

A Portrait in Stages of 'Botticelli's Venus' in Egg Tempera



1. The first stage:

The gesso board with the pigment impression of the traced drawing of Venus!

A 3 page leaflet compiled as inspiration to anyone with curiosity about the ancient and brilliant painting technique:

Egg tempera



2. The second stage:

The tracing taped over the gesso board next to a sheet of paper spread with burnt sienna pigment on one side.

The pigment paper is laid under the tracing, face down to the board so when I retrace 'Venus' over my pencils the pigment transfers onto the gesso board.



3. The third stage:

With a brush and burnt umber pigment I now begin to paint the lines and shadow areas to give 'Venus' form. This defines where the major contrasts are on the head.

Masking tape is applied to the border of the painting to provide a clean, crisp square when the painting is finally finished.



4. The fourth stage:

Now the main overall Mars Black colour of Venus's background is applied along with the dark shrubs.



5. The fifth stage:

The first underpainting of Green Earth colour for the skin tones, as a flat single tone. The hair has Burnt Sienna applied too.



6. The sixth stage:

Getting a bad rash now with the second colour of Venus's skin applied over the highlight skin area. The paint is applied thinly it shows the colour below.



7. The seventh stage:

The first glaze of Zinc white applied to start the blending process!!



8. The eighth stage:

With the background beginning to take shape the next task is to start on the gown.



9. The ninth stage:

The hair takes shape! More work on the gown too.



10 -13. The last stages:

The process of bringing all the elements together goes on apace! I changed the eye colour from the original to match the lady who this was Birthday present for!

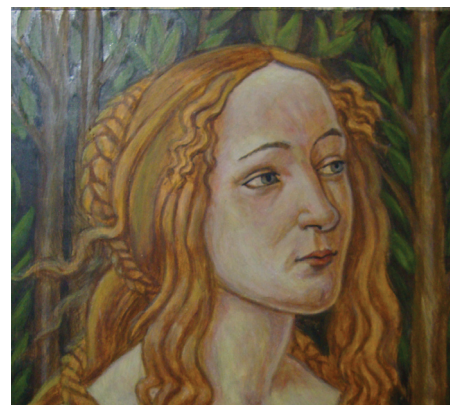
More blending of the flesh tones. I changed the hair colour to have more red in. The original painting has golden auburn tresses.

It was great fun to work on and a great learning tool.

I hope you enjoy this painting, it shows that if you try hard enough great things can come from your efforts.

The version shown in this leaflet was painted in the winter of 2012. There is another version unfinished at present!

Simon Barnes 2018



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