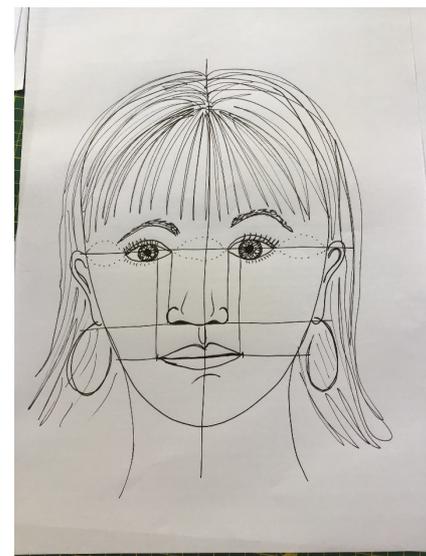


Portraiture Drawing with Harriet Riddell

Create your own portrait or draw the face of your drawing buddy. This exercise will teach you the proportions of the face, how to look and measure with your eyes whilst drawing.

Learn the rules so you know how to break them with artist and University of Hertfordshire alumna Harriet Riddell. Have fun and have a go, it does not need to be perfect.

Suitable for ages 6+, children and adults will need to work together.



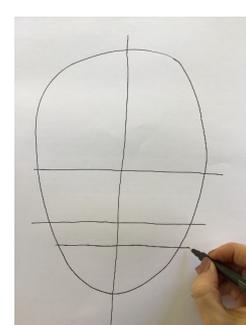
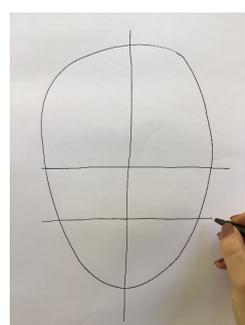
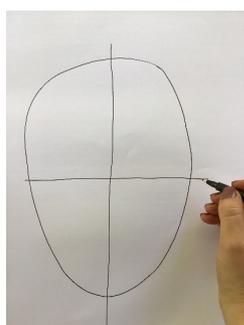
You will need:

- A piece of paper (the bigger the better, but A4 will do)
- A pen or a pencil or any kind of drawing tool (black marker pen is my favourite.)
- A friend or family member to join in with you or a mirror if you are doing your own portrait.

Drawing the head:

Draw someone head on, so they are looking straight at you. Remember the top of the head is bigger than the bottom of your head, where the chin is.

1. Draw the head shape. I will draw an egg-shaped head - you can choose. Heads come in a variety of different shapes, circle, square, heart shaped, oval.
2. Draw a line directly through the middle of the head both vertically and horizontally. (Don't worry, this doesn't need to be perfect!)
3. From the middle line and the bottom of the chin, find the middle point and draw a line horizontally.
4. Add a line one third of the way down from the last line you just made to the chin.

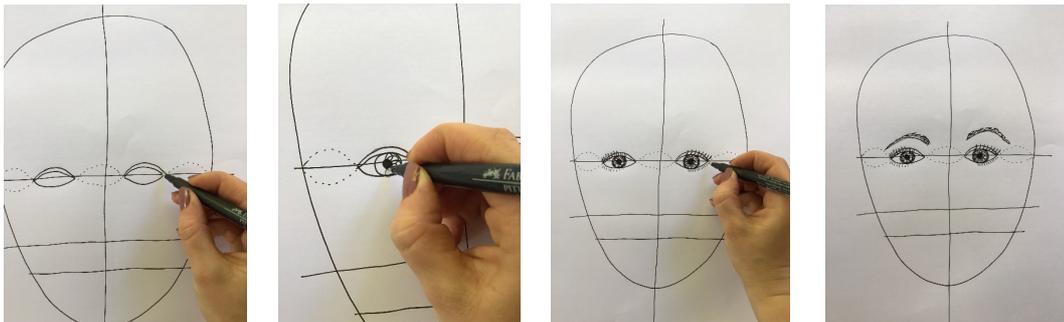


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Drawing the eyes:

We often perceive the eyes to be higher, this is because our hair covers much of our head (for some of us) and we like to believe the face starts with the eyes. Have a look at your partner or the mirror; can you see how the eyes are in the middle of yours/their head? This is really important when you are drawing, you start to really look at what or who you are drawing. Knowing these basic rules will help you to get a more accurate drawing later.

