Painting Portraits And Figures In Watercolor
Synopsis

Using clear and concise language and in-depth, step-by-step demonstrations, author and renowned artist Mary Whyte guides beginning and intermediate watercolorists through the entire painting process, from selecting materials to fundamental techniques to working with models. Going beyond the practical application of techniques, Whyte helps new artists capture not just the model’s physical likeness, but their unique personality and spirit. Richly illustrated, the book features Mary Whyte’s vibrant empathetic watercolors and works by such masters of watercolor as Mary Cassatt, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, and Georgia O’Keeffe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a very big fan of Mary Whyte. I think her work is outstanding; she is at the top of her game right now. There are very few artists today working in watercolor that are able to create the quality of work she is creating. Mary is known for her loose/tight paintings. Often a quite loose background surrounding very (VERY) tight work on a figure. I would guess that most artists drawn to her work also love Wyeth. I own four of Mary’s books. An Artists Way of Seeing, which has no technique and is all philosophy with some nice reproductions. Watercolor for the Serious Beginner which is exactly what it says. Working South, a showcase of a recent series of portraits and Painting Portraits and Figures in Watercolor, the book being reviewed here. I also own two DVD’s. I have learned something from them all and find value in most everything she has to share. I think she is to be commended for going beyond the usual step by step and trying to present a more holistic (for lack of
a better word) approach to painting. In and of itself, Painting Portraits and Figures is excellent. If someone wanted one book on the subject I am unaware of one that gives as much breadth as this one. There is some very basic information but there is also some very good in depth information you only glean through much time and work. The color reproductions are excellent and numerous with many close up excerpts. At 160 pages there is only so much you can do. All that said, I think there is one consistent deficit that runs through her two instructional book and two DVD’s. I have to believe she is deliberately holding back on teaching about the finish work of her paintings. Many of her most stunning paintings have an extraordinary amount of detail work.

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