

Bethany
Harrison

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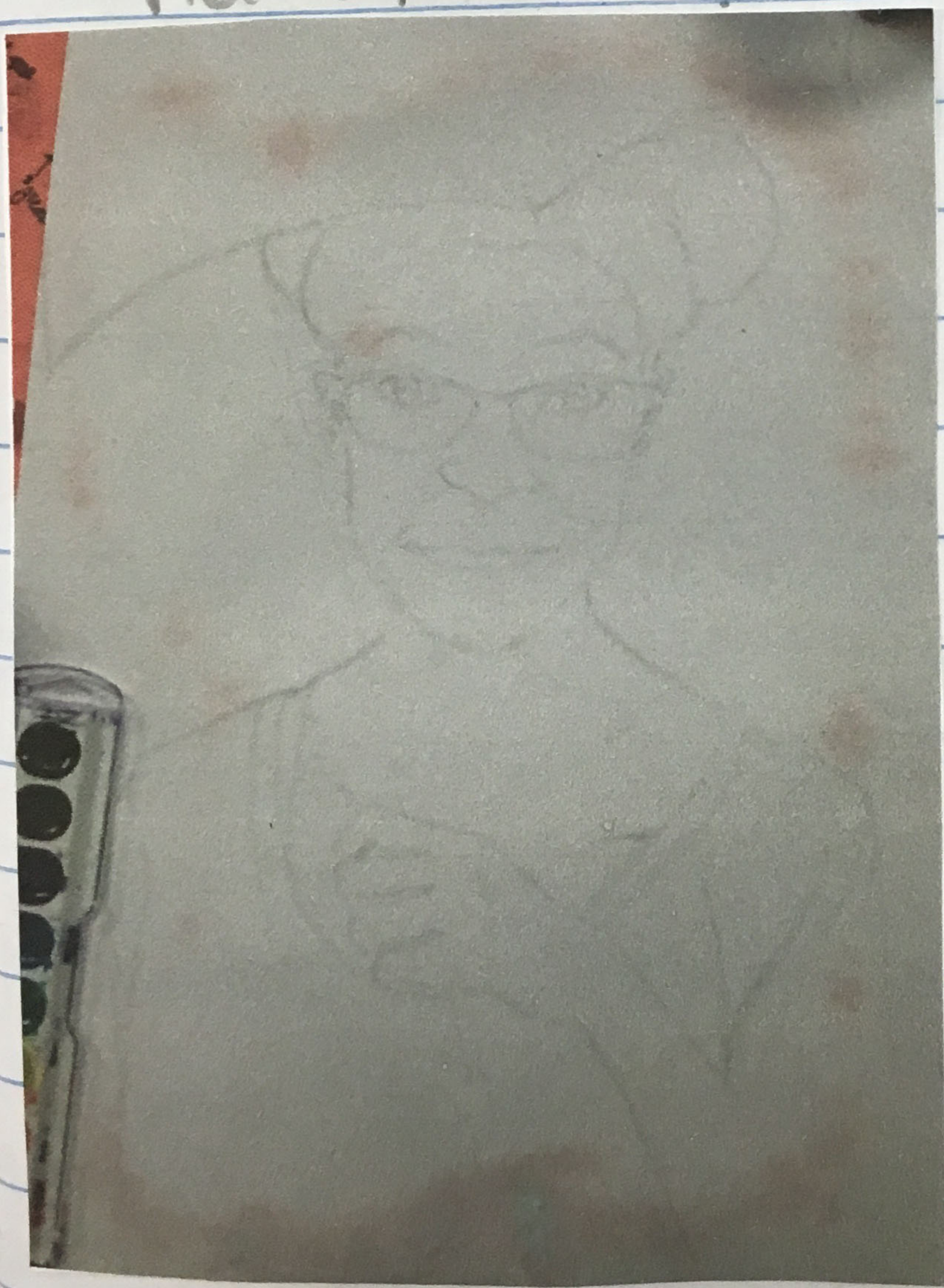


