

LEARN how artist **OMARI BOOKER** creates painted portraits in his interview at tennesseecraft.org/2020kidstent.

GATHER your art supplies:

- Watercolor paper
- Pencil and colored pencils
- Washable markers
- Paint brush and water
- Glue and found objects



CREATE a portrait of someone special to you! Follow along with the video tutorial at tennesseecraft.org/2020kidstent.

Step 1: Think of someone who is special to you. Ask yourself, “What unique qualities and characteristics make this person special? How can I show those in a work of art?” Before you begin, gather found objects that you feel represent this person.

Step 2: Begin by lightly sketching the person’s face on your paper.

Step 3: Select colors of markers for the face, hair and background. Use the markers to apply a few strokes of color to each section and then spread the color across broad areas of the paper using a damp paint brush. Don’t worry about details yet. Fill the entire paper with color and set aside to dry.

Step 4: Once the paper is dry, go back into the portrait to add details with markers and colored pencils.

Step 5: Finally, incorporate your found objects into the portrait. Arrange and glue them down. Then reflect on the artwork you created. How did you tell someone’s story through a portrait?

SHARE your artwork with friends and family on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #tncraftkids!

FEATURED ARTIST

OMARI BOOKER



Omari Booker began his journey as an artist his senior year of high school at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. The path to developing his artistic talent has been anything but linear. It has taken him through various disciplines and institutions including Belmont University, Middle Tennessee State University and Tennessee State University. Oil paintings are Omari’s predominant medium, but he also mixes media, paints on a variety of nontraditional surfaces like fabric and building materials, and often incorporates found objects into his work. The philosophy that undergirds Omari’s work is *freedom through art*, and he aspires to create artwork that communicates to his audiences their unique and intrinsic ability to be free.

