



DON'T BE KOI

Introduction

As you may or may not know, I recently got my license to tattoo in the state of Oregon!

Oregon is unlike any other state when it comes to tattooing. In every other state you get your CPR and blood borne pathogens certificate, pay your licensing fee, and voila! You are a licensed tattoo artist. In Oregon, however, you have to go to a state licensed tattoo school (which is expensive), get your CPR and BBP, take a huge test at the health licensing office, pay your fees, and then get your license. So it's been a long road, but I passed the test and am now tattooing!

So to celebrate, one of your classmates suggested that we do a tattoo style coloring class. For this class we are going to be coloring tattoo style koi fish. I've taken a different approach with this class, so get ready to do things a little differently and have some fun!

Copic Colors Used For The Class Page

(Refer to the color conversion chart for non Copic alternatives.)

E25		YG13
	N0	
Y15	N2	RV10
Y17	N3	
	N4	V04
YR16	N5	V20
	N9	
R22		B00
		B02

Chapter One:

Base Colors





For this class I'll be using a black and white line drawing on plain copy paper.

I begin by adding Y15. The shapes on the head are relatively important, so try to make those marks carefully. For the body, just generally the right color in a similar location is fine. :)



Y15



After the Y15.



Next I add B02...



When the B02 and Y15 overlap they make a beautiful mixed green. I'm always very specific with my color blends, so believe it or not, this is the first class where I've used a mixed color like this!



After the B02.



I use B00 to soften the B02 on the head.



I then add B02 to the waves...



B02



After the B02.



I add V04 to the tops and back sides of the flower petals.

Please watch the video for a complete discussion of this!



After the V04.



I add Y17 to the inside portion of the leaves...



After the Y17.



I add YR16 to the center...



...and to the outside "ring" around the eye. (YR16)



I add RV10 to the gills and cherry blossoms...



RV10



RV10



I add V20 to the arrant flower petals behind the tail.



I color the leaves behind the main flower with YG13...



YG13



YG13



YG13



I add Y15 to the spot on the fin I missed earlier...



N9 for the iris...



E25 for the pupil, and our base colors are done. :)

Chapter Two:

Adding Grays





With our base colors laid in we can now add structure to the forms with grays.



I begin with N4 on the head...



N4



I add some large texture
"dots"... (N4)



...then color a few of the scales
(N4). Notice how I leave a "rim"
of color at the bottom of each
scale.



I add N4 to the upper pectoral
fin, again leaving a rim of color.



I add N4 to the lower pectoral fin...



...and then to the dorsal fin...
(N4)



...and tail fin (N4).



Continuing with the N4, I begin to add to the other elements of the drawing.

Be sure to watch the video for a detailed discussion of this step!



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



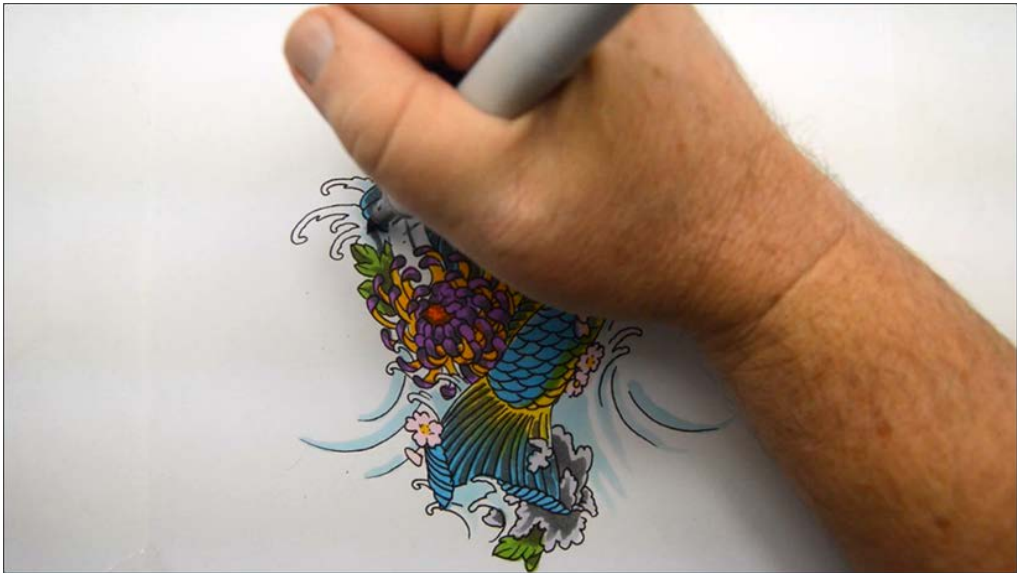
N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



N4



After the N4.



