

How to Create a Watercolor Portrait

Here's a look at what we'll be creating.

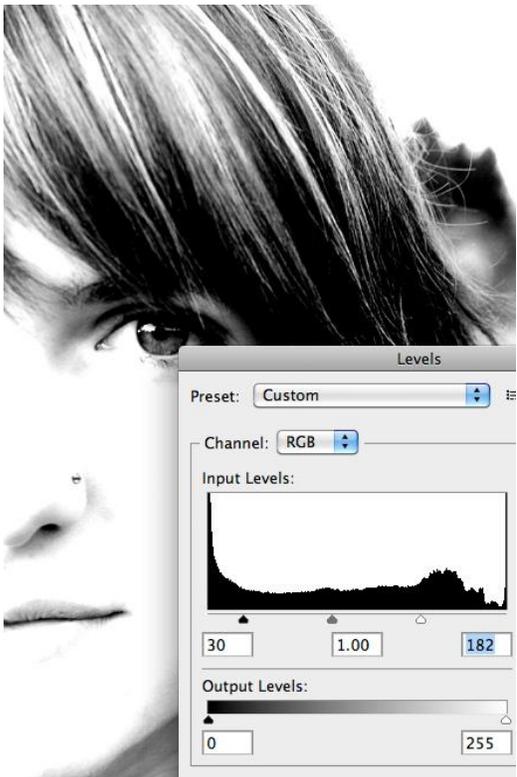


Step 1 - Open the woman image

Open the “woman” image and drag the **WGwatercolor.abr** brush onto the desktop.

Open the image in Photoshop. From here we need to create a very high contrast version of the image. To do that we first need to desaturate the image (**Ctrl-U**, drag the saturation slider all the way left) .

Then we need to punch up the contrast using **Ctrl-L** levels (drag the black & white triangles closer together).



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Step 2 – Create the Brush (If teacher is teaching this tutorial, skip this step)

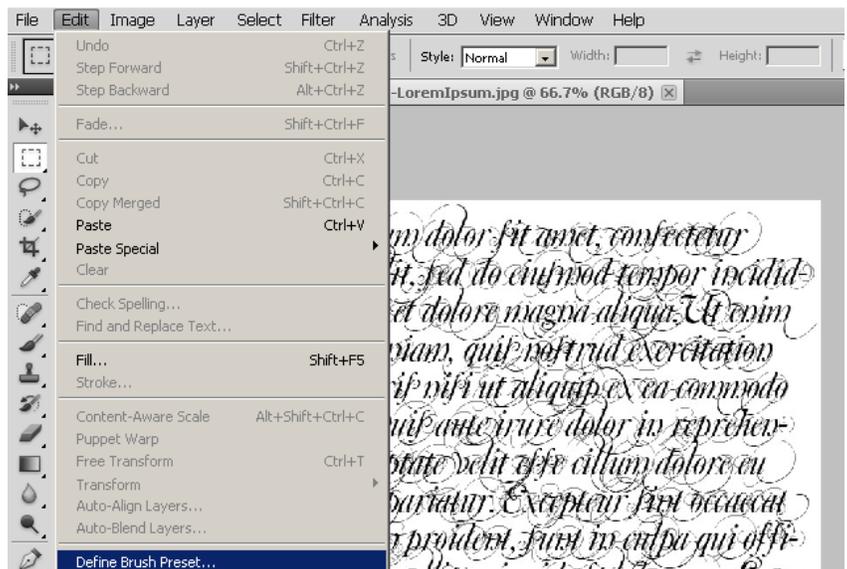
Create a new blank document 700×700 pixels, **300 ppi**. and fill the document with a block of black text, THEN YOU MUST RASTERIZE AND SAVE IT AS A JPG.

Step 2 – Create the Brush ---follow this!

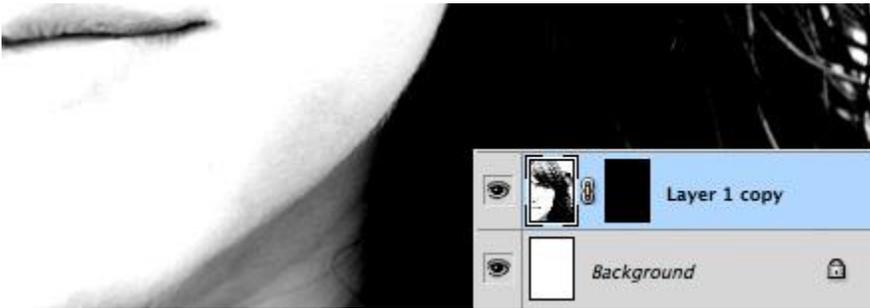
Open the file “Lorem Ipsum”. Now click (Edit | Define Brush Preset) to create the custom brush out of this text.

