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Kehinde Wiley Portraits



Kehinde Wiley, President Barack Obama, 2018

Kehinde Wiley is a famous Contemporary Black painter. He creates realistic portraits with complex floral backgrounds. He represents Black and Brown men and women in heroic poses showing strength and confidence. Wiley is especially known for his commission of former President Barack Obama and for being the first Black artist to paint a presidential portrait. Join us as we create a portrait in the style of Wiley using a sponging technique to create a floral background.

1



Gather materials:

- Cardstock / Watercolor Paper (2 sheets)
- Sponge
- Markers / Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Plate
- Paper Towels

2



Begin by drawing leaf and flower shapes on your sponge using a marker.



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3



Cut the figures out of the sponge using scissors.

4



Pour small drops of paint onto your plate in the colors you would like to use for your floral background.

5



Use your sponge as a stamp to create multiple floral designs all over the page. Try not to overlap so the image is clear.

6



Set the background page to the side to dry for about 20 minutes.



7



Using the other sheet of paper, draw a self portrait using crayons and markers. It can be a full body or face-only picture of yourself. Try to draw yourself in a powerful body position. How do you stand when you feel important, confident, strong, or brave?

8



Cut out your self-portrait.

10



Glue your self-portrait to the background in the center of your paper and you're done!

9



Once your background is dry, add details to your floral pattern using markers and crayons. You can create stems that link the flowers together or draw small flowers next to the big ones.