

## Create Your Own Vermeer-Style Light Portrait using oil paints

### You'll Need:

Water based oil paints

- Paper for oil painting
- Brushes for oil painting (slightly stiffer than normal) or palette knives
- a lamp or window for a light source

**Before you start, have a Light & Shadow Hunt:** Use a torch to make shadows on objects. How do they change? Explore how the shadows fall, and how the intensity of the shadow changes the further they are from the object. Consider how best to depict this in an oil painting. Practice just painting objects and their shadows until you are happy with the results.

### Step 1: Find a Quiet Spot

Ask someone to sit by a window or turn on a lamp. Let the light shine on one side of their face or body. Vermeer loved painting gentle shadows and bright light.

### Step 2: Sketch the Outline

Draw the person gently. Don't worry about tiny details. Focus on the shape of their head, shoulders, and clothing.

### Step 3: Add Background Shapes

Vermeer liked simple backgrounds — maybe a curtain or a wall. Light should fall softly across it.

### Step 4: Add Colour Slowly

Use warm skin tones and soft shadows. Try blues and yellows — Vermeer loved those! Make sure to show **where the light hits** — leave those areas lighter.

### Step 5: Add a Sparkle

If your person is wearing earrings or jewellery, add a tiny white dot to make it shine like Vermeer's pearl!



### More Fun Activities Inspired by Vermeer

- **Set up a still life** by a sunny window with fruit or jugs and draw it in pencil.
- **Paint a quiet moment** — reading, sewing, or writing — with soft shadows and light.