

Shadow Portraits

Grade Level: 01 & Up
Time: 60 mins.
Difficulty: Challenging
Clean Up: None

Use black, white and achromatic grayscale shades to create a dramatic shadow image from a collage of cut-out shapes using Grayscale Paper. We'll pay attention to the way shadows define forms, and how we can reduce light and dark shadows into separate organic shapes that we can use to create a recognizable picture.

Materials Used:

Roylco *Grayscale Paper* (R15418)

pencil,
 tracing paper,
 black construction paper,
 glue

Optional Materials:

Roylco *Educational Light Cube* (R59601)

Step 1

First, find, or compose, an image suitable for a shadow portrait. A black and white photograph will be a quick way to help identify the areas of light and dark that we'll need to reduce to simpler shapes. (**Helpful Tip:** be mindful of the size of your image. An 8.5x11" sheet will work great for this project.)

Step 2

Trace over your image using tracing paper and a pencil. You'll want to create outlines of the light and dark areas. Focus on the shapes, not the details. The goal is to break the image into shapes that we can cut out and piece together later. You may find it helpful to use our Educational Light Cube to assist you with your tracings.

Step 3

You should now have a tracing of your image that is composed entirely of simple shapes. Use a pair of scissors to cut those shapes out. Use your reference image to determine the light value of the shapes and attach them temporarily to the appropriate sheet of Grayscale Paper using artist, or masking, tape. Be careful not to press too hard on the tape as it could tear the paper when it's removed. Carefully cut out the shapes and remove the tape.

Step 4

Use a sheet of black construction paper as a base to assemble your cut-outs. Attach the cut-outs to the base using glue.



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