



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



**Artist Interview**

We ask Online Workshop instructor, Jordan Clark, 6 questions.

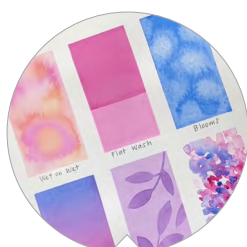
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**Homemade Holiday Cards**

Learn how to make 3 different holiday card designs with tutorials from artist Jess Park

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**Intro to Watercolor**

Get started in Watercolor with this 4-part video tutorial series from artist Jeannie Dickson

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**2022 Online Workshops**

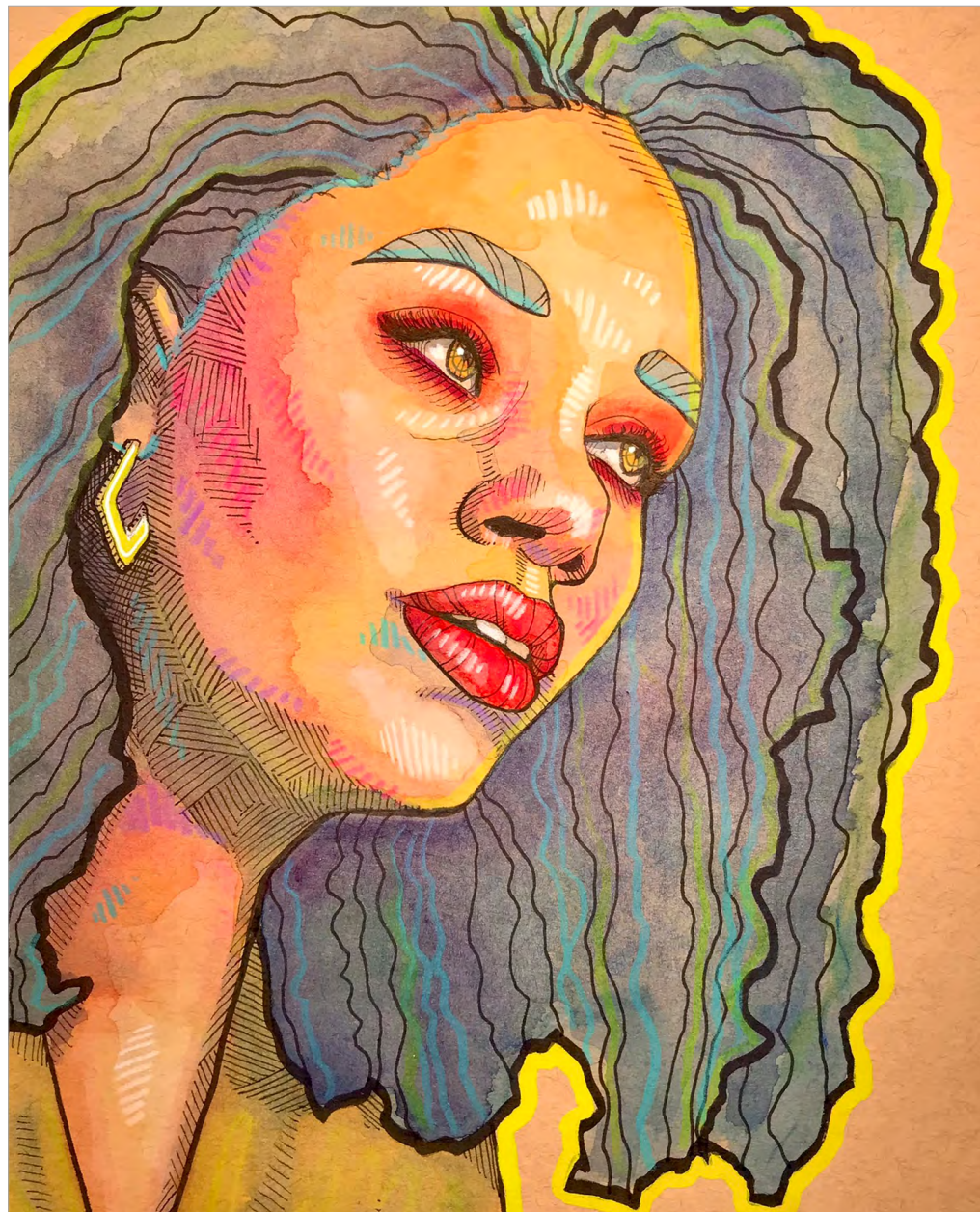
Workshop 4, Art Journaling 101 begins November 7.

