

Children at Play

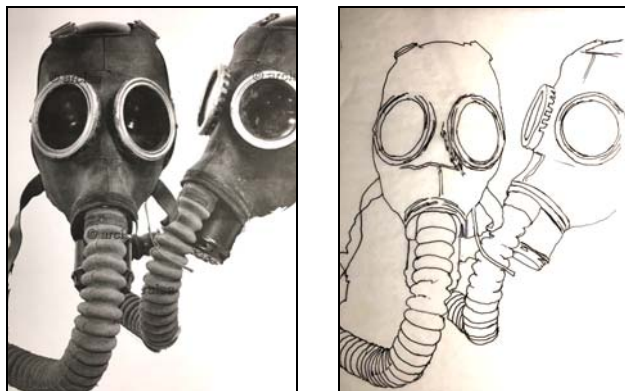
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I began this project with a Google search for gas masks, seeking the weirdest looking.



I believe these are Russian chemical warfare masks.
The 2-mask images were composited together in Photoshop.



I printed out a black-&-white image, then traced it on the light table to create an outline image. The outline was then taped to the light table with a piece of Canson 9x12 watercolor paper taped on top. This enabled a light pencil sketch to be made on the watercolor paper. I made two of them, then taped each to a piece of stiff cardboard.



This is the work area where *Children at Play* was produced. You can see I worked two traced images simultaneously. One was pure experiment, while the other was to be the final piece. I worked this way

because I had no idea how to paint this image and needed to test everything before actually committing to it. This worked out fairly well. I learned a great deal.



This image shows the light ochre base background coat and the first layer on the green masks.



The layers built up, one atop the other. Each layer added dulls the layers beneath. How do you know when to stop? The Red King in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* gave some good advice on the subject: "Begin at the beginning, and go on till you come to the end: then stop."



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Here's a detail for closer examination.

9x12 inch sheet of Canson 140-lb (300g) cold press watercolor paper