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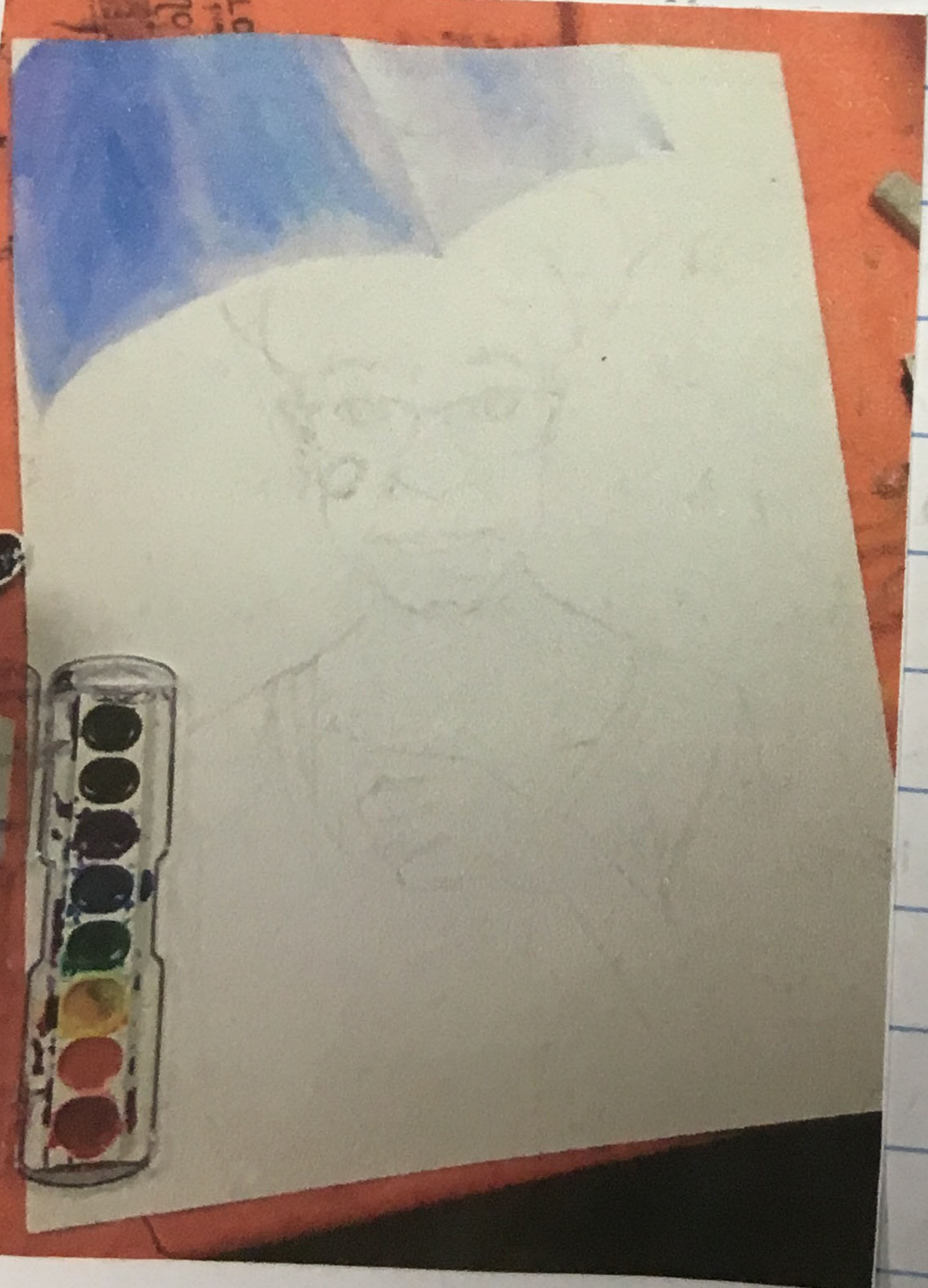
When I started the project I thought about what type of medium I would use. We had just finished a watercolor study and I had been practicing watercolor on my own a bit, so that's what I chose.

I started out by using a reference photo of a selfie I conveniently had. I also looked at a few



images of umbrellas before I sketched the one seen in my picture. I focused on the light/dark in the different sections of the umbrella. For the hand, I took a picture of myself holding a brush

