

THE FIVE BASIC METHODS OR TECHNIQUES USED FOR MURAL PAINTING:

- Grid System
- Projection
- Free Form
- Carbon Transfer
- Pounce Pattern

The **Grid System** involves drawing a square grid onto the artwork layout (for example using a 1" x 1" grid) and then drawing a "matching" grid (in this case 1' x 1') onto the blank mural wall to correspond proportionally to the artwork. This process works well allowing the artist to paint a large mural, one grid at a time, reducing the focus area by cutting the mural into small chunks or grids. Because of the immense size of the Frontier Mural (5,832 sq. ft.), this method would be too unwieldy a process requiring too many grids and a difficult translation from artwork to mural because of the size differential.

The **Projection** method is an excellent way to paint a mural using a projector to display the art directly onto the blank mural wall. However, because of the size of the Frontier Mural (111' x 38' and 117' x 22'), the projector would need to be placed too far away to be effective. There are other factors as well, such as cost, daylight interference and the close proximity of the building across the street from the mural on Acacia. Unfortunately, this method has been ruled out completely.

The **Free Form** method is where the artist simply paints on a blank wall by visually referencing the original artwork design. This works well for smaller murals such as the one Melissa did at the HBHS auditorium. However, because of the size of the Frontier Mural, this is not in the realm of possibilities. Consider just the size of the surfer's head alone which measures ~6' x 5'.

The **Carbon Transfer** method is feasible for the Frontier Mural. It would require printing out the mural to the exact finished dimensions on large sheets of paper using a large format printer. We would print this out in black ink only using a line art representation of the mural. The large format sheets would then be taped to the wall and carbon paper slipped underneath between the paper and the wall. Then the artist would trace the outline transferring a carbon image to the wall using that outline as a guide for painting the mural. With the Frontier Mural, our concern is the carbon image on the wall might not sustain itself over the project time-frame and that it might not be strong enough to be seen from the far distance Melissa needs to evaluate her progress on a continual basis. In addition, it would be difficult to trace the outline while it is on the wall itself, especially onto a rough brick surface. Not impossible, but there is a better way . . .

The **Pounce Pattern** is virtually identical to the Carbon Transfer method but rather than using carbon paper to transfer the image, the artist uses a pounce tool to punch holes along the outline before it is taped to the mural wall and then, once mounted, uses a pounce pad filled with fine charcoal dust to transfer the image onto the wall. In our opinion, this is the preferred method for painting the Frontier Mural.

Below are links to articles that discuss mural art techniques.

<http://www.efdotstudio.com/blog/going-big>

<https://www.tor.com/2012/07/17/this-is-how-you-paint-a-150-foot-tall-batman/>