

**LETS FACE IT 2020**

## **Mini lesson plan with Emma Petitt STANDING FIGURE.**



In this lesson I will show you how to use quite a simple reference pose to create a much more dynamic and interesting composition.

No previous figure drawing experience is required because I can show you by playing with proportions, the usual anatomy rules can be bent and broken!

We can use quite simple pose and exaggerate the shapes, angles of the figure to make it more dynamic and dramatic.

Play with proportion to break the rules on anatomy and physiology of the figure

### **Materials**

Large sheet of mixed media or acrylic suitable paper (20x26 in)

Taped to drawing board or similar

Acrylic paint

Colours

Amsterdam turquoise green

Amsterdam Azo orange

Vallejo dark Cadmium red hue (brick red)

Amsterdam raw sienna

Vallejo titanium white

Amsterdam naples yellow light

Amsterdam bright azo red

Amsterdam sky blue

Brayer or roller

1 1/2 flat edge brush  
3/4 inch flat edge brush  
Derwent Black Charcoal pencil (you could use a pastel pencil)  
Fixative  
Palette  
Waterspray  
Credit card or scraper(optional)

Whatever size substrate you decide to work on, the first thing I want to do is tape off part of it to make a more elongated narrow rectangle surface to work on. I use a 20x25inch sheet of heavy weight mixed media paper. By doing this, it creates a more suitable size for a full standing figure composition.

### The underpainting.

Create a colourful underpainting using either a brayer or a roller. Choose 3 colours, i chose turquoise, orange and red. Use the brayer or roller to create blocks of overlapping colour, use the water spray to allow the paint to move and run. There is no right or wrong way to do this, it can be quite random and doesn't require over thinking! You don't even have to block in all the blank substrate, it is perfectly fine to leave some raw areas.

### Drawing in the figure.

This is done with a charcoal or pastel pencil, i use black but feel free to use any colour that will show up well on your underpainting. This is when we can play with proportion and realism. This isn't an anatomy class, be fluid with the shapes and angles of the body. I try not to take too long at the drawing stage but make sure you fit everything in, especially her feet! And remember to fill the space.

### Painting.

When painting in the figure we will keep it very loose and brushy. It is more about layering the paint rather than blending. We will start with the highlights first, working our way around the figure. Then adding raw sienna to create a more sandy skin tone, then finally the cadmium red for the richer shadows. Try and work quite quickly with the 1 1/2 inch brush and not get too caught up in detail. As we work our way around the figure we are aware of the lights and darks, the highlights

and shadows. Then we simply block in the red swim suit and her red hair.

### The negative spaces.

The space around the figure. To create a very simple landscape in which our figure is standing i include an horizon line. Feel free to play with the position of the horizon and how that can effect the idea of space and sky. When blocking in the background we want to take advantage of all the amazing colours and texture from the underpainting so don't block it out completely. Try and keep your paint application light so the colours will show through.