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MAIN FEATURE

**Painting a Stylized Watercolor Portrait**

By Bebe Keith



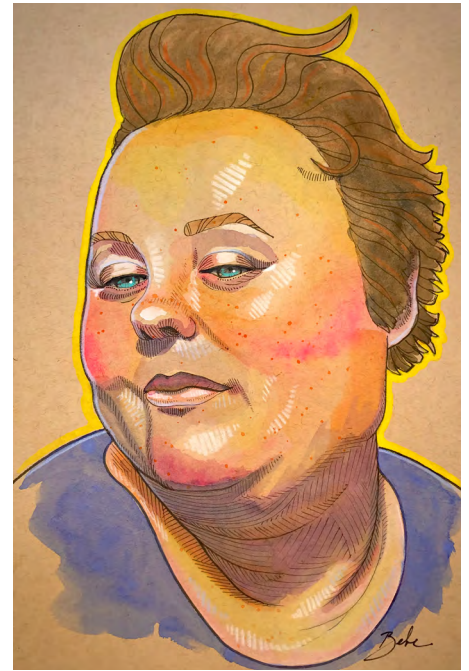
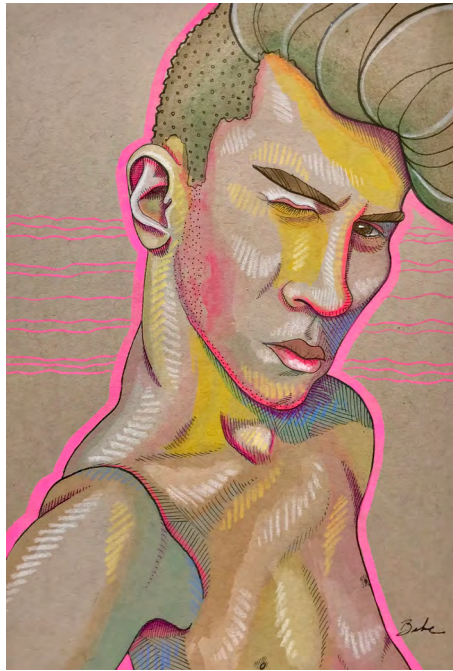
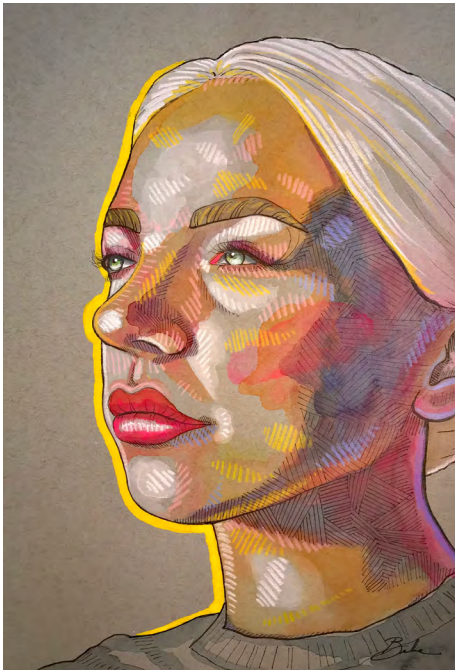
I could look at people all day. I love looking at other people's photos, even if I don't know the people captured in the image. Everyone is beautiful. Everyone is interesting! Of all of the people in the world, it's amazing that we are each so unique, given that there are so few features to play around with. So let's just say I'm captivated by faces.

