

Beginning the Final Piece: Underdrawing & Base Layer

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will execute the foundational underdrawing and first base layer of color/value on their capstone piece.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- capstone paper/canvas with composition sketch from Week 4
- chosen medium supplies
- pencil
- eraser

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Refine your light pencil composition sketch on the final piece, firming up all major shapes and proportions with clean pencil lines.
2. Identify your 3-4 largest shape areas (background, main subject, secondary elements) and plan which base colors or values will go in each.
3. Apply the first base layer of color or value to your largest background area, covering it evenly.
4. Apply base layer color/value to your main subject area, keeping it simple and flat for now (details come later).
5. Step back and compare your base layers to your Week 2 mood board, noting any adjustments needed in the next session.

QUESTIONS

1. **What are the 3-4 major shape areas in your composition, and what base color/value did you choose for each?**

2. **How closely does your current base layer match your Week 2 mood board? What, if anything, needs adjusting?**

3. **Why do artists typically block in large base areas before adding fine details?**

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4. **What is one technical challenge you ran into while applying your base layer, and how did you solve it?**
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