

About the Artist: Anthony van Dyck

Anthony van Dyck (1599–1641) was a Flemish Baroque painter known for his elegant portraits of nobility and royalty. He became court painter to King Charles I of England and often painted the king on horseback to show his power and grace. Van Dyck's style features:

- Rich textures and flowing fabrics
- Lively horses and dramatic skies
- Realistic faces with kind expressions
- Soft brushstrokes and careful light and shadow

Today you will create a painting inspired by the Equestrian portrait of Charles 1



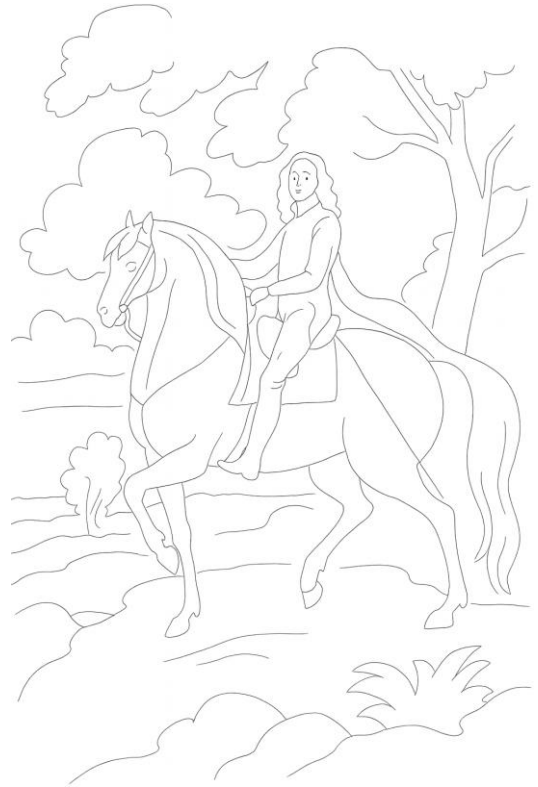
Materials Needed

- A3 or A4 watercolour paper or canvas
- Pencil and eraser
- Acrylic paints (colours: white, black, yellow ochre, burnt umber, red, blue, green) or Water based oil paints in the same colours
- Paintbrushes (fine, medium, and large)
- Water pot and palette
- Cloth or paper towels

Step-by-Step Tutorial

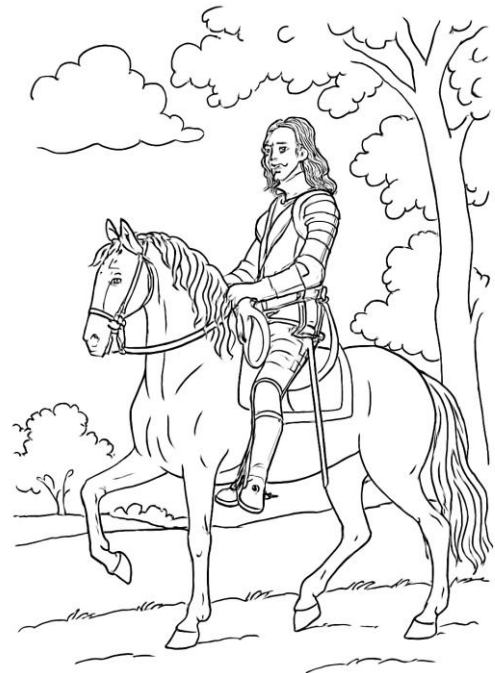
Step 1: Sketch the Scene

Lightly draw the rider on horseback, the flowing cape, and the background trees and sky.



Step 2: Refine the Drawing

Go over your sketch and add more detail to the rider's face, horse's mane, the trees, saddle, and clothing folds. Keep your lines confident but not too dark, as you'll be painting over them.

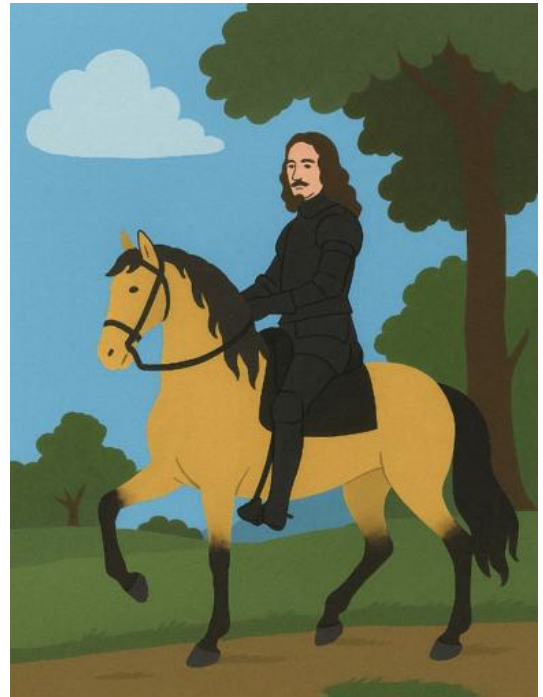


Step 3: Add Base Colours

Begin painting the large areas with flat, even colour:

- The **horse**: use ochre, light brown, or beige.
- The **rider's clothing**: black or dark grey for the armour.
- The **sky**: light blue.
- The **trees and ground**: greens and browns.

Keep your brushstrokes soft and smooth — Van Dyck's style is graceful and flowing.



Step 4: Add Light and Shade

Now add shading and highlights to bring your painting to life:

- Use a darker brown to shade the horse under its belly, neck, and legs.
- Add white or light grey highlights on the rider's armour to make it look shiny.
- Add dark green shadows under trees and use lighter green on top leaves.
- Use a dry brush technique to softly blend the sky from light blue to white near the horizon.



Step 5: Build Up Shadows and Highlights Gradually

Before adding final details, create depth using these techniques:

- **Shadows:** Mix a bit of black or burnt umber with your base colour. Add this under the horse's belly, behind the front legs, under the tail, behind the rider's knees, and in tree hollows.
- **Highlights:** Use lighter shades of your base colour or mix with white. Add this to the horse's neck, shoulders, and face, and to the rider's armour where the light hits.
- **Sky:** Add soft white near the horizon and gently blend into the blue above for a realistic sky effect.



Step 6: Final Detailing & Texture

Now that your shadows and highlights are in place, finish your painting by refining the textures and adding fine details.

- **Hair and Mane:** Use thin brushes to paint individual strands of the rider's hair and the horse's mane and tail. Add a few lighter streaks for shine.
- **Clothing and Armour:** Add small highlights along the edges of the armour, gloves, and boots. Include seams, buttons, and folds with care.
- **Background Details:** Lightly brush in distant trees, texture on bark, and soft cloud edges.
- **Face:** Carefully paint eyebrows, eyes, nose, lips, and beard with small brushes. Use soft tones for skin and delicate highlights.