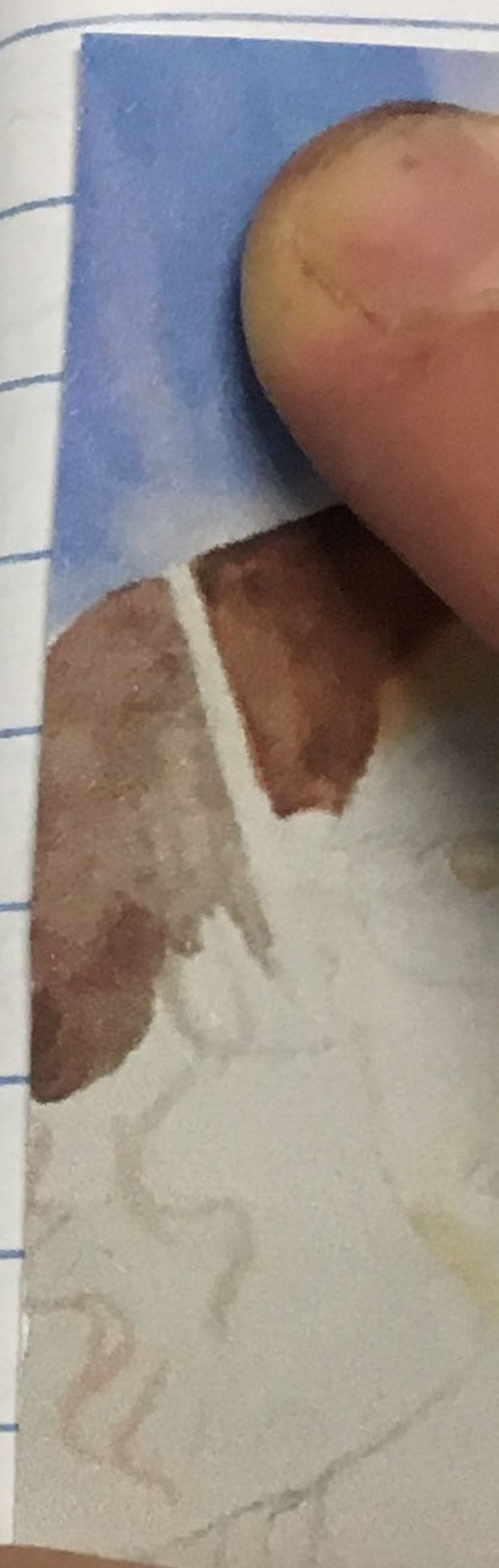
that had a large barrel. Having a reference photo to use definitely boosts my confidence as an artist. I feel as though I need some sort of guide when I create my art, so in general I prefer creating realistic art. The rest of the piece was, however, very fun for me to create once I had a strong, realistic base to begin with.



← My first round of watercolor.

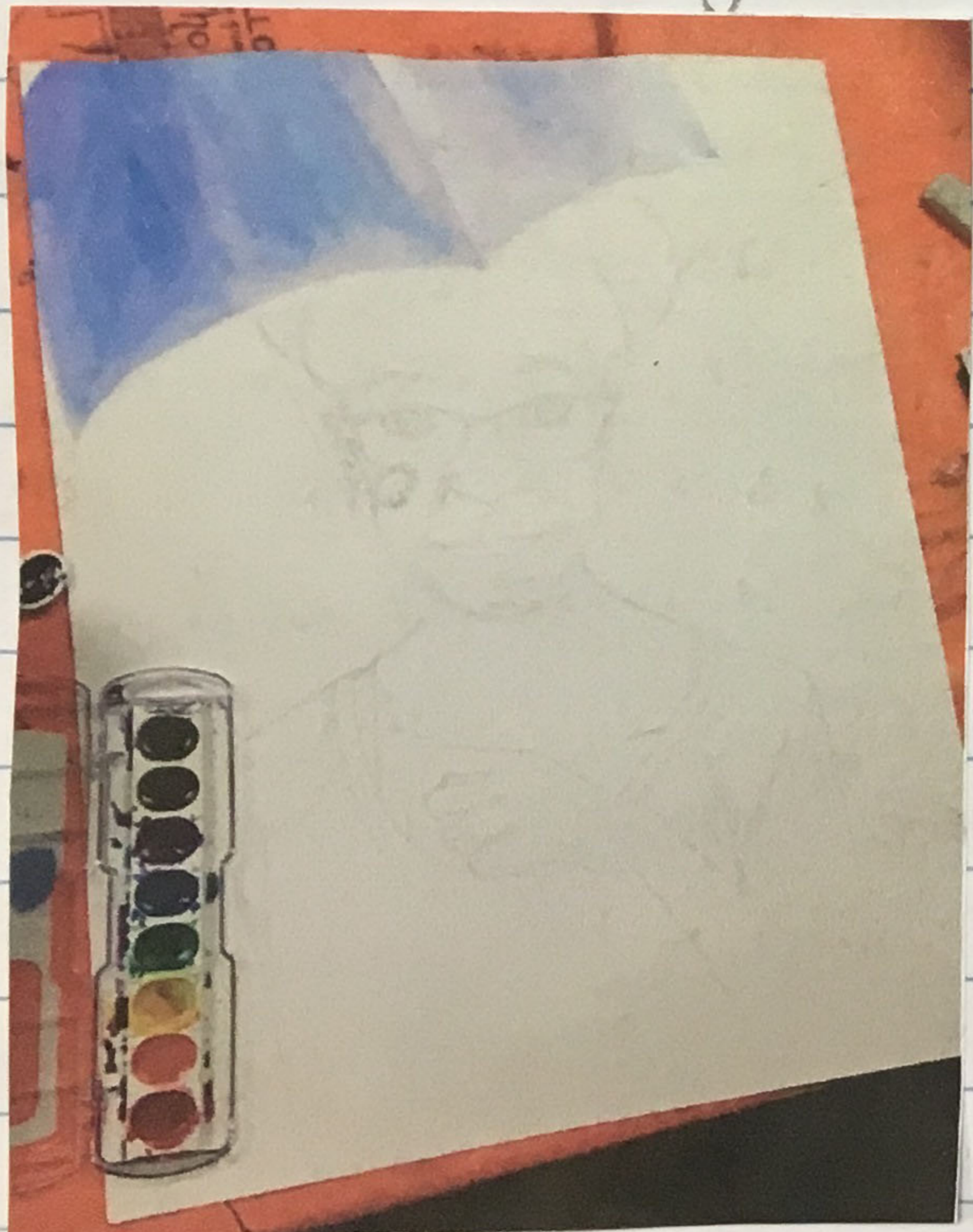
I liked how the color spread out and was darker in the middle section of the umbrella.

