

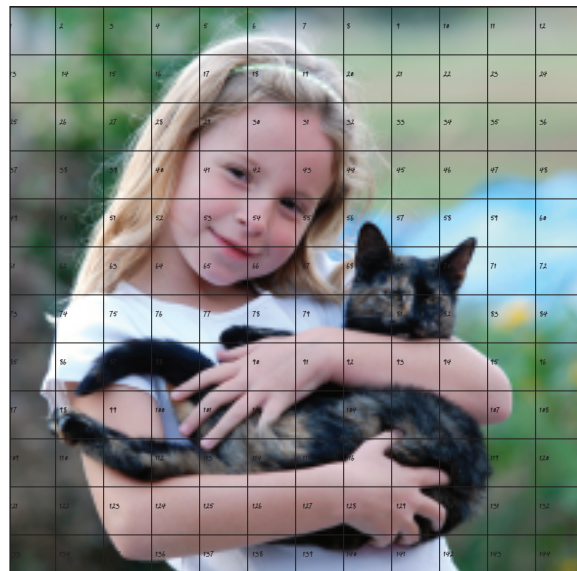
# Perfect Proportion

## Working from a Photo

The “grid method” has been used for centuries to create accurate proportions when painting. Blick Exclusive Artist Grid Canvas is triple-primed, then printed with blue grid lines, making it easier to place objects from a photograph and plot landscapes, still lifes and portraits.

**Grade Levels 5-12**

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*



### Materials

**Artist Grid Canvas** (07155-1212), choose a side proportionate to the photo that will be used as a reference for painting. Need one canvas per student

**Sharpie® Ultra-Fine Point Marker, Black** (21315-2003), need one per student

**Blick® Aluminum Ruler** 12" length (55430-1012), need one per student

**Sanford® Design® Drawing Pencil, 4H** (20409-2042), need one per student

**Design® Kneaded Rubber Eraser** (21502-2820), need one per student

#### OPTIONAL

**Graphix® Dura-Lar™ Matte Sheets, 9" X 12"** (55505-1005), one sheet per student



### Process

1. Select a photograph or sketch to paint. Crop the photo so that it is proportionate to the canvas.
2. If possible, work from a copy or digital print rather than a photo to make it easier to enlarge for more accurate viewing of the image. You can always refer to the original photo when it comes time to paint. Using an image that is 100% of the canvas size is the easiest way to transfer, but, if a print that large isn't possible, size it at 50% or 25% canvas size.
3. The heavy grid lines on the canvas are marked at 1" intervals. Using a ruler and a fine-line marking pen, make a matching grid on top the photo. If the photo is 50% of the canvas size, make 1/2" gridmarks. If it is 25%, make 1/4" gridmarks.

For example, the photo above right is intended for a 12" x 12" canvas. For perfect proportion, it has been



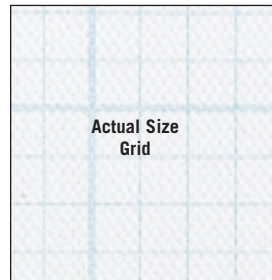
## Process, continued:

marked with 12 squares vertically and 12 squares horizontally.

HINT: to avoid making marks on the original photo, you can also tape a sheet of clear acetate over the photo and draw the grid with a marking pen directly on it.

4. With a 4H drawing pencil, lightly number each 1" grid on the canvas. On the photo, mark the grid with the same numbers. This will make it easier to track specific squares on the canvas.
5. Begin anywhere on the canvas, drawing the contents of each individual box marked on the photo. Draw lightly, using a 4H or harder drawing pencil. If it's necessary to erase, use a kneaded rubber eraser and gentle pressure. Use the numbers for reference and draw the lines found in each individual grid square.
6. Paint with acrylics, oils or mixed-media collage, completely covering the grid on the surface and the sides of the piece.

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## National Standards

Content Standard #1— Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

**9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

