

Stencil Portraits

Materials:

Camera or a previously existing photograph
Photocopier
X-acto knife
Pencil
Paint

Steps:

1. Take an interesting portrait picture of yourself or a friend. For best results take close-up portraits.
2. Make photocopies of the portrait photo.
3. Enlarge the photocopy to the size of 18x24" (you will need to piece four photocopies together). The idea when making the photocopies is that you want to have high contrast (lots of blacks and lots of whites). Later you'll see why. When you are done be sure to have four identical enlarged photocopies of your photo.
4. Each photocopy is going to be a separate stencil layer. One will be the background and another will be your silhouette. The other two photocopies will be the detailed stencil: one the whites on your face and one the darks on your face.
5. Stencil #1: Since your four photocopies are exactly the same it doesn't matter which one you pick. Choose one and cut out all of the space behind or around your face.
6. Stencil #2: For the next one cut out everything that is a part of your silhouette. For example your hair, face, neck, all of that stuff.
7. Stencil #3: Cut out all of the white areas.
8. Stencil #4: Cut out all of the blacks.
9. Now it is time to paint. Lay down Stencil #1 and mark where the corners are. Dab or spray paint into the space that you cut out.
10. Continue with Stencil #2, by lying it down to match up to the marks where Stencil #1 registered and paint inside the space.
11. Continue with Stencils #3 and #4.