During the pandemic I missed them. We were all staying home, or when we did go out we masked up, covering our faces. So I decided to draw one face every day for an entire year.

I gathered up my watercolors and pens, starting the project on white watercolor paper. I experimented and played. Drawing

faces was new to me. The white textured paper was okay, but before long I found my true love... Strathmore Toned Mixed Media Paper. This smooth paper with lovely visible

and movement, direction and flow. With my background in stained glass mosaics, this style suited me.



fibers allowed me to start with a midtone, and then add highlights where I wanted them. With white paper, everything you add makes the paper darker. With toned paper, you can go darker and lighter. I loved that aspect and stuck with the toned paper for the remainder of my project.

I didn't worry about likenesses. I found my models on the app Museum by Sktchy. It's a wonderful resource for artists that want to draw people. It's populated by portrait artists of all skill levels looking for references and muses who wish to be drawn. It's a perfect mutualism. Every day I picked someone to draw. I tried my best but didn't

I call the resulting artwork "Stylized Watercolor Portraits".

The key word is "stylized" - I'm not going for a realistic rendering. I use Micron Pens, so right out of the gate there

is a graphic effect that you don't get with realism. I started using hatched lines to create shadows. I figured out how to make lips, eyebrows, pupils and hair using a combination of contour lines in groups of one, two or three. The lines suggest curves

“

*I tried my best but didn't beat myself up if the person on my paper looked different than the person on the screen.*

”

beat myself up if the person on my paper looked different than the person on the screen. Everyone (muses and other artists) was so supportive and kind.

So if you are willing to give yourself permission to make mistakes and try something new, follow along with me as I show you how I make my Stylized Watercolor Portraits.



“  
*Remember to play and have fun! It doesn't have to look real! The pressure is off.*  
”

### MATERIALS

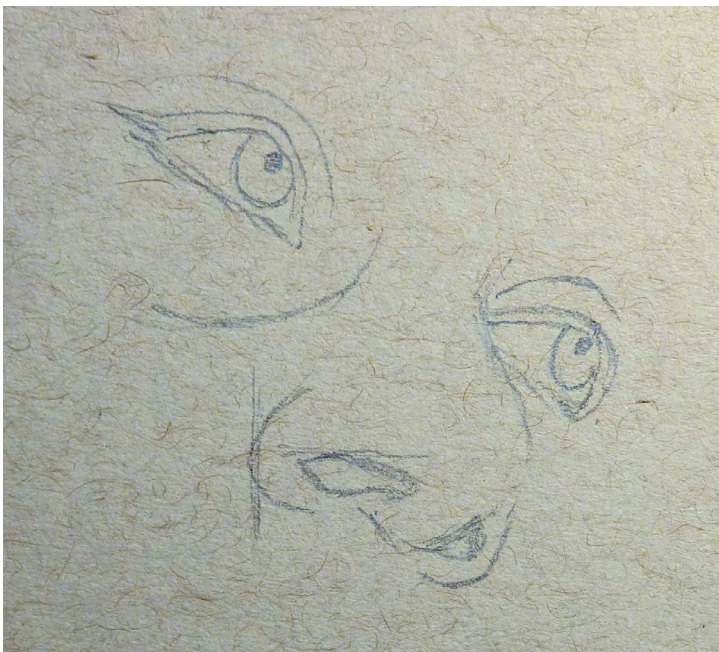
Starting with Strathmore Toned Tan Mixed Media Paper, I use a pencil and a kneaded eraser for the drawing. Then I reach for my Micron Pens in a variety of widths. This is followed by watercolors and some gouache. Then I break out the colored pencils, and finally Dr. Ph. Martin's Pen White for the final highlights.

### STEP 1 - Drawing

I cut the 9x12 paper in half most of the time to get a 9x6 piece. I just like this size and I have lots of mats for this size art that fit in a 9x12 frame. So with my pencil in hand and the kneaded eraser not far away, I begin drawing. I seem to always start with the most dominant eye, then the other, then the nose and eyebrows.