I soften the N4 on the head with N3.



I then soften the N3 with N0.



Ready for our very darks!



N9

I'll be adding this color to nearly every area in this drawing.

Again, be sure to watch the video to get a complete understanding of this step!



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



N9



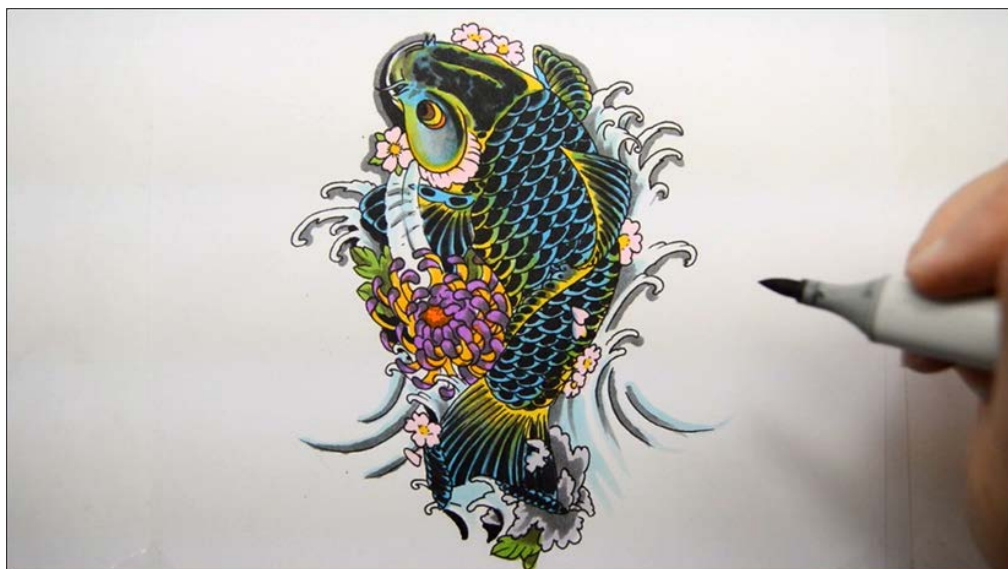
N9



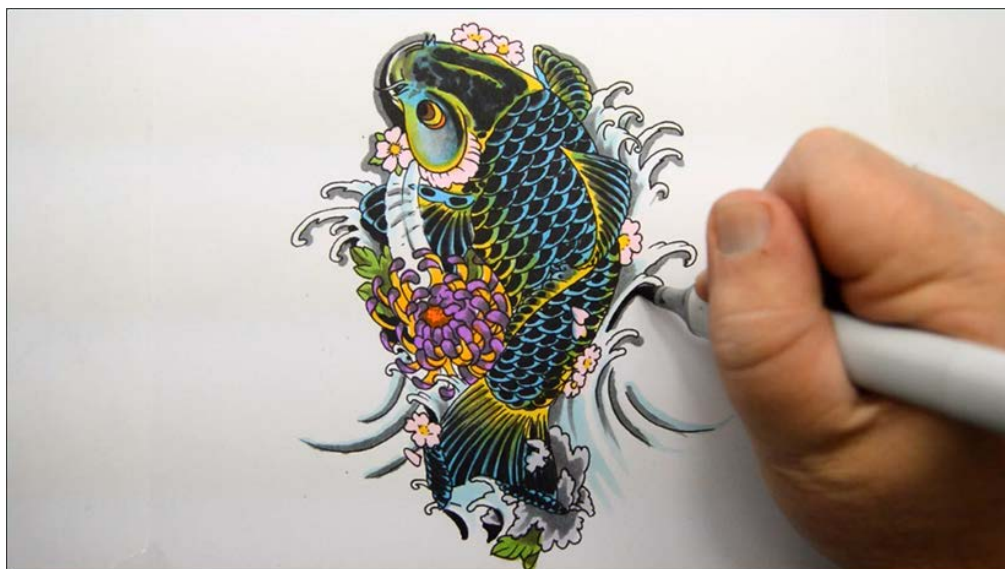
N9



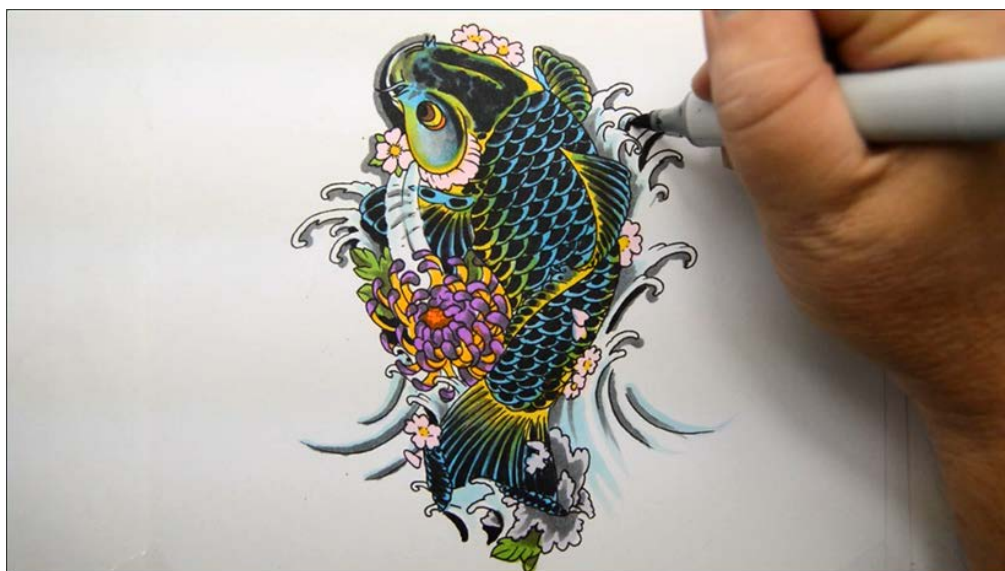
