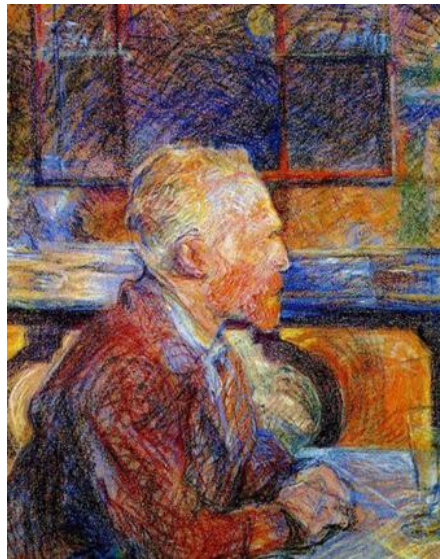


Toulouse Lautrec enjoyed meeting and working with other artists. In this tutorial you will re-create his portrait of Van Gogh



### **Step 1: Lightly Sketch the Outline of Van Gogh's Head and Shoulders**

Begin by using a pencil to lightly draw the basic outline of the portrait. Focus on:

- The overall shape of Van Gogh's head in profile (side view)
- The slope of his nose and beard
- The line of his back and shoulder
- Position of his hand resting on the table

Keep it simple and use soft lines — this is just a guide for the later steps.



## **Step 2: Sketch in the Facial Features and Hair**

Now that you have the head and shoulder outline:

- Lightly draw in Van Gogh's facial features:
  - His brow and eye (seen from the side)
  - The nose shape
  - His cheek and jawline
  - The outline of his ear
  - His short, bristly beard
- Add the lines for his hair, showing texture but keeping it simple for now
- Draw the basic shapes of Van Gogh's suit jacket, collar, and tie.

Use short, directional pencil strokes to show the flow of hair and beard growth.



## **Step 3: Block in the Clothing and Table Elements**

Now it's time to start defining the surroundings of the portrait. In this step:

- Sketch the table surface where his arm rests.
- Lightly outline the glass and table items in front of him.
- Keep your pencil lines soft and focused on shape and placement — we'll add colour and texture later.

You're building the structure so it's easier to apply expressive strokes later, just like Toulouse-Lautrec did in the original.



#### **Step 4: Add the Background Elements and Window Shapes**

In this step, begin building the setting behind Van Gogh to match Toulouse-Lautrec's composition:

- Lightly sketch the vertical and horizontal lines of the windowpanes behind him.
- Add simple shapes to suggest reflections or light through the glass.
- Rough in some background texture — you can add circular shapes for wall decorations or subtle details that suggest movement or depth.
- Use soft, broken pencil lines to keep it loose and expressive.

You're preparing the background to be filled with rich colour and texture later on.



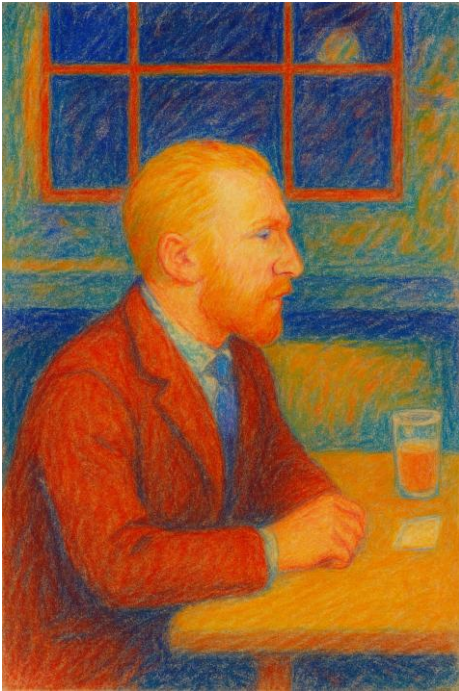
#### **Step 5: Begin Adding Base Colours with Oil Pastels**

Now it's time to bring your drawing to life with colour, using oil pastels:

- Start with large, soft areas of colour:
  - Use **light peach, yellow, and pink** tones to gently block in Van Gogh's skin.
  - Add **golden blond and pale brown** shades to his hair and beard using short, textured strokes.
- Use **earthy reds and browns** for his jacket and **muted blue-grey** for his shirt and tie.

- Work gently at first — these are your base layers. You'll build up more detail and texture in the next steps.

Use soft blending where needed, but keep the pastel strokes visible, just like Toulouse-Lautrec's technique.

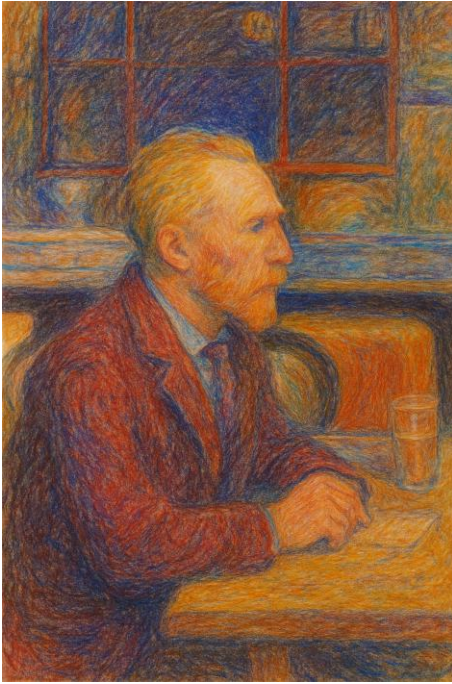


### Step 6: Layer and Blend Colour for Depth and Texture

In this step, build up texture and vibrancy in your portrait by:

- **Layering additional oil pastel strokes** over your base colours:
  - Use **short, broken lines** to add depth to the hair and beard (try using darker oranges, yellows, and even hints of violet for shadow).
  - Apply **contrasting strokes** in the jacket — deepen the folds with burgundy, brown, and dark blue.
- Add more detail to the face: highlight the nose, cheek, and brow with light and shadow using cream, peach, and muted purple.
- **Refine the glass** on the table with gentle curved lines and light pastel shading to suggest transparency.
- Begin enhancing the background with swirling or cross-hatched strokes — use blues, oranges, and purples to mimic the energy of Lautrec's style.

Use your fingers or a blending tool gently if needed — but keep the expressive pastel marks visible.



### Step 7: Add Final Highlights and Finishing Touches

In this last step, refine your portrait and bring it to completion:

- Add **brighter highlights** to the face, hands, and clothing using pale yellow, white, or cream pastel — this gives the image a final lift and contrast.
- Use **deep blues, purples, and burnt reds** to push the darkest shadows further, especially:
  - Under the chin and collar
  - In the folds of the jacket
  - In the background window and reflections
- Add **vibrant accent strokes** (like pure orange or blue) sparingly for visual interest, following Lautrec's dynamic style.
- Soften any overly harsh edges or distracting lines by gently blending with your finger or a blending stump.

