachment.
This tutorial has its own challenges and the more accurate you can duplicate this image the better.
You can also paste your reference photo on a window with a good back lighting to enable you to trace the most information as possible. Make sure that you DO NOT have hard lines, if so, erase as you start layering the layers in the follow steps.
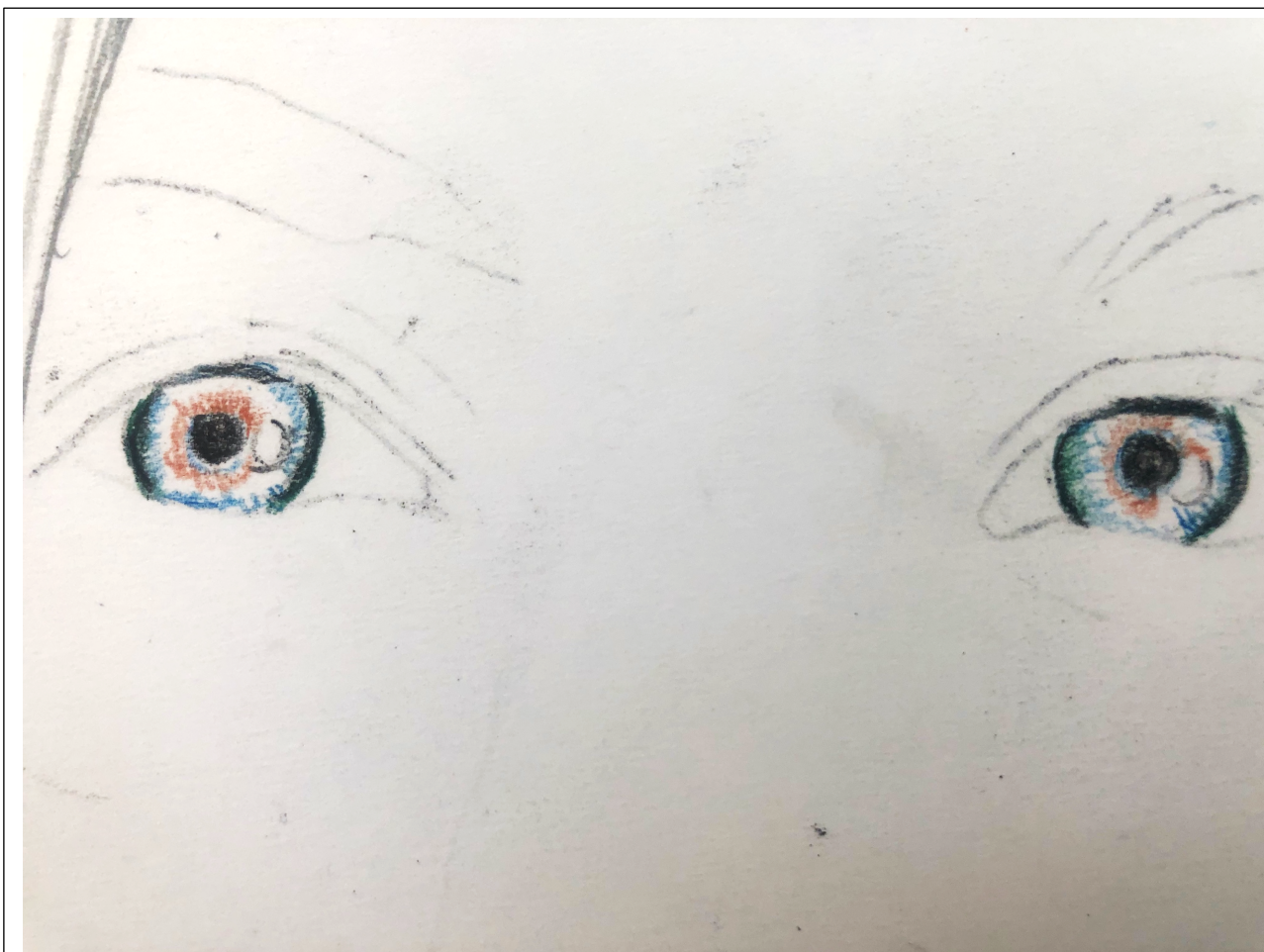
STEP 2
Darken the hair with a 2B graphite pencil. The hair will be left in graphite and not be painted at all.