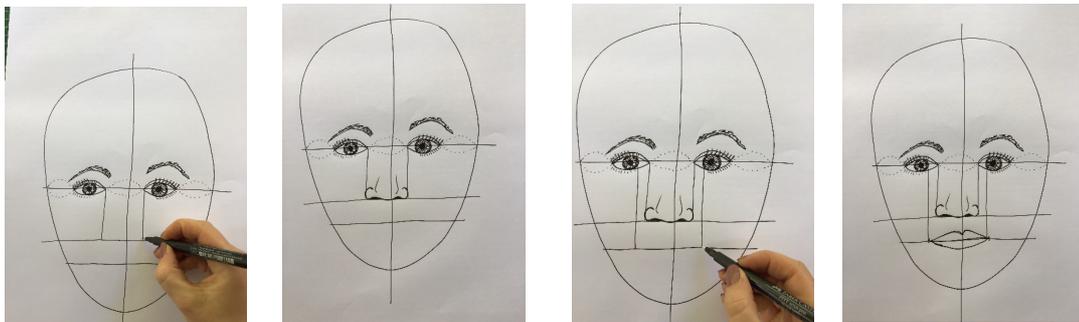
1. Put the eyes on the middle line. Notice how the line goes directly through the middle of the eye. Technically you should be able to fit 5 eyes the same size across the face. This will give you an idea of how big the eyes should be.
2. Draw an eyelid following the top line of your eye; draw a thin eyelid within your eye shape.
3. Put two big irises in the eyes, the hole circle should just touch the top and bottom part of the eye.
4. Draw another smaller circle within the iris. Make these the same size in each eye and make sure you colour them in nice and black. It's amazing how colouring the pupils can really bring your portraits to life!
5. Fill your iris around the pupil with loop-de-loops, lines or a light shading.
6. Next, add eyelashes, girls and boys both have eyelashes, but you can make your portrait more feminine by drawing longer lashes.
7. Add eyebrows, these come in all shapes and sizes, they usually follow the line of the eye but a little higher and start and end with the eye.



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Drawing the nose and lips:

1. See the line you have drawn down below the eye line, that is going to be the bottom of your nose. Draw a line from the inside corners of the eyes down to that line.
2. Those new lines tell you where the edges of your nose are. Draw two nostrils on the horizontal line and curl the line-up and around the vertical lines to start to form the nose.
3. Draw vertical lines down from the inside edge of the iris to the last horizontal line on the face. This should indicate the sides of your mouth. The mouth moves, a lot! So, it can be a difficult thing to draw. It can be small and large; the top lip can be thicker than the bottom lip or the bottom lip thicker than the top. Have a look at yourself in the mirror or at your partner and see which lip looks thicker.
4. Do you notice the dark line that runs in between the two lips? This is a shadow line and it can look good if you enhance this with a thick or dark line.



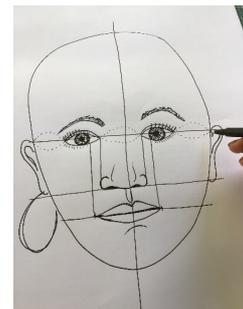
Drawing the ears:

Now can you guess where the eyes go?

Point on your drawing where you think they go.

(Who guessed on the middle line? Yes, the eyes are in the middle of your head.)

1. The ears tend to start on the same line as the eyes. Imagine when you are wearing glasses, add a straight line from the arms of the glasses to sit on the top of your ears and cover your eyes.
2. Add earrings if you want to jazz this drawing up!

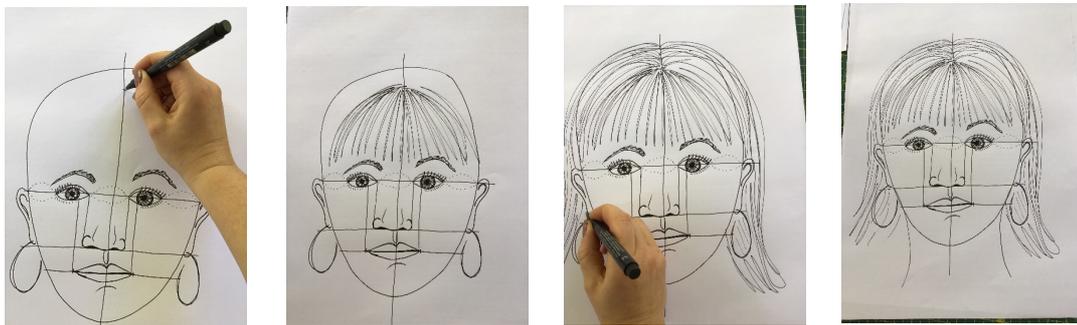


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Drawing the hair and neck:

The hair! Everyone has different hair, styles, colours and consistency. On this funny looking lady, I'll draw a fringe.

1. To draw a fringe, you start the hairline a little lower the top of the head.
2. Add lines thinking about the hair volume and it can have a rise slightly away from the egg shape head you have drawn. If you are drawing afro hair texture, the curl patterns would be really tightly coiled.
3. Let us give her a neck. Start the line at the bottom of the ears and draw down, with a slight curve to make the neck a little thinner than just a straight down thick neck.



Yes, like me, you might have drawn a somewhat un-natural looking person! I hope that by knowing these little measurements, it will help you measure with your eyes.

Now have a good look at yourself or your partner, and look at the space in-between the eyes, is it the same size as one of the eyes? Are the eyebrows dark and bushy, or faint and thin? Measuring with your eyes is a great tool to help make better drawings.

How to take this further:

Did you know there are usually 7 or 8 heads in an adult's body? If you stand back from a friend or a life size mirror, you can measure their head and then fit that shape in 8 times down the body. Why not try drawing a life size image of yourself or your friend using the 8 head rule? Now try and draw a portrait of yourself, or your friend without the guidelines, just remember the rules in your head and really look at what your drawing.

There are many activities on our website – what would you like to make next? Why not try Make a Tiny Book at www.uharts.co.uk/get-involved/create-it-share-it/make-a-tiny-book

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