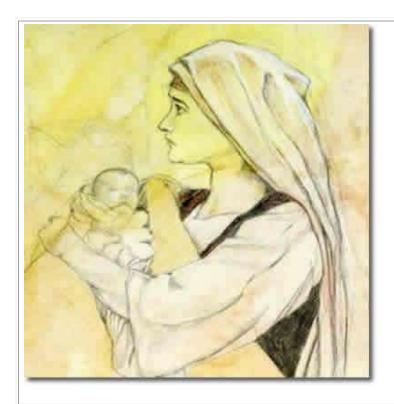
Drawing Lesson: Textured Background Technique



In this lesson, I will describe a technique for creating an interesting background for a pencil drawing using gesso and watercolor paints.

Supplies:

- Illustration Board, white
- Gesso
- Watercolor paints
- Large watercolor brush
- Rag or paper towel for blotting
- Graphite drawing pencils
- White colored pencil

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Directions:

- 1. Using a large brush, **scrub the gesso** onto the illustration board, using a circular motion. Do not smooth it out create an interesting texture. Let dry completely.
- 2. Decide on a **color scheme** for your background. You may use 2 or 3 colors.

Analogous color schemes are nice for this project. Some examples are:

- Blue-green-yellow
- Red-violet-blue

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- Red-orange-yellow
- Green-yellow-orange
- 3. Liberally brush the surface of the prepared board with watered down watercolor paints in your chosen color scheme. Mix and blend the colors.
- 4. Blot the board with the rag or paper towels, creating a mottled effect. Don't rub all of the paint off.
- 5. Let dry completely.
- 6. Now you are ready to create a pencil drawing over this prepared background. Choose your subject and go at it!

Some hints for this project:

- Draw and shade with the graphite pencils.
- Add highlights with the white colored pencil.
- You may add another dark colored pencil to this drawing that is part of your background color scheme.