I make marks to help guide my drawing. For instance, the left side of the nose lined up with the left half of the eye so I drew a vertical line below the eye. The widest part of the side of the nose lined up with the top of the nostril and this was just below the bottom of the outer eye. Another guide mark was placed.

Surprisingly, I find the hardest part is getting the outline of the face shape accurate. On this particular piece I did not pencil in the hair.



## STEP 2 - Inking

I start with a thin liner pen and begin tracing in the basic features. Next I get out some thicker tips to trace over areas that could use a little more boldness. For instance the upper eyelid is done using a brush thin liner pen. The eyelashes are a small 005. I start in on the hash marks that make up the shadows using a 02 or 03 for the darker areas under the chin and 01 for the lighter shadows.



To make the hash marks for the shadowed areas, I keep changing directions, especially in large areas like under the chin. I like the look of it and I can always add more.



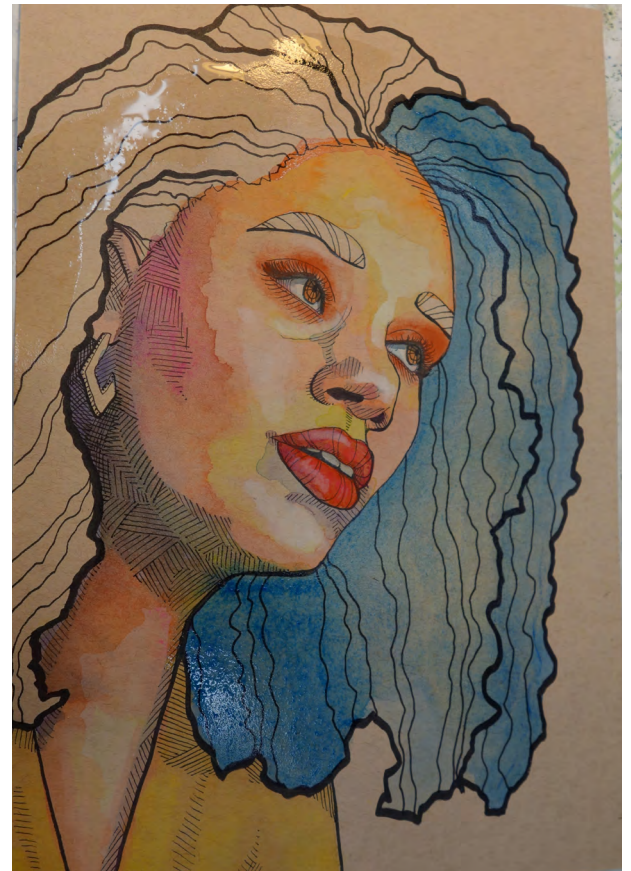
For the curly hair, I grabbed the wide #3 and drew some bold outlines. I wasn't sure how I'd handle the hair, but this worked well. Remember to play and have

fun! It doesn't have to look real! The pressure is off. I added some more lines with a thinner pen. The groupings of lines echoes the lines used in the lips and eyebrows.



So I don't smear my work, I wait a moment or two after applying the last pen mark before erasing all of the pencil marks.





### STEP 3 - Painting

Now it's like coloring in a coloring book. Haven't we all spent many happy hours doing just that? I don't have any training in using watercolors, so purists watching me work might cringe. I use a very intuitive approach and I'm a lover of bright colors. So I just lay them down and I don't look back!

I think of a face as having three general zones: yellow on the forehead area, pink across the nose and cheeks and green below the mouth. Of course I am using more colors than that, but I just keep that in mind. I've included a time-lapse video of the creation of this piece. This gives you an idea of my approach to painting.

I like to use blues, purples and grays in the shadowed areas. I use a china white watercolor or a white gouache for the highlighted areas. I used blue and purple for her hair after a clear water wash to help the paint spread evenly.

I added yellow on top and it mixed with the blue to make a lime green. Not what I intended, but I liked it, so I added blue to her yellow shirt to give that a green look as well. Much better!

