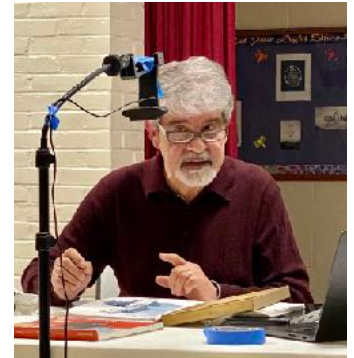


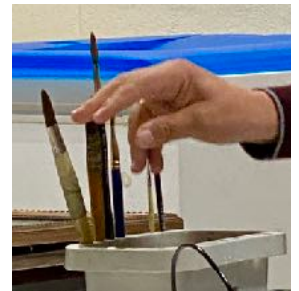
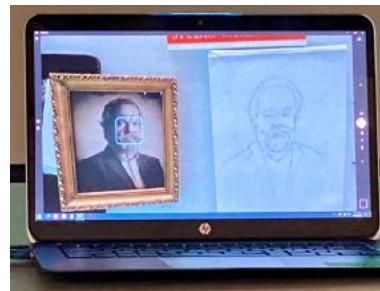
EAA September Demonstration at the Church
Monday, September 9, 2024 7:00p.m.
Elias Traboulsi - “Monochromatic Portraits from B&W Photos”

Great start to the new 2024-2025 season with 34 members and guests in attendance to watch member artist, Elias Traboulsi demonstrate “Monochromatic Portraits from B&W Photos”. President Rozenia Cunningham introduced Elias saying, “Elias is an amazing watercolor artist, who studied under David Rankin, among others and has participated in many one man and group shows, winning many awards. Elias is also a signature member of the Whiskey Painters of America and his art is greatly influenced by local legends, Tom Denny, Al Krnc and Michael Prunty. But, did you know that his art hangs at the Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute, where he is known as Dr. Elias Traboulsi, Director of The Center for Genetic Eye Diseases, Cole Eye Institute and that he holds the Stanley Stone Endowed Chair of Pediatric Ophthalmology.” That’s a very impressive resume.



“I have fun transferring pictures into monochromatic paintings that will stand on their own. It’s art!” Elias chose a b&w photo of a man with a beard as his reference. It was a framed photo with good lighting that he found at a second hand store, at the time thinking he’d like to paint it one day. “I like painting old men with beards!” He finds it much more difficult to paint a portrait in color, preferring to paint in b&w or sepia.

Starting with a quick pencil sketch, making sure to get the posture, i.e., tilt of the head correct, he starts to paint using Paynes Gray on Bristol paper using his 25 year old round sable brush from Cheap Joe’s. Elias uses the same principles as if he was doing a watercolor landscape, explaining the importance of value - dark, light, middle and lightest, plus the use of soft and sharp edges. He paints shapes. His brushwork follows the contour of the image. “Don’t go over it, be spontaneous when putting the paint on the paper.”



He starts with the darker side of the face first, looking to paint shapes. “You can correct the drawing with your brush.” Carefully leaving the white of the paper on the top of the nose and in the eye, he adds the shadow under the left eye. Then, he adds the iris, which he like to do fairly early, moving on to the jacket. About Bristol paper, Elias reminded us not to use too much water and Paynes Gray dries quickly. To achieve a soft edge, he dabs with a tissue. After letting parts of the painting dry, he goes back to darken in another layer using the side of his brush for a softer effect. He quits after adding a few more darkest darks to bring the other values forward. “I never paint the same portrait again.”





The end result was an artistic resemblance of the original photo. Admitting, "I tinkered about 3 minutes too long....should have stopped sooner." Regardless, we all loved the end result and totally enjoyed his demonstration.

Having a little more time, Elias asked our members if anyone brought an image for him to paint. Suzette offered her image and Elias did another painting of a young girl in about 15 minutes.



Here are a few examples of his work.



The refreshment table overflowed with treats. Thanks to the members who brought goodies for us to enjoy after the meeting.