I changed the style I wanted my hair to be.

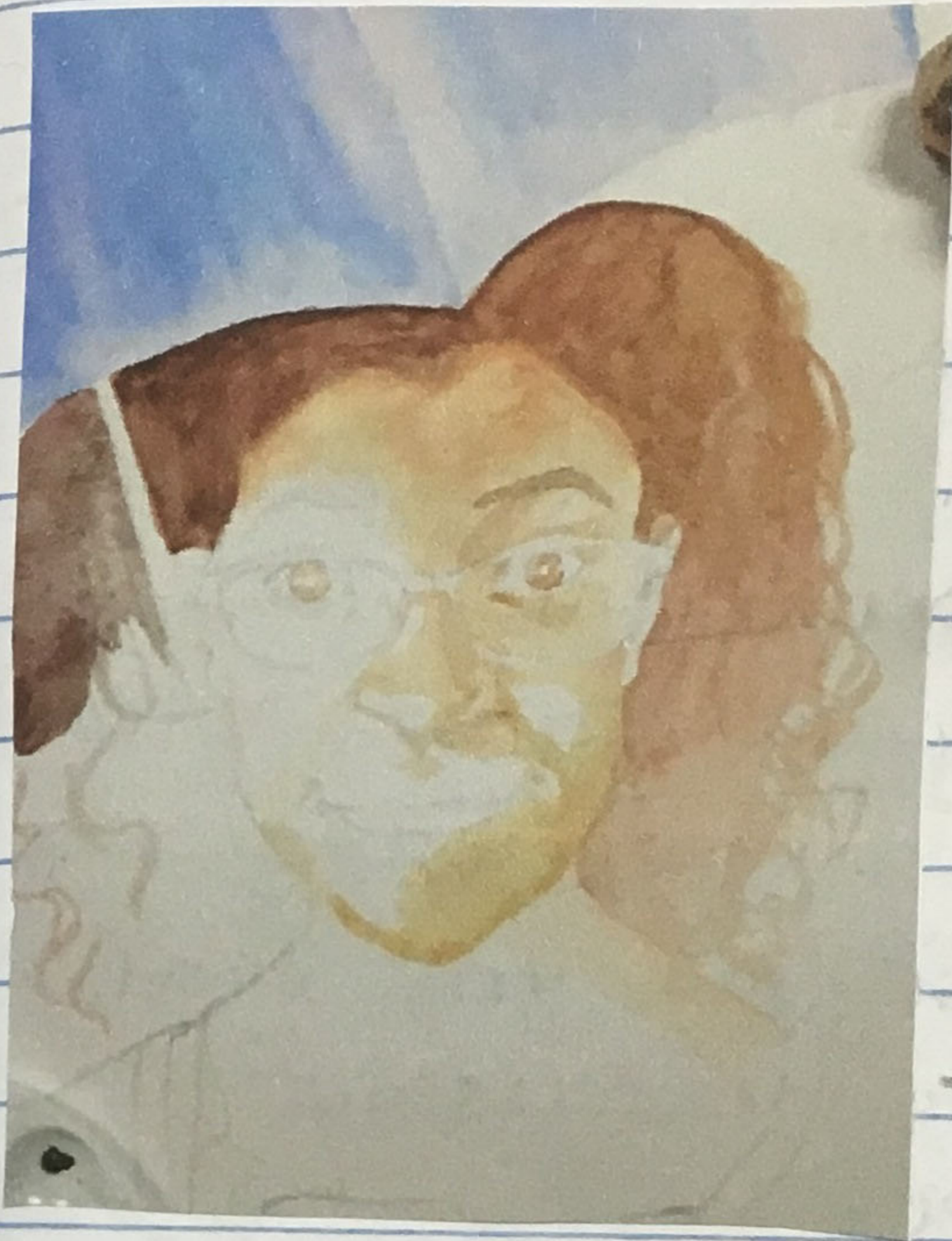


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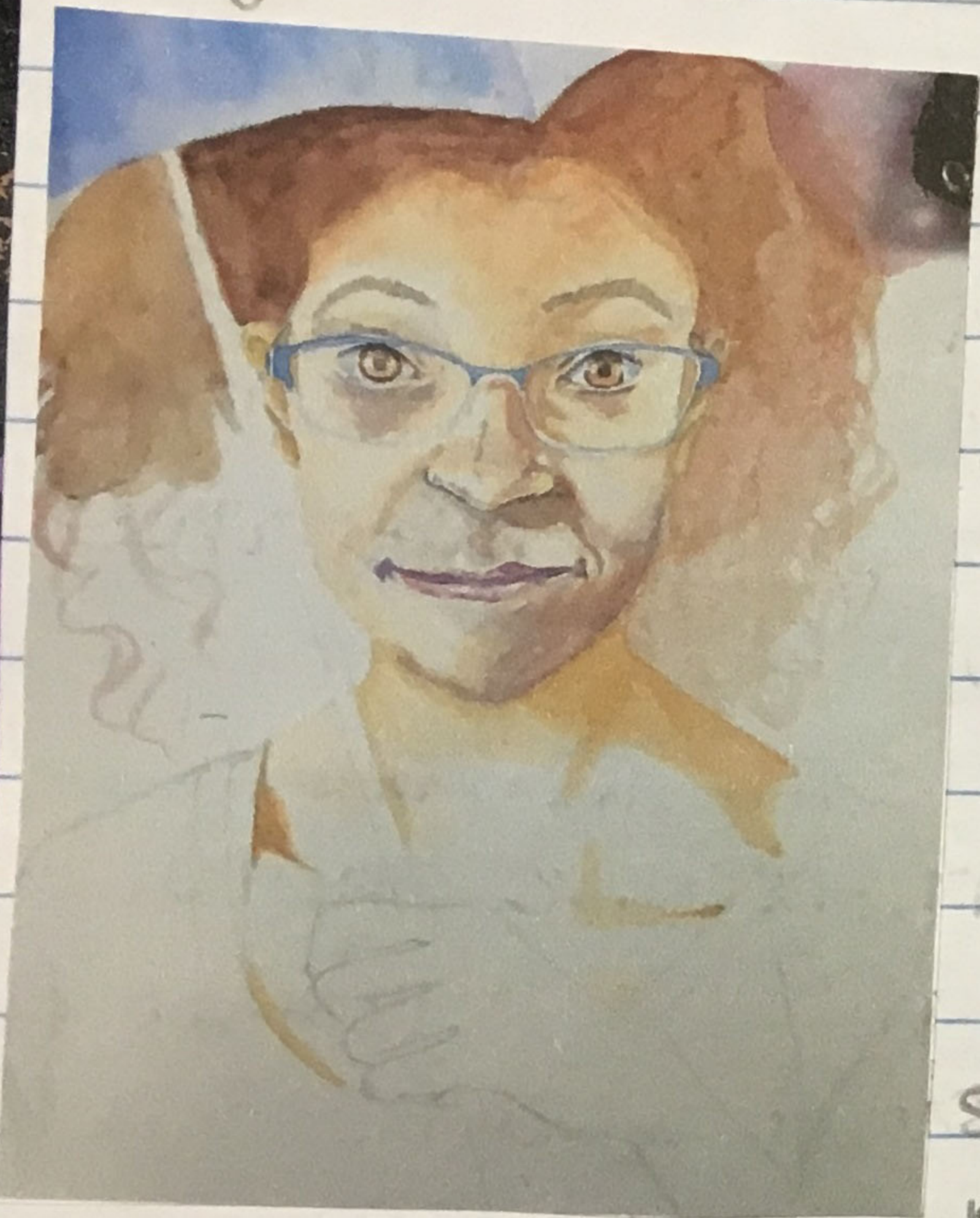
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Once I finished the umbrella (I was going to work on it more later), I knew I had made a mistake by starting to work on my face with the limited 8 watercolor pans