STEP 3
Use a sharp watercolor pencil to draw in the eyes.
Use green on the outside circle with a blue overlay
Next add yellow ochre around the pupil
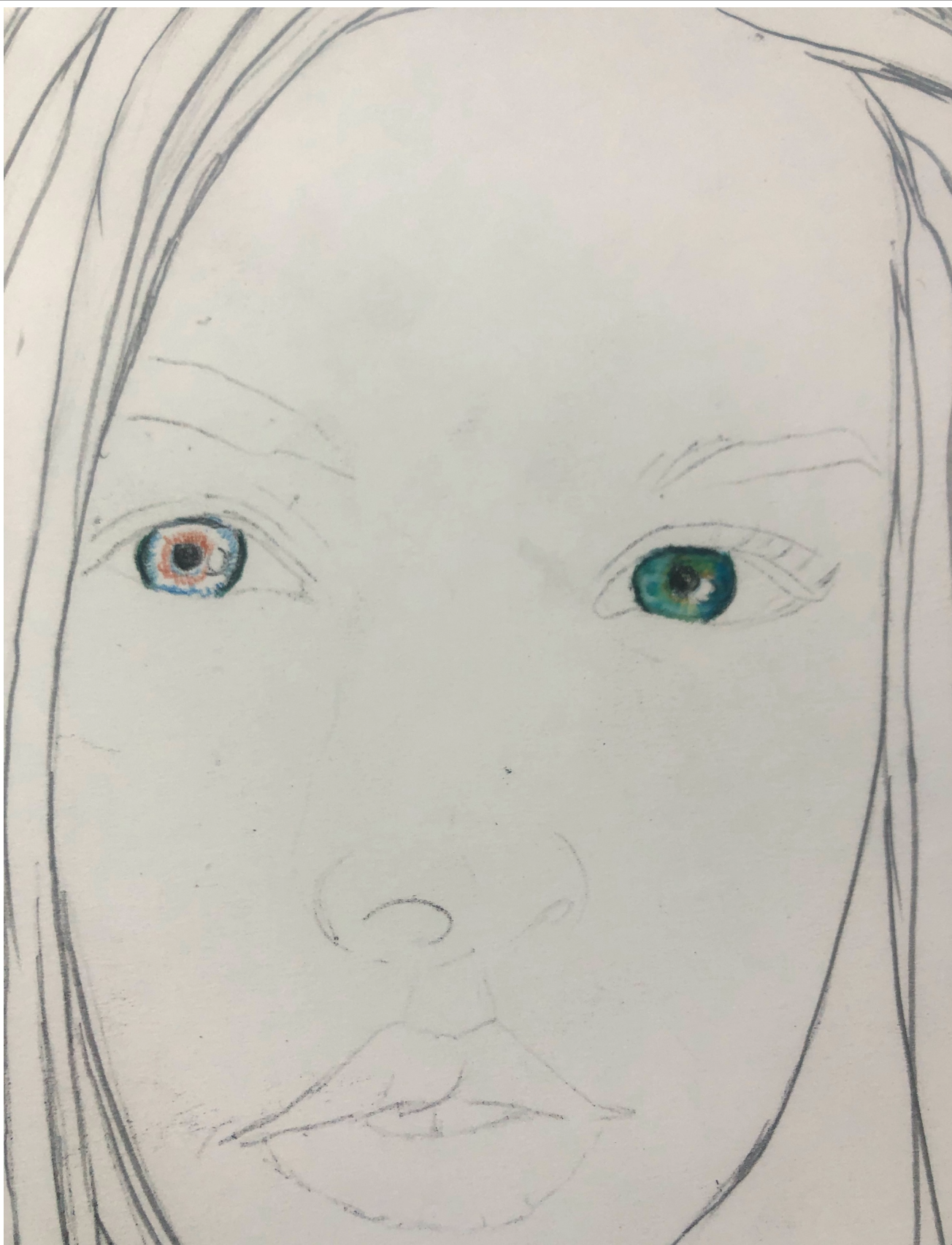Add black inside the pupil area

STEP 4
Blend with a small brush, leaving the white area untouched
Add layers of color to create the realistic effect.
Lift some color by holding the brush on the eye for a second or two and wipe the brush continuously on the serviette

STEP 5
Repeat step 4 on the other eye
Use a yellow ochre pencil to lay in the contour of the nose and eye
Fill in the purple around the eye

STEP 6
Start blending with the wide watercolor brush.
Repeat dipping the brush in water, blending, dry on serviette and repeat
If the paint is too dark, fill the brush with water and lift the color.

STEP 7
Fill in the dark areas with brown pencil
Use dark purple as an overlay
Add yellow ochre on the cheek and add dark brown into the nostrils
NOTE: This is the funny stage. Your image will look like a mess and that is perfect for now, just carry on and look at shape of the colour. Don't think nose...think shape

STEP 8
Add brown under the nose and on the side of the mouth and purple underneath the mouth
Blend with the big brush by using moderate amount of water.
Work this area into the different layers to achieve a dark value tone

STEP 9
The area around the nose might be too wet to continue at this stage.
Start outlining the mouth with a brown pencil
Adding red and orange to the upper and bottom lip
Outline the teeth with brown
And darken under the one side of the lip with dark brown
Blend these colors together with a small brush and little water

STEP 10
Blend the dark side of the face and add more pencil on dry areas if needed to achieve dark values
Add orange and brown to the teeth with a small brush
Use the brush to take color directly from the pencil (wipe the brush on the tip of the pencil)
Finish the mouth and also use the brush directly on the pencil for darker values
Darken the sides of the mouth with brown. Go back to areas that is too light and fill in more values
Paint the neck with purple and yellow ochre

