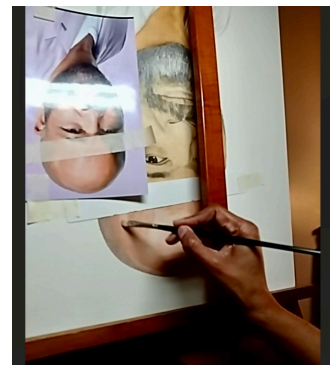
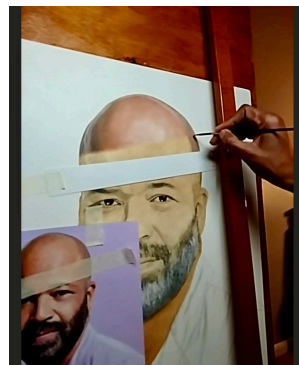
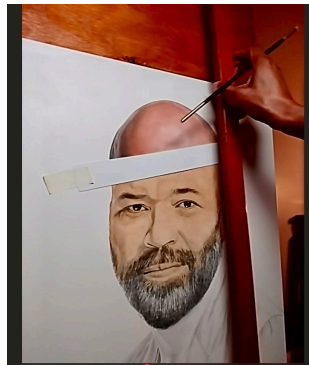
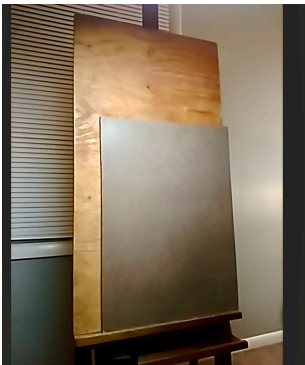


Euclid Art Association February 6, 2023 Zoom Meeting Thomas Hudson, “Natural Realism with Oil Paint”

The Euclid Art Association welcomed local artist **Thomas Hudson** to demonstrate at our February meeting. President, Lee Peters introduced him to the Zoom audience. Hudson, who now resides in University Hts, graduated from Cooper School of Art with a certificate in Production Art. After working as a medical illustrator and getting commissions from several publishing companies, he made the transition to freelance illustrator. Thomas is best known for ‘natural realism’ in his art, his favorite medium being oils. Close to 30 members and guests watched Thomas explain how he achieves natural realism in an oil portrait. With his cell phone camera focused on his work surface, we looked ‘over his shoulder’ to watch him work.



Thomas explained how he first approaches a painting. He’s very methodical and precise. First, he prepares the canvas, in this case a hard panel board from Home Depot. For his detailed work, he prefers the hard board surface to the rougher texture of linen, and linen canvas can tear or puncture. After sanding the panel, he applies six coats of gesso on the front and only five on the backside. Next comes the line drawing. Thomas considers this the most important step of the painting. If the drawing is not accurate, the final painting will not be accurate either. He begins by painting a color wash over the drawing to match either the face, clothes or background, being careful that the drawing still shows through. Thomas demonstrates the ‘wash-in’. He uses a bristle brush, thinning the paint with Liquin. Then, using a small synthetic fan brush, he smoothes the brush strokes to give a flat, even layer of paint allowing the line drawing to show through.



He’s now ready to start painting. Using a plastic strip, Thomas blocks off a portion of the painting, starting with the head. He calls this the ‘Section Method’. He uses a hand rest, his Maulstick, which easily moves across his board. “I don’t paint without it,” he said. This allows him get precise clean lines....he also uses a magnifying glass. It’s important that his paints are ready. Mixing the paint (*he uses Gamblin oil paints*) to exactly match the skin tone in the photo, can take up to an hour! His palette is glass with a white board behind and his paints are lined up in small piles from light to dark. He has 125 brushes of various sizes, most of which are very tiny. Using a Filbert brush for blending, he dabs the paint on the board until he is satisfied that he’s gotten the precise color, shading and details to match the photo. He turns his canvas upside down for another perspective. Realism requires a lot of patience!

Thomas was asked, “why oils?” It’s because oils dry slowly and it “gives me time to move the paint around and blend on the panel”. When asked how he got started, he said he always liked to draw people. When he was 17 years old, he bought a book about art written by Ken Davies. Davies’ step by step method made sense to him so he studied Davies’ methods. Although his favorite medium is now oils, he started his art career using colored pencils. He is currently working on pencil drawings

that he calls, “Reminiscent: Our times before yesterday”, which focuses on average people from the year 1885 to 1972. His favorite oil painting, “Small Note”, depicts a person dressed in work clothes...the uniform tells the type of work they do. He especially likes how he painted the denim apron and her gloves!



He was also asked ‘how long does it take to complete each painting? Thomas said, “I don’t know. I stopped recording how long it takes years ago.”

Instead of charging by the hour, he charges based on the size of the image, by the square inch. When asked to share a completed painting, he showed us DiCaprio....really amazing work that took him 6-days to complete. Check out his website: <https://maulstickstudio.com/>.

Based on ‘chat’ comments, “ Amazing, Wonderful, Fabulous Work”everyone enjoyed his 1 1/2 hour demonstration. We thank Thomas Hudson for sharing his incredible talents with us.

As a bonus and thanks to the efforts of Lee Peters, the Thomas Hudson presentation can be viewed on Euclid Art’s YouTube channel. [Click here to view.](#)