

**Finished Work**



Well it's been another busy month of portrait painting. In this painting of Sophie and Luke I liked the protective pose combined with a sense of vulnerability.



With portraiture it's important to build up skin tones using glazing (thin layers of oil paint). Reagan's complexion had a lovely glow which lent itself particularly well to this technique.

- 5 ways to ruin a paintbrush** (By an expert!)  
 1. Don't clean all the paint out of the brush.  
 2. Leave your brushes to soak.  
 3. Use it as a scrubbing brush.  
 4. Store brushes on their bristles.  
 5. Don't reshape a brush when you've washed it.

**Artist Profile: Child Prodigy Akiane**

- Began drawing at the age of 4, by 6 was a self-taught realist painter and poet.
- At age 8 her painting "The Prince of Peace" compared to the work of the Old Masters.
- Although not from a religious family, she says her ability is a gift from God. She also speaks 4 languages and is the only known child binary genius.
- Her painting style, which she describes as "Akianism", is a blend of realism and imaginism.
- Now 15, her paintings sell for up to \$1M.
- [See Akiane's incredible paintings and read about her amazing life.](#)

**What's on my easel at the moment?**



This is a military portrait in its early stages. At the moment I am working on the interplay of light and shade, which the Italians call 'chiaroscuro'. Painting with a limited palette is the best way to start this process.

**Special points of interest:**

- Canvas painting first began in Venice during the early Renaissance, where it was used to make banners.
- Article [The World's Largest Photo](#) - using an aircraft hangar as the camera!
- Ever wonder what's under a canvas? The canvas support is made from timber stretcher bars. Here's the 5 main sizes I use which can make a painting from 40X40 to 100X100cm..



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