

## Session 2:

# Oil Painting from Altered Photos

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Broome County Public Library, Binghamton, NY

## MATERIALS:

- #2 pencil
- your composition, based on your photo/s
- red cellophane
- canvas panel
- brushes
- burnt umber paint
- wiper rag
- odorless mineral spirits
- Murphy Oil Soap
- soap cap

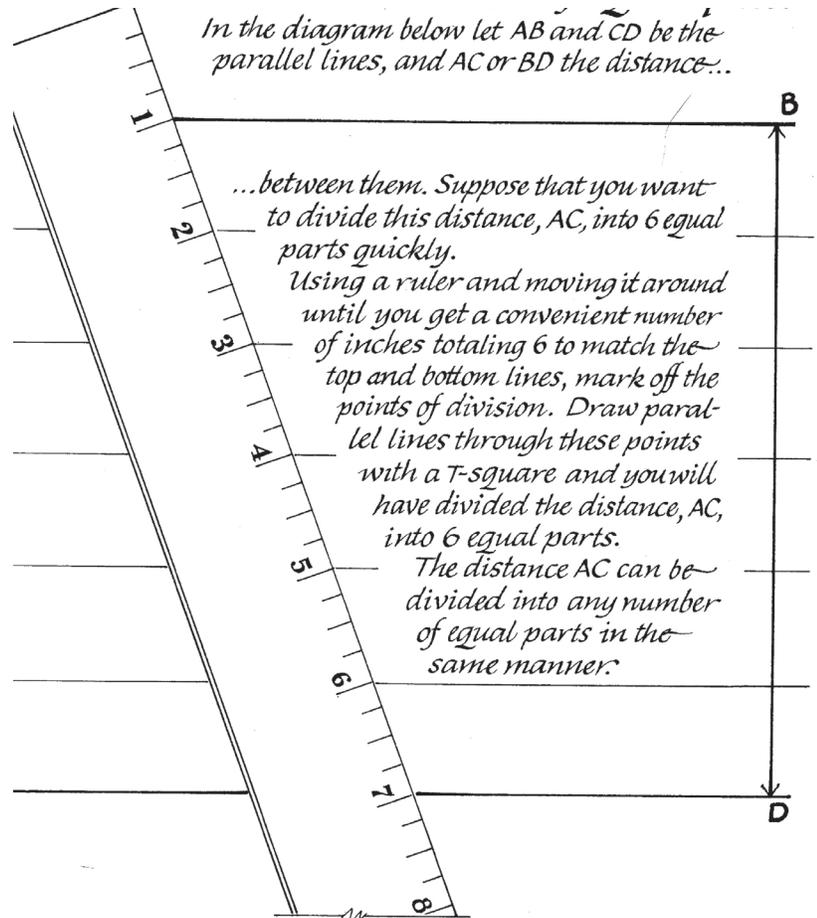
## Sizing Up, Using the Grid System

- Now that you've finalized your composition, it's time to transfer it to your substrate (in this case, the 12 x 16 in. canvas panel).
- Tape a piece of red cellophane (provided) over your composition. Trace around the outlines of the composition with a Sharpie marker (also provided) and your ruler. **The red color** will help you see your subject in monotone values, for the purpose of the underpainting.
- Divide the long side into 8 equal segments, and the short side into 6 equal segments, and divide into squares with the marker (see diagram at right).
- Mark your 12 x 16 in. canvas panel every 2 inches, with a pencil, into a similar 8 x 6 grid.

## Underpainting

- Apply a small amount of protective hand lotion to your hands; rub in well. (Alternatively, wear nitrile surgical gloves -- not provided.)
- Use the transfer grid to guide you in recreating your composition sketch on the surface, block by block, using **ONLY burnt umber**, thinned with odorless mineral spirits, to make a complete monotone painting of your subject. Use as large a brush as possible, to avoid getting tied up in unnecessary details.
- Use a wiping rag to wipe out lights and to scrub out mistakes. (If paint persists, use a separate brush to apply thinning solvent, then wipe./scrub again.)
- Use only thin or thinned paint -- there should be **no texture** in the paint on your canvas.
- Cover the entire surface, leaving no untouched white canvas. (Photograph it -- it will

## HOW TO DIVIDE ANY DISTANCE BETWEEN LINES INTO ANY NUMBER OF EQUAL SPACES



From *More Studio Tips for artists and graphic designers*,  
by Bill Gray (out of print)

be beautiful! If you have no camera or phone camera, I'll shoot it for you. Just ask.)

- If you haven't finished your underpainting by the end of class, you may take the canvas panel, brushes, wiper, burnt umber paint, and solvent home to finish it. Please **do NOT begin applying colors** until our next class session.

## *Cleaning up*

- To clean brushes, first wipe thoroughly with paper towels or newsprint, then fill a bottle cap with Murphy Oil Soap, and take everything to the sink.
  - ▶ Saturate each brush with the liquid soap.
  - ▶ Swirl a brush in the palm of your hand, and swipe it back and forth in your hand, following the brush's shape.
  - ▶ Holding the ferrule (metal part) of the brush and squeezing the brush hairs between your thumb and the side of your forefinger, firmly squeeze as much soap as possible out of the brush while reshaping the brush.
  - ▶ Rinse under running water.
  - ▶ Repeat until soap suds squeezed from the brush, and the brush itself, appear clean.
  - ▶ After rinsing, rap the brush on the edge of the sink to shake out excess water, and carefully reshape the brush. Let dry lying flat, or with brush hairs in the air, handle in a jar or other container.
  - ▶ Use the Murphy's for a hand soap as well., and as laundry pre-treat if you get paint on clothing.
- Take the panel tray off your easel and fasten to an easel leg with the velcro strap. Fold the legs together, and place it in the easel cart. Put your painting and supplies in our corner of the storage room, unless you're taking them home.