I was stuck with using at school. For this piece, I had already decided to use my tubes of watercolor from home, but I had forgotten them up until that point. From then on, I started to fix my skin with my tube watercolor so that mixing would be easier. I tried keeping some areas lighter to mirror one of my reference images which has high contrast between

highlights, mid-tones, and lowlights. I couldn't achieve that until I brought my tubes of watercolor.



I worked on making my face more realistic by mixing in some yellow tones. I decided to fix my hair later because I knew that wouldn't take too long to do. Also, the square to the top right of the piece

was an attempt at being more free with watercolors, but I wish I hadn't done that because I didn't do much else with watercolor squares in that area.

I paid a lot of attention to my eyes and the area surrounding

them because the reference photo I used had very detailed eyes which made the piece pop. I didn't notice that the specific photo I was looking at had eyes that were enlarged until after I began laying down color. My eyes turned out fine though, and I like the shadows I added around the eyes. This detail also comes from the same reference photo. Initially, I didn't like it because the shadows didn't seem realistic compared to the ones in my selfie, but hey it's art. I decided those shadows were a happy mistake, which they turned out to be.

I laid in color on my neck and began adding purple tones for the shadows on my face in

places other than under my eyes. My eyebrows, at this point were in step 1 of my define - an-eyebrow process. I laid in a lighter wash of brown/black to the area and later on used a very pointed watercolor brush to add more definition to each individual eyebrow hair. My lips were somewhat difficult to paint, but I ended up liking how they fit in with the rest of my face.

Since I wanted my whole face to seem more bright, I made my glasses blue instead of black. Once I finished the bleeding watercolor in the next picture, I was really happy. I made that decision.



Although at this point I was trying to match my reference picture still, this part was a lot less stressful and time-consuming. I let the colors bleed into each other and made sure that there wasn't too much orange on the left side. To do that I actually waited for one color to dry and then the next one. Also, I made sure that the left side of my face had a very diluted purplish wash over it while the right side sported a blue wash on my cheek. At first, I was sad that I would have to go over my cheeks that I had spent so

My focus while sketching my plan out was my facial expression. I wanted to have one eye winking and my hand holding onto my glasses, but I didn't ever take a good reference picture to go off of. I decided to just go off of a picture of me smiling instead which I think was a good idea. It helped me to convey a more light and happy message through my art.