N9



N9



N9



N9



After the N9.



I soften the N9 on the head with N4..



N4



After the N4.



I soften the N4 around the eye with N2.



I then add N2 here and there throughout the image. Again, be sure to watch the video. :)



N2



N2



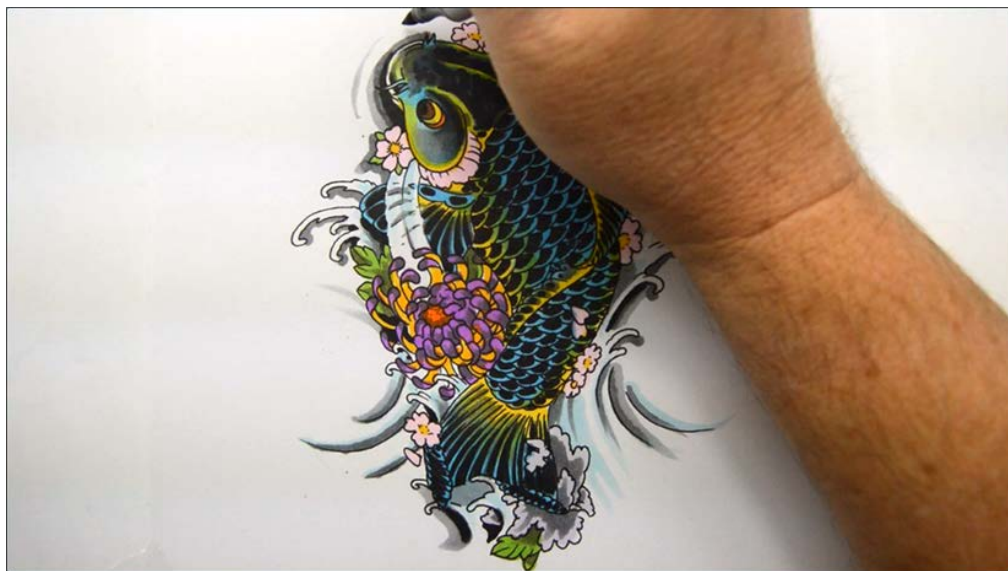
N2



I add "water marks" to the outside area of the image (N2)...



N2



N2



N2



N2



After the N2.



I add R22 accents to the pink areas...



