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# Portrait Painting In Watercolor



## Synopsis

"Where this handy, horizontal, and beautifully laid-out book treads on new ground is portraiture in aquarelle in a dashing dramatic style". -- American Artist. In an appealing volume, Reid leads artists through 24 detailed step-by-step demonstrations on painting the portrait.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (30 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the most sought after books on watercolor portraiture. Reid suggests the face and still gets a likeness. He leaves something for the viewer to fill in and be a part of the painting. It takes practice and intuition to bring out the artists innate intuitive abilities expressed on paper. Reid shows step by step how he approaches his subject. He focuses on contrast and value and immediacy to give the painting life and spontaneity. A valued book to read over and over.

...The book is brown, in colour and concept. Charles' book on Natural Painting is much more appealing. However this book is well written and illustrated although not colorfully. There is some interesting insight into portrait technique -- but realistically, I doubt if Charles learned to paint this way himself ... his talent is inborn and self-taught. His portraits are startling and unique in their ability to capture likenesses from a swirling mass of tone and/or color sometimes using only subtle details of shade and highlight. The facial details that we plebians see (2 eyes, nose, mouth, chin, hair) have little to do with Charles' images -- sometimes many key features are ill defined or undefined ... however he always manages to capture the likeness. He sees in a different way -- I think he sees primarily tones (shades of gray) more than anything -- color seems to be secondary to him (this is

apparent in his Natural Painting book too) -- yet he also has a unique and insightful perspective on colors, especially skin tones. A good book.

It must be said that Charles Reid is very much into color values. Much of the illustration in the book is done in values with no color, using shades of grey. For a novice wanting pretty pictures--this is not the book. For a painter wishing to learn portrait painting much like better art schools teach, this is an excellent book to have on hand. It is very difficult for beginners to get value with color; a skill learned over time. The book forces the student to observe different values within color, if they follow the examples given. The best way to show form is to use values/tones of color or shades of grey. This book does not disappoint.

Charles Reid's "Portrait Painting in Watercolor" is a must-have for anyone trying to learn a looser technique. I started out painting in oils and acrylics -- and I love doing people. But the techniques I use in the other mediums were not producing the results I wanted in watercolor. This is a clear, easy-to-read discussion on what to do. There are exercises that are easy to follow, and clear suggestions on how to proceed. Absolutely worth the investment.

Excellent book, just what I was looking for, and just the kind of help I needed. Charles Reid's Portrait Painting Watercolor book is perfect for the person who has done some painting, but you do not need to be an expert.

Daughter attended MIAD and has always wanted this book for soooo long.....I am not familiar with the book but she was tickled to death to acquire it...."awesome dad".....I take that as this book is useful and admired by art and design students/graduates past and present.....though out of print.....(jmo)

Charles Reid carefully guides the student through all the stages of portrait painting. He gives information on the colors to use for light (fair) skinned persons, medium, and dark (hispanic Asian, etc.) people. This book has taken me to a whole new level of portrait painting.

The book is pure genius in that it helps even nongeniuses improve their watercolor portraits. I am having a blast going through it lesson by lesson.

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