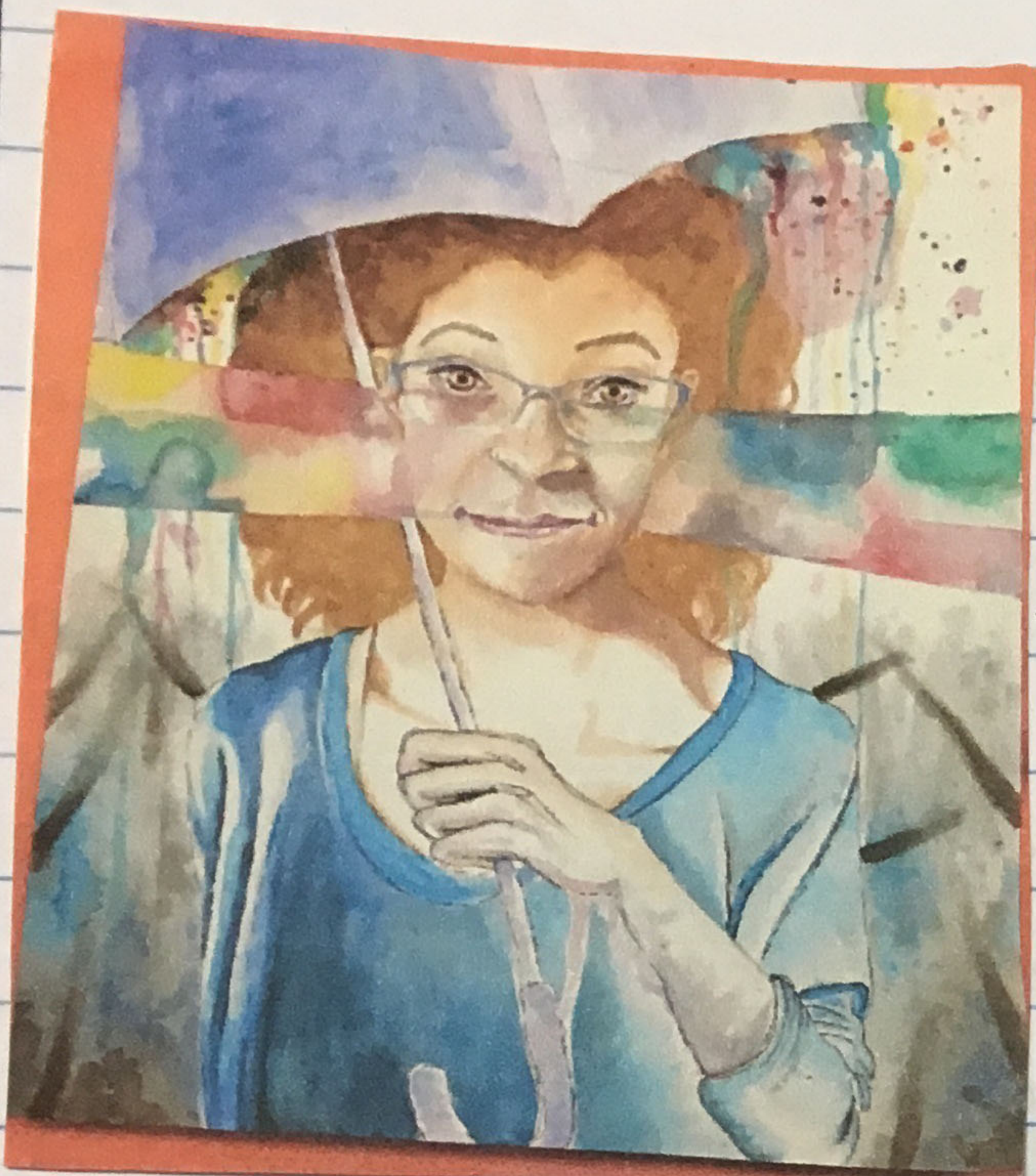
Many portraits like the ones that I found for the project, have serious and anything but smiling faces. I think having a smile while using the same effects in a portrait can be just as effective. My smile along with my eyes brighten up my whole piece. Also, my face is more yellow/happy while ~~every~~ almost everything else is blue/sad.



This picture ~~was~~ ^{has} a more intense expression to it. I wanted to incorporate this kind of overtaking through paint to the bottom half of my painting. I couldn't quite achieve that style

since watercolor can't easily create such distinguished brushstrokes using different colors. They would have bled together if I had not waited, and if I wanted to wait, then the process would take too long.

I settled for a grey and splotchy blue background. At the time I was thinking that my background could have a sort of city landscape



To finish off my art, I chopped off about an inch and a half from the top. I decided that the umbrella looked a bit plain compared to everything else going on around it. Either I was going

to spend a long amount of time putting stripes on the umbrella or chop it off. The stripes would take way too long for me to put on accurately, so I decided to cut. Because of this, I feel that there is less negative space to ~~be~~ distract anyone who looks at my art.

The splatters were very fun to make but were a bit time consuming to let

dry. I dripped down the paint below the bleeding watercolor, but I made sure to dab it before it dried. I wanted the bottom half to be less intense and also less bright than the top.

My whole piece is brought together by outlining ~~the~~ ^{with} black pen on the umbrella, arm, and shirt. Blue also helped to tie my piece together.

My final touch to the piece was adding a bit of white pen, something ~~recommended~~ recommended by my peers. The touches I added were subtle, but I really like how it turned out. The handle has a few white reflections on it now, and I went back to my eyes to brighten them up even more. I think since the eyes pop, the entire piece pops.

kind of background with lighter grey to black buildings fading down. I didn't do that because I preferred a fading sort of background.



Over the next few days I continued to intensify my eyes using this picture as a guide for where to put my highlights and shadows. I never got a crisp shadow under my nose, but I think it

worked out nicely. It looks like it is starting to blend in with the bleeding watercolor. The boldness of the blank stare in the picture was a bit of a challenge because I was smiling. I

