
Be-You-tiful Cut Paper Portrait with Dawn M. Cardona

Chapter 1 - Be-You-tiful Cut Paper Portrait

Overview

(gentle upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Dawn Cardona. I'm a paper artist currently living in South Carolina. My love for paper comes from my father and a scrapbook he gave me on my 13th birthday which continues to inspire my work today. In this class, I'll share with you a template with my design for a paper portrait and then show you how to cut and glue the tiniest pieces. I initially created this project for my daughter who struggles with her self-confidence. She doesn't always see what I see in her so I wrote her this love note as a reminder. As you make this beautiful cut paper portrait, I hope you're reminded of what makes you uniquely you and why you were so special. (gentle upbeat music continues)

Construct a portrait

- This paper portrait can be of yourself or someone else. I'm choosing my daughter. First you'll need to download your PDF template. You'll need a cutting mat, a craft knife, and scissors, various media, such as Posca pens, colored pencils and you color two crayons for decorating your doll. Painted papers. You can learn more about this technique by taking my make painted papers class. A variety of card stock for your skin tone and hair color. A fun variety of ephemera, glue, a scrap piece of paper for your glue, craft needle, and eight by 10 inch piece of Bristol paper as your Canvas. I've already cut out my template pieces. Let's do the trickier ones together. I like to separate these small pieces before I actually cut around the lines. (scissor clips) Let's start with the head. You'll want to choose a skin tone. I like to set the template piece over the paper I'm gonna be working with. I like to have a bit of extra paper around my shape to gimme some leverage as I work, because I like to move the paper as I'm cutting. You wanna take it slowly around the curve and apply pressure, pushing outward along your line. Slowly moving that paper. Now we're gonna cut out the pieces for the hair. There are three pieces. These pigtails are optional if you don't want to use those or if you wanna alter the shape of them to make it match hairstyle, that's alright too. I'm gonna use blue for my daughter's hair. (scissor clips) When you're cutting a straight line, it's best to open your scissors really wide and just cut it in one motion. And instead of cutting into a really tight space like this and turning the paper, take your scissors out and just cut the other line. You'll get a cleaner cut that way. This piece should sit perfectly on top of your head. I didn't draw any lines in the PDF, but you can cut out strands of hair if you'd like to in any pattern or movement that you like. Now, we're gonna cut out a very tricky piece for its size and for its shape, but it's not as hard as it looks. So we're gonna start at the base at the wrist and move up to the thumb. Instead of turning in, we're gonna go across the fingertips, and along the side of the hand. Start at the pinky and just cut out these tiny little triangles. As you run out of room to hold your paper might get a little bit difficult but just keep adjusting your thumb to move it out of the way. Or you can do, what I like to do is set the piece into my scissors and just slowly glide the paper across the blade as you close the scissors. And you have yourself a little hand. Now we'll cut out our glasses. This is going to be even trickier than the hands. You can choose to cut these circles out with scissors or craft knife but I'm gonna make my life easy or using a whole punch. (paper puncher clips) I like to punch the holes out before for no particular reason. It's just how I prefer it. (scissor clips) My favorite color is red and my daughter's favorite color is red. So we're gonna use red for our glasses. (paper puncher clips) I like to start with all the

straight lines, turning my piece as I go never forcing any cuts around corners. When you lift your fingers away from your paper, keep your scissors in place to hold the papers together so they don't shift. I'm gliding the paper across the blade again from the backside here. And there you have it. When you're working with two layers of paper, sometimes as you're cutting, the paper will shift and you don't get clean thin lines. So you can always go back in and cut off the areas that don't look quite right. As you can see, some of these pieces are not from the PDF that I provided. I encourage you to cut out your pieces in your body shape and choosing colors that make you happy, that speak to you, that reflect your personality. My daughter loves to mix match her socks. So I cut out two legs to show you what it looks like with your skin tone, or if you wanted to switch it out with some stockings and maybe another layer of socks, you can add a color, or if you're always cold like me, a scarf. And these are very simple pieces. I encourage you to try to cut these out without a template and glue them down onto your page. On the template, you can see that I've provided a dashed line to give you the option of layering your dress which I've created this piece here and a little belt. Whatever you're comfortable with. If you're using double sided paper, this is a fun thing. You can make your choice at the last minute. So let's draw a face using colored pencils. (paper scratches) I always like to add in some red cheeks. A set of eyes. Couple of freckles. I've made this mistake many times before, I draw on my face and the hair covers it. Depending on my mood, I like that look but I'm going to shorten it to show the eyes, just a bit. When you're happy with all your pieces, it's time to glue it to a Canvas. I like to keep my pieces away from my Canvas to avoid a gluey mess. So we're going to put some glue on a scrap sheet of paper. Oops. See if I were to have done that here, it would've gone everywhere. Using a craft needle, dubbed it into the glue and work your way from head to toe. I'm going to leave my crown off and have it floating on my final piece. Starting with the hair, glue your bangs to the front of your head and the pigtails to the back of your head. Just a little bit of glue so it doesn't get all over the place. Add some glue at the top of your dress for the head, glaring it on top. Gonna add in the scarf. I don't always like to add glue over the entire surface so that when you're layering your paper, you get a bit of a lift in some dimension. I wanna see this blue, so I'm gonna actually add this arm behind it. I made a little belt here and I forgot to put it on. And this is another reason why I don't like to always add glue over the entire surface so that if I forget a piece, I can just slide it under. Craft needles are really good to have, not just for gluing but for moving pieces around as well because our fingers are just too big. Here's a fun thing to do with the scarf. You cut slits to make it frayed and then you can move those pieces for a bit of fun. For my glasses, I only like to add a dab of glue right here in the center. At this point, you can transfer your glued pieces to your Canvas or you can take a last look and decide if you wanna add a few more details. I'm gonna have some fun and just add a knee pad, some elbow pads and any other details, like a little chin. Maybe a swirly design across the skirt. Anything you can think of, shoelaces, maybe you can draw in a crown. All right, let's move it to our Canvas. We're gonna place her in the very center. And again, I like to just add a minimal amount of glue. This helps to avoid the paper wrinkling up. And it also allows you to make any last minute decisions when you're finished gluing. I like to be a bit spontaneous when I create. So sometimes I add in details at the end and I want to give myself that opportunity to have the space to do that. So if you're not gluing it entirely down, it's easy to do something like this. Grab a color pencil, and draw little flyaways of hair. There we go. And if it doesn't stick, you can either take a craft needle or scrap sheet of paper, add a bit of glue on that paper and slide it behind and press as you pull. Try not to make a mess. And there you go. I don't wanna forget the crown and I'll just have it kind of flying off to the side right there. We can leave our piece alone as it is, or it's time to take out a piece of paper and write a list of positive

words. I want you to think about all the words that represent you. Kind, brave, loyal, capable, loved. I want you to feel beautiful. And here's a version where I have added those words. Don't worry too much about your handwriting. I think that's what gives your peace personality and what represents you. Have fun, do it without thinking and just let yourself be at peace and in the process. The original version of this project is actually hanging in my daughter's room.