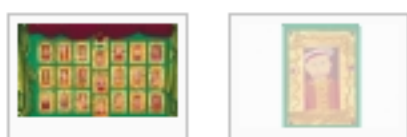


Crafty Ideas: Tudor Portraits

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A gallery of Tudor style portraits



Tudor portraits are important pieces of historical evidence. They show us what people looked like, but also about their wealth and status, and how they wanted to be seen by others.

This activity involves children looking closely at Tudor portraits to 'read' them, and then to demonstrate understanding of their conventions by creating Tudor-style portraits of friends, family, kings or queens.

You will need:

- Canvas board or sheets from an acrylic pad
- Acrylic paints
- A range of brushes for backgrounds and fine detail
- Palettes and waterpots
- Light brown coloured pencils
- Aprons (acrylic is hard to wash out)

Use

Use as part of a history focus on the Tudors. The project involves lots of detailed work and layers of paint that will need to dry between applications.

Make

- ➔ Start by looking at Tudor portraits. You may find some good examples at local galleries or historic houses. You will also find Tudor portraits online at the National Portrait Gallery, the Tate and a range of history websites.
- ➔ Ask children to look at how Tudor portraits are composed, what kinds of backgrounds are used, the facial expressions of the subjects, how textiles and jewels are presented, and what kind of frames the pictures had. Encourage them to make notes and sketches.
- ➔ To start the portraits, use a broad brush to lightly paint a wash of burnt umber over the whole canvas.
- ➔ Once the paint is dry, lightly draw the portrait in the coloured pencil, taking extra care with the features on the face and the folds and patterns on the clothes.
- ➔ Paint the figure starting with the eyes and working outwards. The idea is to build the painting up in layers. Slowly build flesh tones and the base colours of the clothes. Once the figure is covered, add more detail. If required, deepen and enrich the background, taking care not to encroach on the figure.
- ➔ Add the final touches with a thin brush. At this point, paint in the sparkling highlights in the eyes and on the clothes.
- ➔ To make the frames, draw and then cut out the frame to the required shape around the outer edge only.
- ➔ Cut the string into pieces, arrange and glue around the frame in the swirling design. Symmetry is particularly effective.
- ➔ Allow to dry for a few days, and then paint with several layers of gold metallic paint. Make sure that each layer is dry before applying a new one.
- ➔ When the frame is dry, diagonally cut the corners of the inner edge and fold the flaps backwards.
- ➔ Arrange and stick on the gems.
- ➔ Place the portrait in the frame.

Tip

If you do not have acrylic paint in school use ready-mix paints.

Display

Make a gallery for your Tudor portraits. Use a strong background colour which will contrast well with the gold frames. Edge the display with richly coloured fabrics and add a Tudor rose or emblem.

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Adapted from:



Belair On Display - Hands on History

Tudor Portraits

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Useful Links

➔ <http://www.npg.org.uk>

➔ <http://www.tate.org.uk>