



## **Introduction**

What makes a great portrait? Of course, we expect there to be a likeness, but a great portrait is a celebration of the person while also reflecting the character of the painter.

The aim of this series of webinars is to be contemporary and joyful. These are not portraits to hang in museums, but will help the artist capture the faces and character of family and friends or people they encounter every day using watercolour.

Drawing a likeness and painting a lively portrait are two different skill sets and we will concentrate on painting techniques. Thus this first webinar will outline how to use technology and aids to transfer facial contours to paper and then explore the tonal map of the face in a simple but striking portrait. Some knowledge of watercolour is assumed.

**Examples (please see over for the reference we are working from)**



## **Learning points**

- How building confidence in painting skills will help you master drawing a likeness later
- Painting in watercolour is about painting the shadows not the highlights
- Finding interconnected shapes and shadow in the face
- Understanding how little information can give a likeness
- Understanding the mass tone of a colour
- Working wet in wet
- Edges – hard and soft and how to soften edges

## **Materials**

- Quarter sheet of NOT (cold pressed) paper 11x15inches/28x38cms

- Three/four colours of your choice, at least a couple with good mass tone (ie dark)
- Round watercolour brush size 8-10, small flat brush for lifting
- Water pots, palette, eraser, pencil, kitchen towel

## Method

If you want to paint along during the webinar, please print out the reference photo to A4 or have it available and have the contours drawn out lightly onto your paper.

## Reference image

All reference photos for this series come from Pixabay, which is a free site where all photos are made available royalty free. You can download the image here: <https://pixabay.com/photos/face-man-woman-couple-monochrome-7561974/> There are two images on the original, so why not paint the other after having had a go at this one?



## About Liz

Liz Chaderton is a full time artist based in Berkshire. Her fifth book, *Painting Portraits in Watercolour*, is being published in October by The Crowood Press. You can find more of her work at [www.lizchaderton.co.uk](http://www.lizchaderton.co.uk)