Paint Like Roy Lichtenstein - Step-by-Step Tutorial for Young Artists

Who was Roy Lichtenstein?

Roy Lichtenstein was a Pop Artist famous for turning comic book images into large, bold paintings. He used thick black outlines, primary colours (red, yellow, blue), and tiny coloured dots to make pictures that looked like printed comic strips. His artwork often showed dramatic moments and speech bubbles – like "WHAAM!" or "OH, JEFF…"

What you can create today?



Materials You'll Need

- White A4 or A3 paper (or canvas if you prefer)
- Pencil and rubber
- Black marker or black paint with a fine brush
- · Red, yellow, and blue paint or markers
- A thin-tip marker (optional for details)
- Cotton bud or stencil (for dot technique optional)

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Sketch a Comic Book-Style Face or Object

Draw a simple character's face or object (like a phone, thought bubble, or hand) using pencil. Keep the shapes clear and bold.

Step 2: Add Bold Black Outlines

Use a black marker or black paint with a fine brush to go over your pencil lines. Make the outlines thick and confident, just like in comic books.



Step 3: Add Ben-Day Dots to the Skin

Use red or pink dots to fill in the skin tone. You can use a cotton bud, the tip of a paintbrush, or a stencil to make evenly spaced dots like Lichtenstein did.

Step 4: Fill in the Hair with Bright Block Colour

Choose a bright colour like yellow or blue and fill in the hair using flat, even colour – no shading! Use black shapes for shadows and contrast, just like Lichtenstein did.

Step 5: Colour the Clothes Using Flat Colour

Choose one solid colour (like blue or red) to paint the clothes. Avoid blending or shading – Pop Art style is all about bold, flat areas of colour.

Step 6: Add info to your Thought Bubble

Inside the bubble, write a dramatic or emotional phrase – something short and bold like:

- "OH NO!"
- "WHY ME?"
- "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!"

Use all capital letters and keep your handwriting bold and easy to read.

✓ Step 7: Add a Background (Optional)

You can leave the background white (Lichtenstein often did this), or you can add a simple pattern:

- Red dots
- Blue stripes
- A burst of lines coming from the middle (like a comic book action scene)

Make sure it doesn't distract from the main character.