

MANDY FARMER  
ARTWORKS  
Watercolour Portraits

Watercolours are a beautiful and expressive medium for portraiture. The 'immediacy' of the process mean that the portraits by their very nature have a freshness and vitality that can sometimes be lacking in other painting methods and materials.

This quality is what makes watercolour such an ideal medium for portraiture as it allows some Artists to captures a sense of an individual moment in time. It is especially good for capturing the fleeting moments of childhood and youthful bloom.\*

Its continuous history as an art medium is acknowledged to have begun in the Renaissance period although it's earliest origins could be said to have been the ancient cave paintings of Europe. The medium itself is essentially pigment suspended in a water soluble substance (commonly gum arabic) that is 'released' onto the surface or support when diluted. Watercolors are usually transparent, and appear luminous because the pigments are laid down in a relatively pure form with few fillers obscuring the pigment colors.

The skill in watercolour painting is to build form, create space and capture light through the systematic overlay of colours in flat shapes, rather like sheets of translucent glass. With the 'light' of the watercolour paper beneath them shining through, the overall effect achieved can be jewel like whilst still having a sense of motion and life.

The apparent simplicity of the use of simple washes and 'loose' brushwork is the result of long study and the ability to condense understanding of the subject matter into a visual shorthand. Sound, classical drawing technique and knowledge of the underlying structure and form are key to the success of a good watercolour painting and is often the reason why the apparent lightness of a picture can appear so solid and three dimensional.

Watercolour Portraits are better when created from live sittings and are often preceded by preliminary drawings. A much faster process than oil paintings, commissions can take place either in the Artists studio or in your own surroundings/environment if suitable.

All materials used are archival quality.

Please use the contact page for further details of prices and availability or call 07976 005787 for an informal discussion about your own commission.

\* Mandy Farmer is a trained educator and has CRB clearance.