I used a lime green gouache to outline her. It is a marvelous light - almost yellow - green that makes her pop!

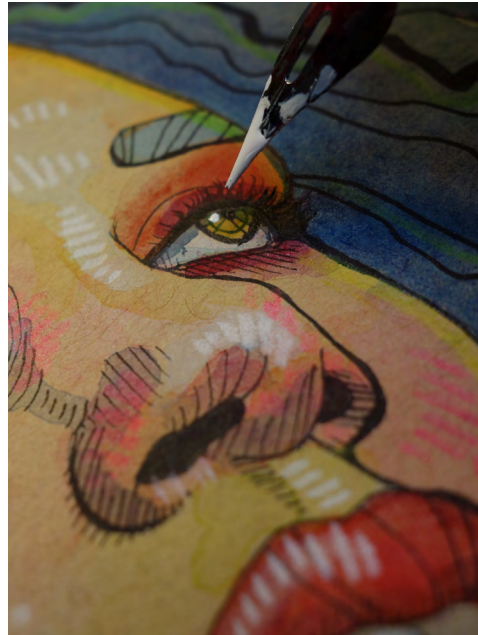
#### STEP 4 – Colored Pencils

I have a set of colored pencils that I adore. I grab the white and add some little hatch lines to the bright areas like her chin, nose and forehead.

I find the matching neon green pencil to

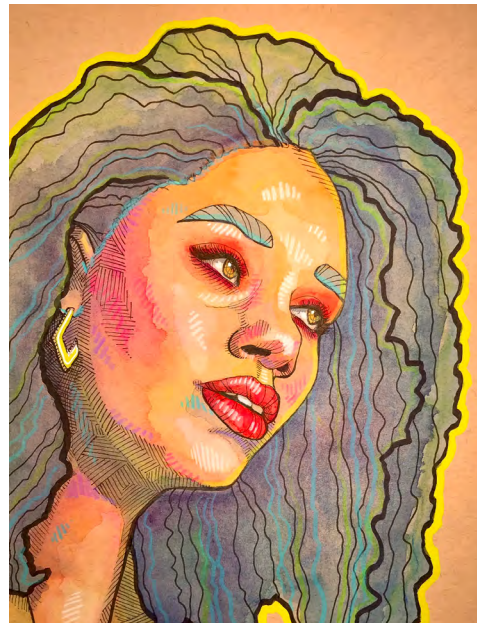
highlight the side of her face and under her chin. I tend to use about five colors per piece – a white, a couple lights, a couple midtones and a dark. I use them to accent highlights and shadows and add interest throughout the piece.





#### STEP 5 – Finishing Touches

I LOVE bringing the person to life with the white ink dots in the eyes using a nib pen. Ah! There they are. Alive and ready to tell me their story! Then I take some time see what else needs to be done. Darken this area here, touch up some pen lines that were covered by china white there... Finally, I add my signature and the piece is done!



I hope you enjoyed this tutorial! If you are interested, look for more process videos in my reels on Instagram. If you are even more interested, I teach an online class called – wait for it – [Stylized Watercolor Portraits](#). I'll take you in real time through the process. You'll find these links in my bio.

**See the time-lapse video of this tutorial [HERE](#).**



#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bebe Barbara Benson Keith is a self-taught artist who likes to laugh. She loves creating and is always looking for ways to stretch and grow as an artist and as a human. She currently uses watercolor and ink, pastels, and mixed media collages, though not all at the same time. She also works in public art, her latest project designing a terrazzo floor for a new television studio building.

**See more of Bebe's artwork:**

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Udemy Classes](#)



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**Strathmore Watercolor Cards**  
Heavyweight cards made with 140 lb. cold press watercolor paper with matching envelopes.





ARTIST FOCUS  
**Interview with  
Jordan Clark**

**Who are you and what do you do?**

audience by making art tutorials on Youtube. I later opened a business selling my own illustrated stickers and stationery online. I've since stepped back from running my business and I am now working on developing new skills as an artist and taking my work in a different direction.