STEP 11
At this stage the image changed by adding the cape. The color chosen was to compliment the eyes
Erase the areas of the hair where you want to place the cape
Fill the cape with green and blue pencil
Blend with the big brush
Do not go over the hair

STEP 12
Start with the background using wet on wet technique
This step is the fun step where you allow the colors to do their own magic.
Wet the paper where you want to lay in the color
Then use a folded serviette to dap on wet area to create different shapes and values
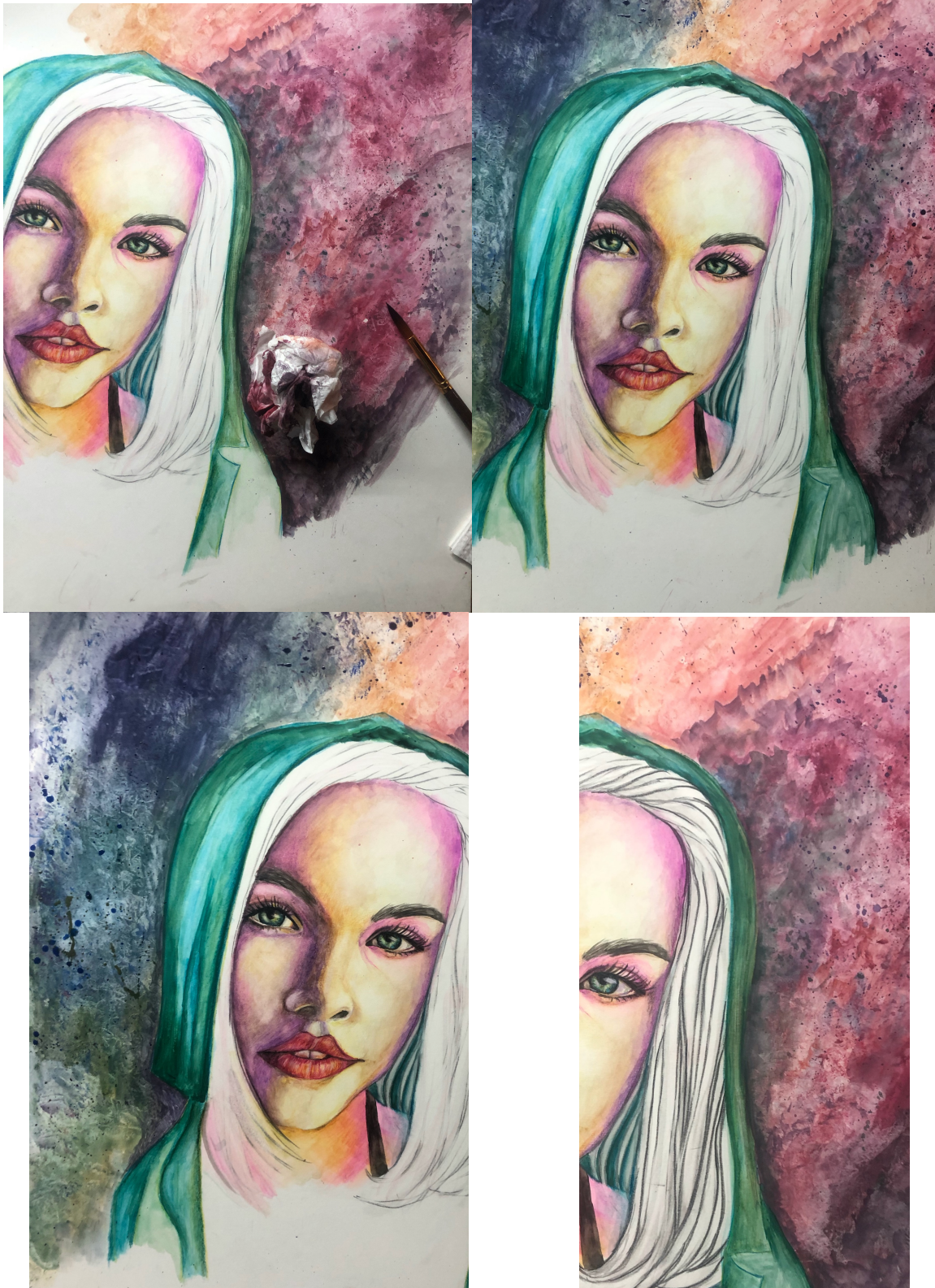Use a clean paper over the completed face to secure

STEP 13
Keep working wet on wet with the big brush
Repeat dabbing with the serviette
Fill the brush with different colors and splash the tip of the brush onto the background
Cover the face with an extra piece of paper

STEP 14
Adding finishing touches:
Complete the green cape over the shoulders
Redraw the hair in graphite
Sign your name with the small brush

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