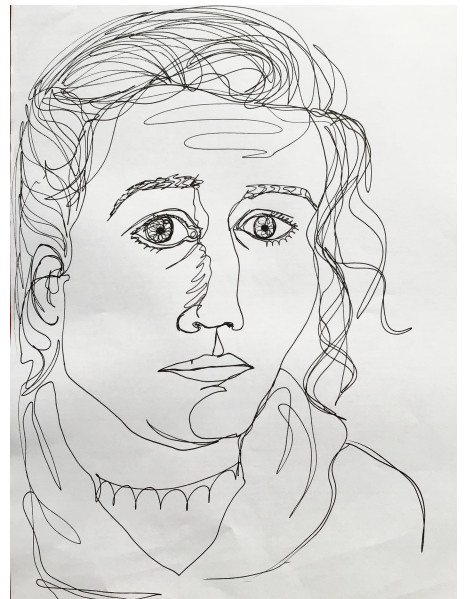


## Freestyle Drawing with Harriet Riddell

Join artist and University of Hertfordshire alumna Harriet Riddell to learn the rules of drawing so you know how to break them... These quick drawing exercises will help you to be free and loose while you draw, not to be afraid of 'mistakes' and to help you to engage with your eye so it works together with your hand while you draw.

Suitable for ages 5+, but children and adults will need to work together.



### You will need:

- A few pieces of paper (the bigger the better, but A4 will do).
- A pen, a pencil, or any kind of drawing tool. Black marker pen is my favourite.
- A table, a big book or board to lean on.
- A friend or family member to join in with you or a mirror if you are doing a portrait.
- Optional – a timer (e.g. egg timer or from your phone).
- Good lighting, make sure you can see well.

### Step by Step – Drawing a face freestyle:

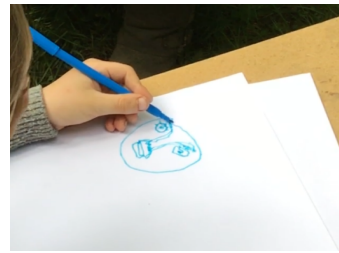
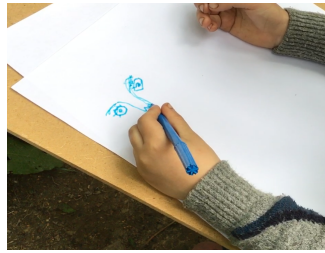
You can do my first activity to help you with drawing techniques here:

<http://www.uharts.co.uk/get-involved/create-it-share-it/portraiture-drawing>

Pair up with a friend, family member or set up a mirror in front of your face. Look at your partner or yourself in the mirror.

1. Do a drawing with **one continuous line**, or a contour drawing. Similar to how mountains are represented on maps by a series of lines.
2. **Keep your pen on the paper**, so everything is joined together by a single line. (This is the way I draw with my sewing machine).
3. **Start with the eyes**, they sit in the middle of the face, this will help you to map out the rest of the face. TIP: try not to draw the head first, start with the features and work your way out.
4. Draw one eye then head down to the nose and back up for the second eye. Or if you or your partner wear glasses, then you can use the frame of the glasses to jump to the second eye and then head down to the nose.

## Freestyle Drawing with Harriet Riddell



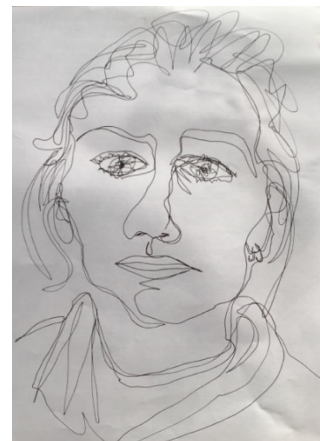
5. After the eyes and nose, **draw the mouth, chin and the head** around all your features.
6. Draw any route around the face you like. This is a helpful hint on how I would do it. There is no right or wrong.



### Quick continuous drawings with a timer:

These are fast drawings; you will throw these away after we have done them. These are exercises to loosen you up, so don't be too precious with your outcomes.