**How and when did you get into art?**

I feel like art has always been a part of my life. I grew up obsessed with arts and crafts from a very young age, thanks to my mom who constantly encouraged my creativity. As a teenager I started a blog to share my work and connect with a community of other artists that I couldn't have found in my small town. I then decided to study art in college and spent four years taking classes on design, drawing, and photography.

**How has your practice changed over time?**

My practice is constantly evolving. I've never been one to stick to a single medium! As a teenager, I planned to use my creative skills to become a graphic designer. I loved digital illustration and photography and spent a lot of time working on my computer, which also translated well into making videos on Youtube. While I never actually became a graphic designer, all the skills I learned contributed to the success of my online business. In the recent years I've been more interested in getting my hands messy and making physical art. I'm currently working with traditional media and spend most of my time practicing with paint, pastels, and graphite.

**What's the best piece of art advice you've been given?**

Read Jordan's answer and the rest of the interview and see more of her artwork [HERE](#).

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LEARN MORE

**Workshop 4: Art Journaling 101  
with Jordan Clark**

Start Date: November 7, 2022

Learn the basics of art journaling to strengthen your ability as an artist. Use a variety of mediums to make beautiful illustrations, sketchbook pages, and postcards.





**CLICK HERE**  
To See The  
Video Tutorial

# HOME MADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The holiday season is here! There's nothing better than a hand-painted holiday card to send to your friends and family. Artist Jess Park used Velvetouch and Heritage Brushes on Strathmore Greeting Cards to make three different holiday card designs that you can recreate! [CLICK HERE](#) to see the video tutorial.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Princeton Heritage Round Brushes 2 and 6
- Strathmore Watercolor Cards: 140lb (300gsm), cold press surface, 5" x 6.875"
- Watercolor Paint (various shades of green, red, and metallic gold). We love Daler-Rowney's Aquafine Watercolors.





# INTRO TO WATERCOLOR

with Jeannie Dickson

**Interested in watercolor painting but not sure how?  
Get started with this 4-part tutorial video series!**

Artist Jeannie Dickson guides you through an in-depth introduction to watercolors. She covers supplies needed, watercolor techniques, color theory, and swatching, then ties everything together as she shows you how to create a stunning floral wreath.

### SUPPLIES:

- Strathmore 400 Series Watercolor paper, 9x12"
- MaimeriBlu Silver Metal Half Pan Set, 12 colors
- MaimeriBlu Watercolor Tubes
- Princeton Velvetouch Brushes
- Princeton Select Artiste Brushes

**[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the full tutorial series and give it a try!**

# Strathmore® 2022 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

## Join us for Strathmore's FREE 2022 Online Workshops!

Strathmore's Online Workshops feature free video lessons and downloadable instructions created by experienced artists. Follow along in the online

classroom as instructors guide you through various art topics. After a lesson is released, it remains on the site for viewing the rest of the year.

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Workshops start March 7 and continue through December 31, 2022



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Learn the basics of art journaling to strengthen your ability as an artist. Use a variety of mediums to make beautiful illustrations, sketchbook pages, and postcards.

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### WORKSHOP 1 Easy Breezy Beach Art with Acrylics

Instructor:  
Ashley Krieger

**All Workshop 1 Videos Available Online Now!**

Acrylics are a remarkable permanent, rich, colorful, versatile, and adaptable medium that gives artists endless possibilities. Get started with acrylics as you paint some simple beach art.



### WORKSHOP 2 Joyful Watercolor Finding Your Style

Instructor:  
Shayda Campbell

**All Workshop 2 Videos Available Online Now!**

Fill the pages of a watercolor sketchbook with practice illustrations, floral compositions, watercolor techniques, and finished pieces, Shayda will help you feel confident, calm and creative in your art-making journey.



### WORKSHOP 3 Sketching & Drawing: The Foundation of All Art

Instructor:  
Brandon Schaefer

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Learn the fundamentals of sketching and drawing, the foundation of any type of art, which will help you grow in confidence while deepening your knowledge and understanding.

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