

Self Portrait Sketching

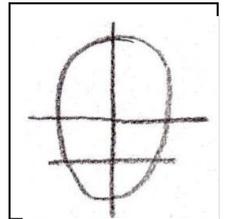
Creating an accurate self portrait drawing is a difficult challenge for most people. You may find this particularly challenging as it is tempting to draw what you remember rather than what you are actually looking at.

We use this way of creating a self-portrait sketch in our workshops at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. It helps you to produce an image that is in proportion, with the features (that is your eyes, nose and mouth) all in the right places.

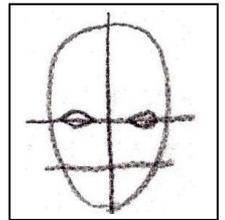
1. Look very carefully at the shape of your head in a mirror, from the very top of the hair to the chin. Is your head round like a ball? Is it long and thin? Is it square, heart shaped or oval?
Draw just this shape, nice and large on your paper.



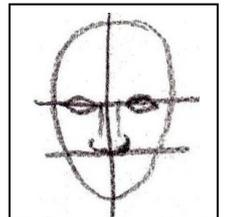
2. Now, turn this drawing into a hot cross bun! Draw a faint line straight down the middle, top to bottom (vertical) and another straight across the middle, side to side (horizontal).
If you draw the line faintly, you can be rub it out later if you like.
Draw one more line straight across, between the middle horizontal line and the chin. These lines will help you make sure all the features of the face are in the correct place.



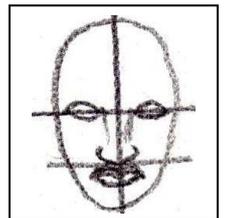
3. Look in the mirror carefully at your eyes. Are your eyes round like ping pong balls? Are they long and thin or almond shaped? Small, large, close together? Your eyes are in the very middle of your head, this is why you have drawn a line across the middle of your head shape.
Draw your eyes right on this middle line.



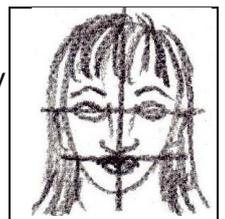
4. Look carefully at the shape of your nose. Long and thin? Short with a round end? Wide or narrow? The nose runs down the very middle of your face and this is why you have drawn the vertical line. Your nose starts between your eyes on the middle line and finishes just above your mouth. The second horizontal line shows where to add the mouth. Now draw the nose shape down the vertical line, but check that the length of the nose allows for room at the bottom for the mouth.



5. Look at the shape of your mouth. See how you have two lips, each a different shape. Is the top lip thin and the bottom lip fat? Is your mouth wide, small, round? How do you want to be seen in your portrait? Smiling, frowning, grimacing?
Draw your mouth along the bottom horizontal line.



6. Now, look at all the other details that make you unique. Do you have long or spiky hair? Bushy eyebrows? Long eyelashes? Freckles, earrings, hair clips etc? Add these finer details in the same way that you have been adding your features – by looking carefully at the shape, size and position of each detail. Notice that the tops of your ears are in line with your eyes and the bottom of your ears are in line with the bottom of your nose.



Now try drawing portraits of other people. You could create a family gallery. We'd love to see your portraits. Email them to us at museumeducation@stoke.gov.uk