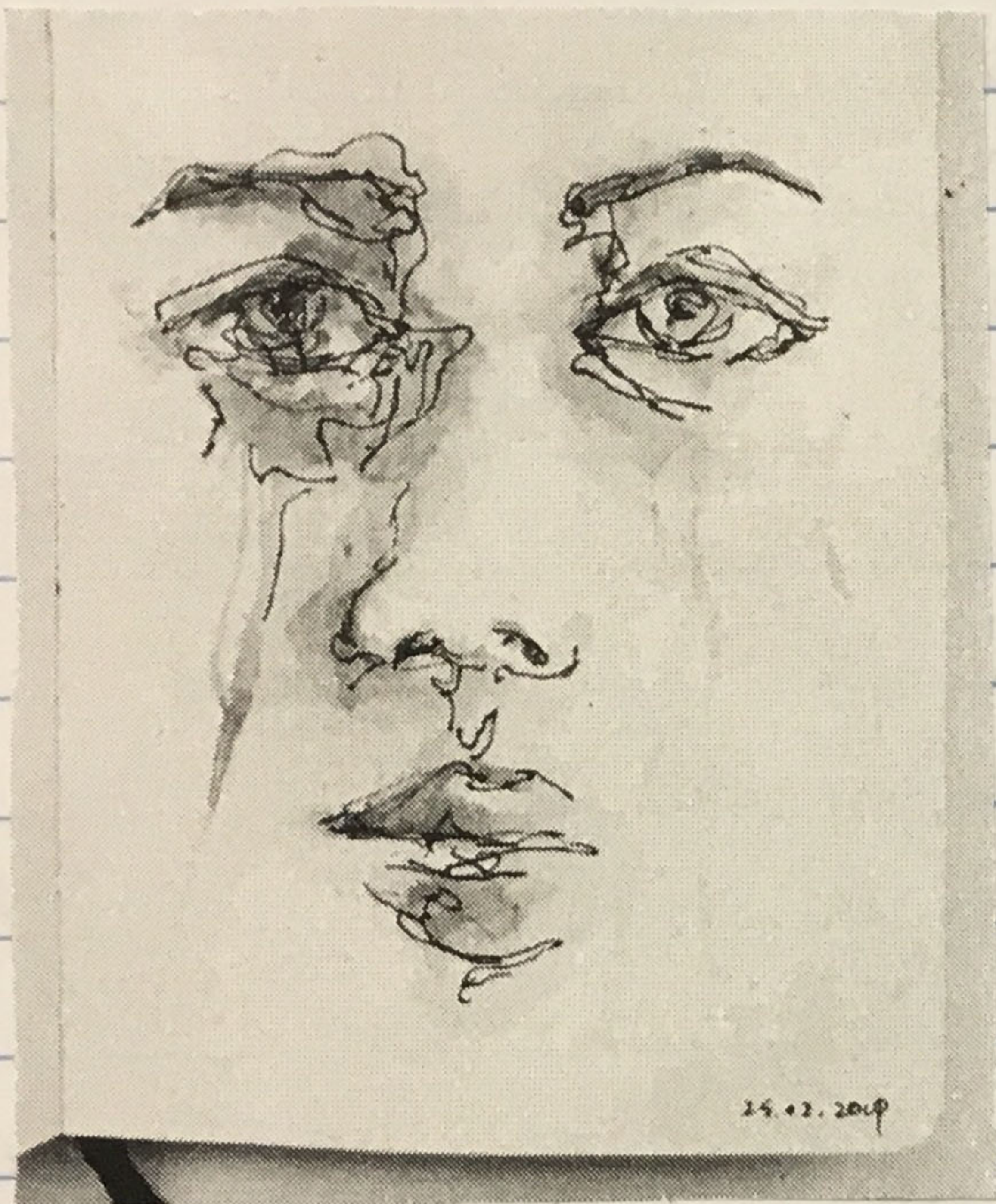
wanted my lips to be a bit more plump and have less visible strokes, but that didn't quite happen.



As for my emotional portion of my piece, I wanted to convey a positive message of encouragement. No matter the rain that is going on around me, I want to have a positive outlook. Things

around you may look bleak (the bottom of my painting), but I still ^{try to} keep my vision and thoughts positive. The umbrella helps me to do this.

overboard when I began outlining the arm and hand.



This was the reference photo I used to outline my arm. I tried using the free outlining and pastel colors in the ~~pic~~ picture which I then

extended to the

umbrella and my shirt. I love the loose and implied style of this sketch, but it's a style that I wouldn't usually try to achieve.

I changed the style of my outlining around my shirt so that the lines weren't all connected. I liked this shift in style, and it took a bit

less effort for the effectiveness it added to my art.



I began using this photo by copying the high contrast in the dress. The black was very dramatic in the folds of clothing. I loved the contrast between the clothes and the colorful splatters of paint.

When I was brainstorming, I actually considered

not putting an umbrella in my piece at all. I changed my mind once I sketched out my idea.