To check this out, choose the brush tool and scroll down the brush preset box (options bar) and you will see the text as a brush!

You can close this file now.



Back to your portrait image, unlock the background, create a new layer and fill it with white, then go to the girl layer and create a layer mask.



Invert the mask Ctrl-i, which will make the girl disappear. Using your newly created custom brush, select solid white for your foreground color (increase brush size to about **1500 px**) and begin to click on the mask to reveal portions of the girl's face. (If you wish, you can experiment with different **opacity** settings for your brush).
→ Just don't overdo it! Make sure we can clearly make out the words!!! (less is more!)



Step 3- Add the Watercolor brush splashes (the watercolor layer)

- Use brush tool, load the WGwatercolor.abr brush
- create a new layer, use black brush

Now on a new layer above the portrait, begin adding watercolor with single clicks (a different brush for each click), using a black brush. There's no specific method here. Just do what you feel looks right. Don't go overboard, less is more with these splatters. You don't want them to detract from the subject's face.



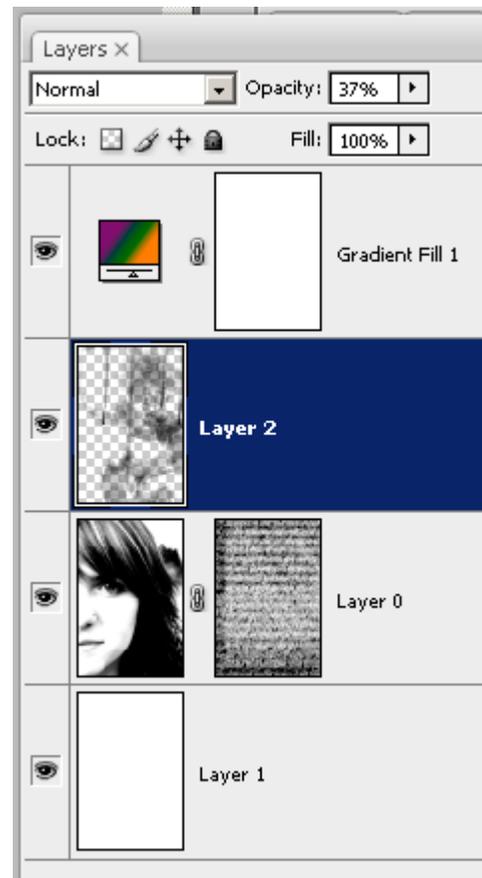
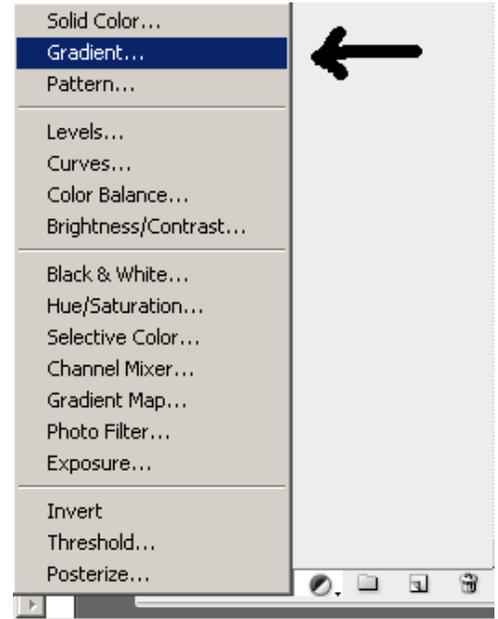
Step 4 - Add a Little Color

→ To add color, we need to create a **Gradient Fill Adjustment Layer**
Use a diagonal orientation fill.

→ on the watercolour layer, and set its **blending mode to OVERLAY**,

→ then click on the watercolour layer (not the woman layer) and **reduce opacity** (e.g. 37% to tone dial down the watercolour effect (to better show the woman underneath).

→ **ALL DONE!!!!!!**



As I mentioned before, this effect seems to work with just about any photo. Below is another example.



I hope you found this technique easy to apply, and I hope it also inspires some experimentation!

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Repeat the process explained in this tutorial but:

- Use a picture of yourself
- Use a Dafont Font of your choice and create a custom brush with **your name** OR some other repeated word you like, or poetry etc.....repeated over and over (remember to adjust the “leading” (space between lines) so that the words are tight (this makes a better brush).