



Community Outreach

Oakland Vets take on the ABOUTFACE Self-Portrait Challenge

July 2017



The self-portraits will be 12' w x 18' h, a good large size. The plan is to exhibit them with other self-portraits by the Martinez vets on Memorial Day. ABOUTFACE is a program sponsored by the Arts and Culture Commission of the Contra Costa County.

The first step for the Oakland vets was to draw and paint a face from a value drawing with a limited pallet. The results are below. Most Oakland vets had not painted portraiture before and were struggling with proportions just trying to have their picture look human. However, Rudy, an experienced portrait painter, left right into the project and painted his self portrait on the spot.

For second step the Community Outreach co-chair, Victoria Bianco, joined the Oakland group and explained the ABOUTFACE program and led drawing exercise using hand mirrors for reference. They are to bring finished drawings of themselves to our next meeting. The drawings will be transferred to the half sheet watercolor paper for the final painting.

Third step is painting the painting.

A self-portrait can say a lot about a person and for most of us is no easy task. The Community Outreach committee are proud of the vets efforts so far and hope that their finished painting pleases them and inspires others.



Rudy's Self-Portrait

Sheila H.Cain



Portrait study paintings by the Oakland vets