Create Your Own Pet Portrait

Beth Van Hoesen is known for her realistic and highly expressive portraits of fauna, though she created landscape prints and images of flora as well. Van Hoesen received the Award of Honor in Graphics from the San Francisco Arts Commission, and a Distinguished Artist’s Award from the California Society of Printmakers. Celebrate Women’s History Month by taking inspiration from Beth Van Hoesen’s piece, *Maharani*, as you create your own pet / animal portrait.

Beth Van Hoesen

*Maharani*, 1988
Hand-colored aquatint, etching, drypoint, and watercolor
Artist’s Proof, edition V/V
15 3/8 x 12 3/4 inches
Racine Art Museum, Gift of the E. Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen Adams Trust
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

Supplies

- Plain paper
- Pencil
- Reference image of your animal (printed if possible)
- Colored pencils, watercolor paints, markers, etc.
Instructions

1. Sketch out the rough shapes of your animal on your plain paper with a pencil.

2. Add facial features with your pencil and colored pencils.

3. Use colored pencils, watercolor, and/or markers to add dimension and shadows.

Example of project