

Modern Portraiture Reference Photo Specifications

This class is an opportunity to paint a portrait of a person (or pet) of your choosing! Below are some specifications that will help assure that the image you are working with will be compatible with the process.

For best results, teaching artist Alexandra Valentino, requests that you email her the image you intend to use, ahead of the first class meeting. Edits may be made to the size or scale of the image to best suit the needs of this class.

Alexandra Valentino: alexval008@gmail.com

If you have any questions about this information, you may also contact The Dairy Barn by calling 740-592-4981 option 1 for Education.

1. Choose your subject
 - a. It's recommended to use an original photo (photo print or digital print) of a person or pet who is meaningful to you.
 - b. Select an image with colors that are true-to-life and not otherwise manipulated.
 - c. Composition will be important. The pose and angle of the person in the photo will also be transferred to the canvas. Be sure that the subject's face and shoulders fill most of the frame or crop a photo that includes more of the figure. For a pet portrait, have the head of the pet filling the frame.
2. Size and Color
 - a. Photos should be sized at 8.5" x 11" if printed or 8" x 10" if original photos.
 - b. Consider cropping your photo to create the correct width and height ratio.
 - c. If you are scaling up from a smaller original, you may need a higher resolution to retain image quality.
 - d. Two photos will be needed for the class. One with the original color image and a second version with printed or photo copied in black and white. (If you do not have easy access to a black and white copy of your subject photo, the Dairy Barn will be able to make a photocopy for you at the first class.)