R22



R22



After the R22.
Ready for highlights!

Chapter Three:

Adding Highlights

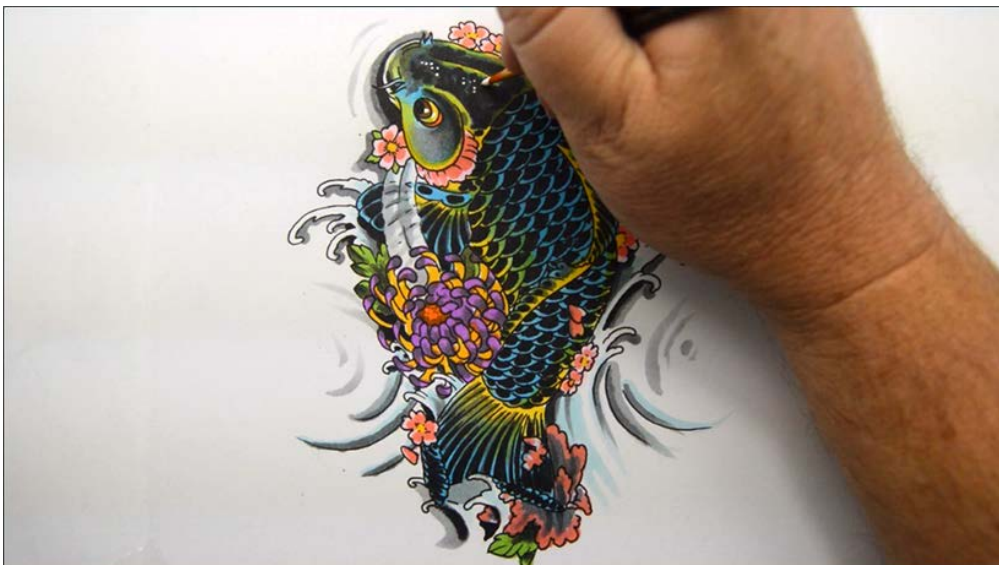




With our colors and values in place, we can now finish off the image by adding our highlights.



For this drawing I'll be using white gouache.



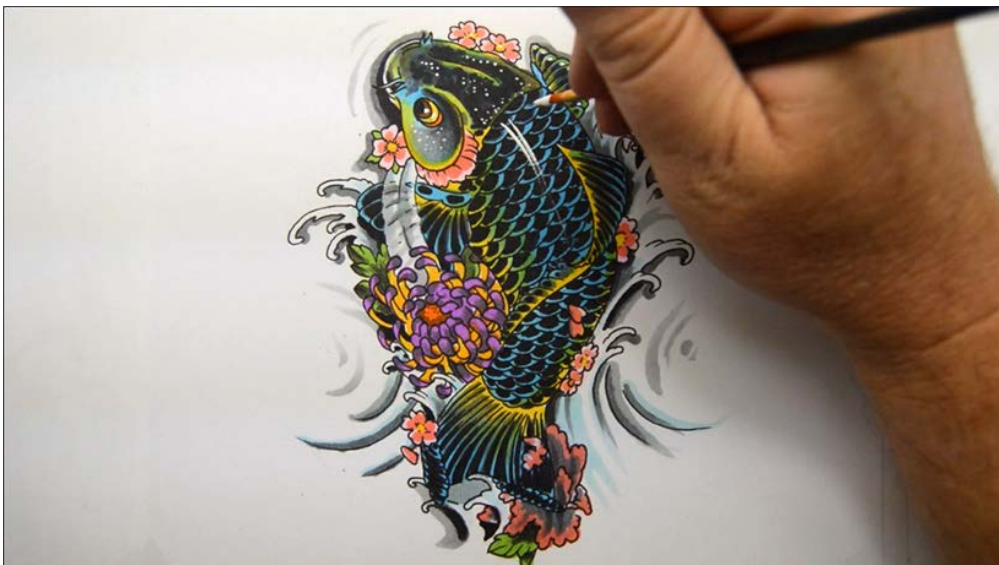
White Gouache



White Gouache



White Gouache



White Gouache



White Gouache



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White Gouache



White Gouache



...and done!

This was a really fun class to do! I've never used primaries to mix a secondary color in a Copic drawing before, and putting so much black over base colors was new for me, too! I really like the way both techniques worked out in this image.

Until next time...
Christopher Kerry