

# Eliza Hebdon

## My Sustained Investigation

When I began my investigation, I had one question: how can I use black and white oil paints to make images that capture different elements of art, such as contrast or value? As I progressed, new questions came up. How can I use gradients to create different types of light in my paintings? How can I use elements of art to portray reflections in my works? Those questions became more important as I focused on lighting and the way it could reflect, and create form and shape, while still adhering to my original parameters.

As I began my first few projects, I chose images that made nice photos, but saw that some weren't good paintings. I moved to ideas that utilized gradients, such as the painting of the hand making a shadow puppet, and the girl with her sunhat casting shadows on her face. As the year went on, I found that my more interesting works involved reflections off of different objects- so, I then painted the glassy surfaces of teacups and whiskey bottles, which contained a smooth texture, as well as the contrast and highlights that made my images more complicated and interesting. Following my investigation helped me to realize the aspects of art that make me enjoy painting.

# Ezra

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

This piece was my first, so I was still trying to get the hang of using black and white paints correctly. I wanted to capture the contrast of the dog versus the lighter background.



# Flamingos

11x17 - Oils on Canvas

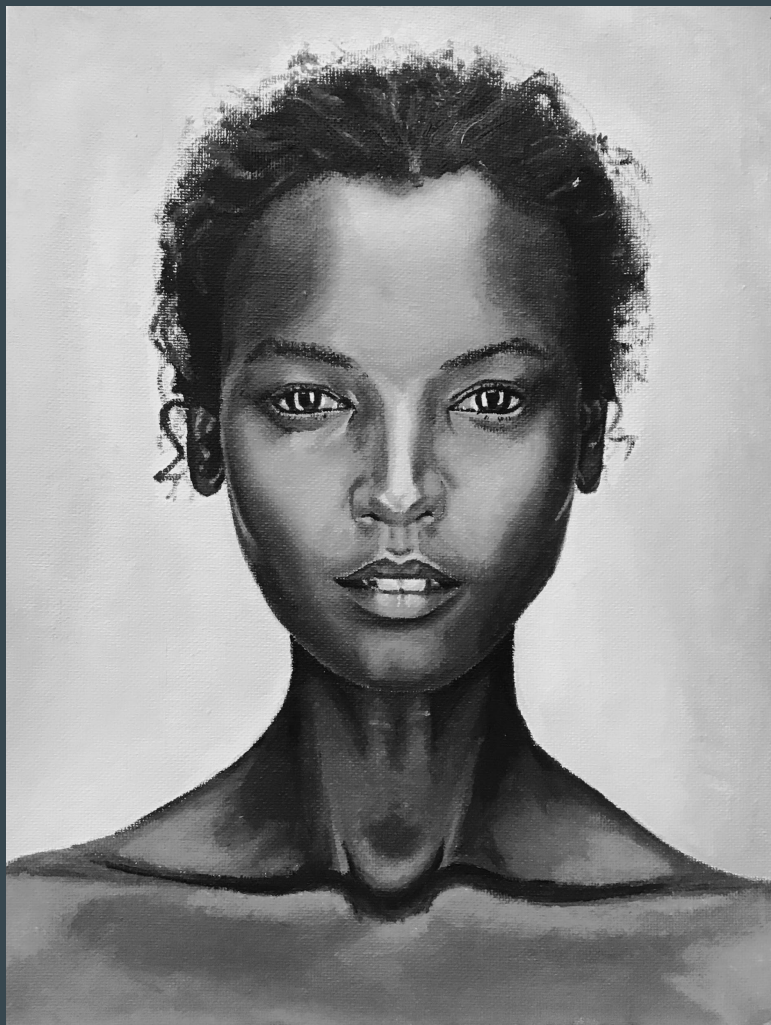
I liked the contrast between the feathers and the background, but it still turned out to be one of my more simplistic pieces. I did enjoy painting their faces and beaks though.



# Looking Forward

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

This was the first person I'd ever painted. I liked capturing her serious expression, and finding the correct values for her nose and mouth was really fun to do. The highlights where light reflected off of her nose and mouth were what got me started on finding more light-related images.



# Lightbulb

9x12 - Oils on  
Canvas

I attempted to capture the actual light source in this painting, which proved to be a huge challenge. I enjoyed the concept, but moved to other ideas.



# Shadows

9x12 - Oils on  
Canvas

These hands took forever, but they were well worth it. The character they show is what drove me to paint them in the first place, and finding the correct angle from the light source was fun.



# Simon

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

This painting has really grown on me as time has gone by. At first I was frustrated by the texture that I couldn't get right, but now, as I look at it, the focal point of the eye and the texture on the rest of the face turned out really well. I love his eye. The reflection in it turned out better than I could have hoped.



# Girl in Sunhat

## 12x16 - Oils on Canvas

I got the idea to paint something like this as soon as I started focusing on shadows. The speckled formation of the shadows was really fun to plan, and I was satisfied with how they turned out. I'm also just a big fan of painting people, and so getting the texture and blending of her skin was very enjoyable.





# Teardrops

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

Now this piece was a good one. The highlights in this piece where the light reflected off the skin was very fun... and the teardrops brought those reflections to a whole new level. Of everything I've done, I'm most proud of that singular eye on the right, as well as the tear streaks down the face.



# Bubbles

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

After many serious pieces, I wanted to paint something happier. The expression of pure joy--on a baby no less-- was difficult to capture correctly. It took many tries before I got it right, but I was very satisfied. The bubbles were a perfect example of something translucent that reflected the light in the image.



# Teacups

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

After the bubbles, I really started to focus on objects that could reflect light. This involved a lot of smooth, glassy surfaces, such as this one. Placing the reflections in the right spots was harder, since it was more abstract and distinct than the usual blending I'd gotten used to. Even so, I was very happy with the outcome.



# Reflection

16x18 - Oils on Canvas

This was another image I'd wanted to do since the beginning. Finding the correct perspective was the tricky part, as well as trying to paint her curly hair. The reflection on the window is a subtle one, but a good one.



# Goldfish

8x10 - Oils on  
Canvas

The process of this one was strange. The whole time I worked on it, I didn't like it. Then, as I finished, I suddenly loved how it came together! Now it's one of my favorite reflective pieces.



# Whiskey Bottle

9x12 - Oils on Canvas

This piece was definitely the most time consuming. Lettering is normally not my strong suit, and trying to make them stand out using highlights and shadows was challenging. This was definitely the most reflective piece, and it turned out really well.

