

Project

Student Name: SUMIT ARYA

UID: 23BCA10821

Branch: BCA

Section/Group 23BCA-7A

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1. Aim/Overview of the practical:

The primary aim of designing digital portraits is to create visually engaging, expressive representations of subjects that convey mood, personality, and style. Digital portrait art combines technical skill with creative vision, allowing artists to push the boundaries of traditional portraiture and explore a range of artistic effects.

2. Task to be done:

1. Open and Prepare Your Squirrel Image:

Open your squirrel image in Photoshop.

Make any initial adjustments to the size or crop for composition.

2. Add a Soft Glow Effect:

Duplicate the Layer: Select your squirrel layer, right-click, and choose Duplicate Layer. This will be the layer for your glow effect.

Apply Gaussian Blur: Go to Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Set a blur radius between 3-5 pixels, enough to create a soft blur around the edges.

Set Blending Mode to Soft Light: Change the duplicated layer's blending mode to Soft Light or Overlay for a subtle glow. Adjust the opacity to around 30-50% for a natural look.

3. Enhance Fur Texture:

Select a Texture Brush: In the Brush Settings, choose a brush that adds a subtle texture (like fur or fine detail).

Paint on a New Layer: Create a new layer on top of the squirrel. Use a soft, small brush to gently paint over areas like the tail and face for added fur details.

Adjust Opacity and Blending: Lower the opacity of this layer if needed to blend it more naturally with the fur.

4. Add a Vignette Effect:

Create a New Layer: Go to Layer > New > Layer and position it beneath the squirrel.

Select the Gradient Tool: Press (G) and choose the Radial Gradient from black to transparent.

Apply the Gradient: Drag the gradient from the center of the image outward, creating a dark edge. This vignette will help draw focus to the squirrel.

Adjust Opacity: Lower the opacity if the effect is too strong.

5. Warm Tone Color Grading:

Add a Color Balance Adjustment Layer: Go to Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Color Balance. Adjust the shadows, midtones, and highlights toward warmer hues (yellow and red) for a soft, warm look.

Selective Color Adjustment Layer: To refine colors further, use Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Selective Color to adjust specific colors like reds and yellows to enhance the squirrel's natural tones.

6. Create Light Leaks for a Stylized Look

Create a New Layer: Set it to Screen blending mode. This layer will act as a light leak.

Select the Gradient Tool: Choose a radial gradient with warm colors like orange, pink, or yellow.

Apply the Gradient in a Corner: Drag the gradient from one of the corners toward the center. This will create a soft, subtle light leak.

Adjust Opacity and Position: Move the light leak layer to achieve the most natural look. Reduce the opacity for a faint effect.

7. Final Adjustments for Depth and Contrast:

Brightness/Contrast Adjustment Layer: Go to Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Brightness/Contrast and increase the contrast slightly to bring out details.

Shadows and Highlights Layer: Use a new layer with Soft Light blending mode. Use a soft brush to paint shadows with black and highlights with white for added depth, especially around areas like the tail or eyes.

8. Save as PSD for Layer Editing:

To keep all layers editable for future adjustments, save your work as a PSD file.

This step-by-step guide will help you achieve a refined portrait with glow, texture, and warm, professional tones. Let me know if you need more details on any specific effect!

3. Code for experiment/practical:





4. Result/Output/Writing Summary:

Designing digital portraits yields high-quality, detailed artworks that enhance an artist's portfolio, build creative skills, and provide opportunities for self-expression. The work can attract clients for commissions, expand professional opportunities, and increase an artist's online presence. Digital portraits are also versatile, editable, and suitable for creating personalized client pieces or merchandise. Overall, they offer both artistic fulfillment and commercial potential.

Learning outcomes (What I have learnt):

1. Mastery of layer management for non-destructive editing.
2. Ability to apply realistic detailing with textures, colors, and lighting.
3. Proficiency in digital tools (like Photoshop) for advanced effects.
4. Skills in creative expression and storytelling through portraits.
5. Techniques for customizing artwork based on client needs