

Painting the Illusion of Figures



When I'm painting the illusion of the human form - I think "Carrot." A dot for the head and then brushing in an abstract figure shape underneath the dot. I practice the shapes over and over with only black acrylic paint and a big brush.



As far as painting figures - and different genders, I break it down to painting basic shapes - and this is so generally stated - men have broader shoulders and narrower hips. Women are the opposite - narrower shoulder and broader hips. So, to paint a more feminine figure, I also add a feminine pose, generally borrowed from Greek statues.

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Figure Samples

When I practice painting female carots, I exaggerate the poses and add a dramatic element of suggested capes, hats and other fashionable accessories. I often start with black acrylic paint to get the basic shape and pose, then add the colors after the black base has dried.

These small figure studies are great practice for my larger circus pieces!



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