1. **Set a timer** for 4 minutes (alternatively draw until you have finished).
2. **Pick up your pen** and put it in your least dominant hand. (All ambidextrous people get off lightly on this occasion!)
3. Now look at your partner or mirror, **put your pen on the paper where you would like to start** and begin to draw. Do not lift your pen from the paper and make sure the pen is in the 'wrong' hand.
4. Start drawing! It is difficult. I know.
5. When finished, **have a look at your drawing**, if you or your partner are wearing earrings, glasses, a headband – did you include them? These are the little touches, which later will help build your portraits in to excellent drawings, next time, include those parts.
6. Was your drawing very small leaving lots of blank paper? Or was your drawing too big and you couldn't quite fit the whole face in? Next time draw a little smaller or bigger, so it fits the paper.
7. **Turn the paper over** and use the back for your next drawing.



## Freestyle Drawing with Harriet Riddell

### Quick drawing 1: Keep your eyes on the face

Next up... is another one line drawing but this time... **you are not allowed to look** at your paper while you are drawing.

1. **Use your non-dominant hand** again.
2. **Start your drawing** with the eyes and as you look at your subject, allow your hand to follow your gaze on the paper. Try not to peep, and really look at what you are drawing.



When finished, you will have successfully drawn an interesting Picasso drawing. Well done. Throw it away! New paper...

### Quick drawing 2: Dominant hand

1. **Draw using the continuous line** drawing technique.
  - 1.1. DO NOT look at your paper
  - 1.2. You can use your dominant hand (whichever hand you are most comfortable drawing with).
2. Do a quick **4 minute** drawing, do not look at the paper.



### Quick drawing 3: Look at the paper

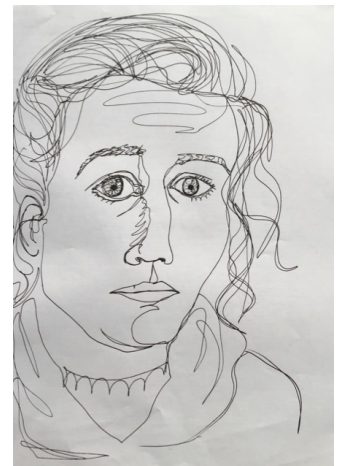
Next drawing ... Get a new piece of paper. You can use your dominant hand, and you **CAN** look at your paper – YAY.

Repeat using the one continuous line drawing style, draw your partner or your reflection. **Be quick**, try not to think too much, but remember to really **look** at who your drawing.

### Final drawing

Now you can use any style of drawing you like, i.e. you **CAN** lift the pen from the paper if you want too.

1. **Use your dominant hand.** If you are drawing a partner, on this occasion, you can take it in turns to sit and pose.
2. Once you have both done your drawings, **compare** this one with the one you did before, do you like it better? Or do you prefer the previous?
3. Now you have **REALLY** studied the face, you can do a drawing you would like to keep. Remember to **keep the freedom and spontaneity** you had in your last drawings. Be loose and do not be afraid of mistakes, because really there are none.



## Freestyle Drawing with Harriet Riddell

### Take it Further

- **Include words** in a drawing – perhaps hidden in the hair? Words that you or your partner might have said or describe your/their interests.
- Drawing an observational portrait **with your feet**, clasp the pen in your toes and draw!
- **Use a long stick** and dip it in ink or paint or tape a felt tip pen to the end and try drawing the face standing a meter away from your paper.
- Draw the face with **straight lines**, creating a cubist approach to the face.
- Use a **sewing machine** and a free motion embroidery foot and try stitching the face onto canvas or a denim (it helps if the fabric is a heavy weight). Care and adult supervision required.

There are many activities on our website – what would you like to make next? Why not try Junk Draw at [www.uharts.co.uk/get-involved/create-it-share-it/create-it-share-it-amanda-ralph](http://www.uharts.co.uk/get-involved/create-it-share-it/create-it-share-it-amanda-ralph)

**Share It!** Don't forget to tag your creations with @UniHertsArts on all socials. Using **#CreateItShareIt #UHArtsatHome** We'll make sure to share whatever you send us!

**Harriet Riddell**  
Instagram @InStitchYou  
YouTube – Harriet Riddell  
[www.institchyou.co.uk](http://www.institchyou.co.uk)