Walkers Art Club

MOTHER'S DAY PORTRAITS

NATIONAL GALLERY CAYMAN ISLANDS

WALKERS

In This Lesson

For this lesson, you will be creating a portrait of your mother, grandmother or another influential woman in your life in honour of Mother's Day.

You will need: Drawing paper (regular printer paper works fine), a pencil, an eraser, coloured pencils or crayons.

Foundation and Primary: Drawing Faces

Step 1: Choose a photograph of your mother, grandmother or another important woman in your life. Try to choose a photo where you can clearly see her whole face. Place this photograph next to you as you work where you can easily see it. She can also model for you if possible!

Step 2: Follow the instructions on the next page to learn basic principles for drawing a face. Practice by drawing the same face as the one in the images.

Step 3: Follow these steps again, but this time, try to do it using the picture of your mother's face. Do her eyelids have a higher curve than the one in the example? Are her eyebrows farther apart or higher up? Maybe her hair is shorter, or curlier?

Step 4: When you are happy with your drawing, use your crayons or coloured pencils to add colour. Try to make the colours as similar to your mom as possible so you can show the colour of her hair or eyes. When colouring her hair, notice if she has any strands that are different colours - maybe some are dark brown while others are light brown.

PROPORTIONS OF THE FACE

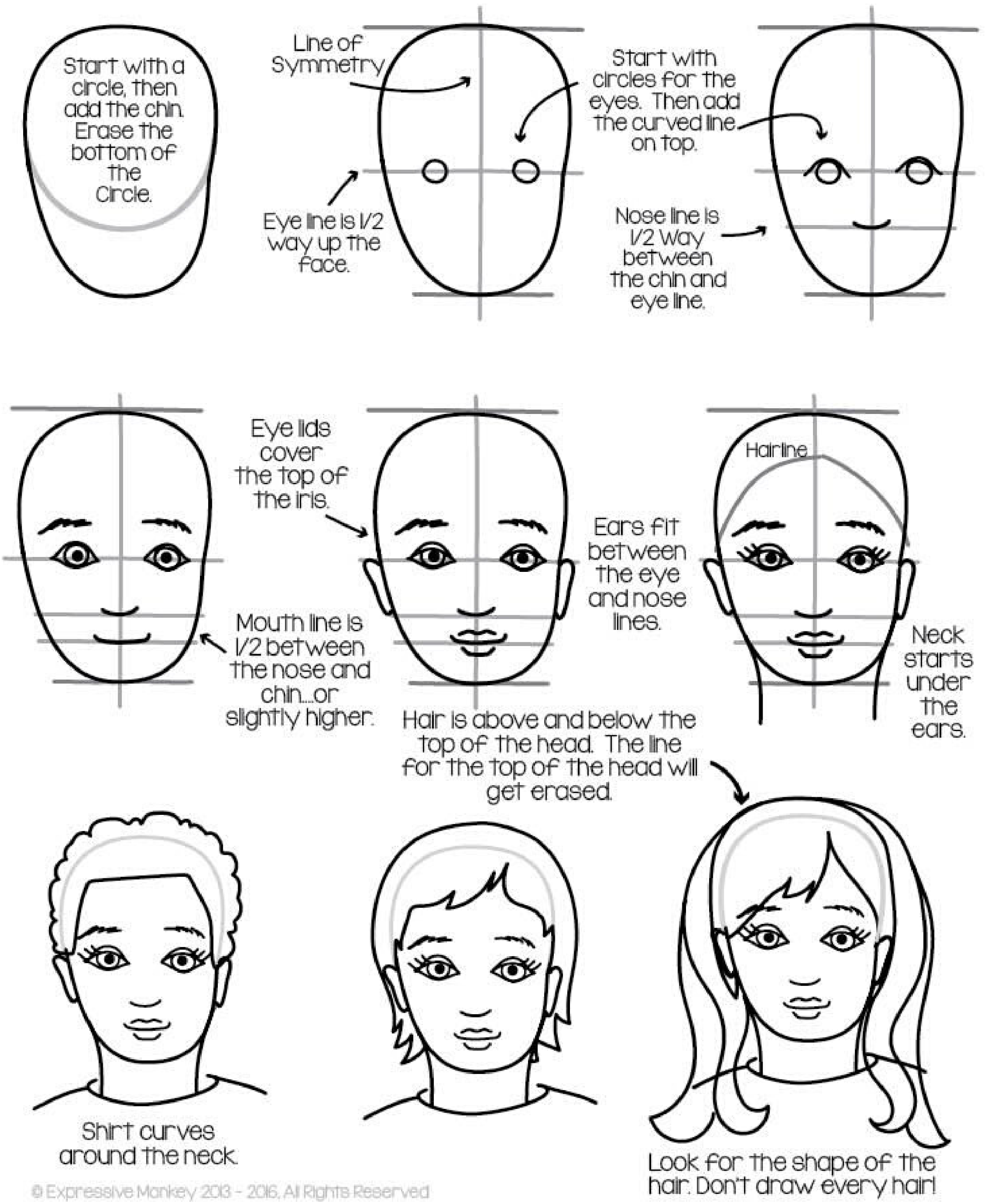
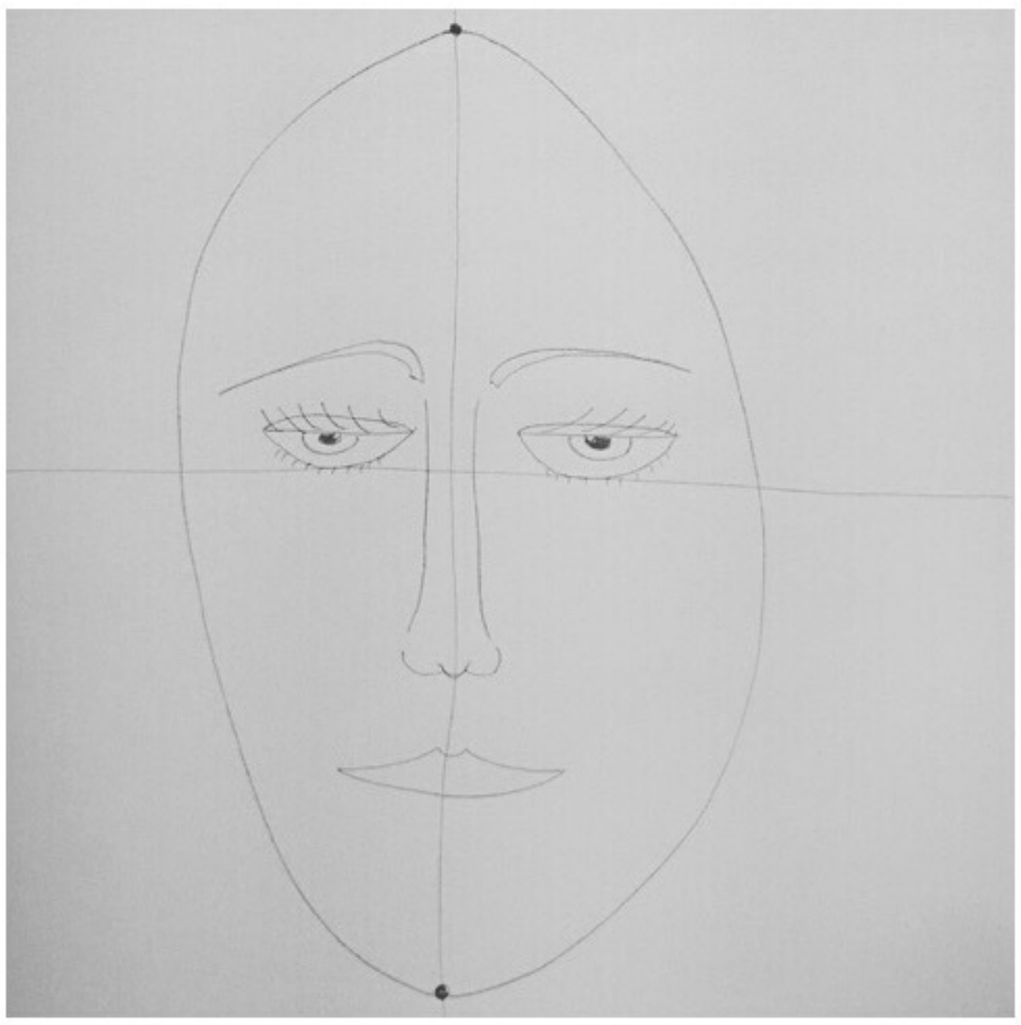
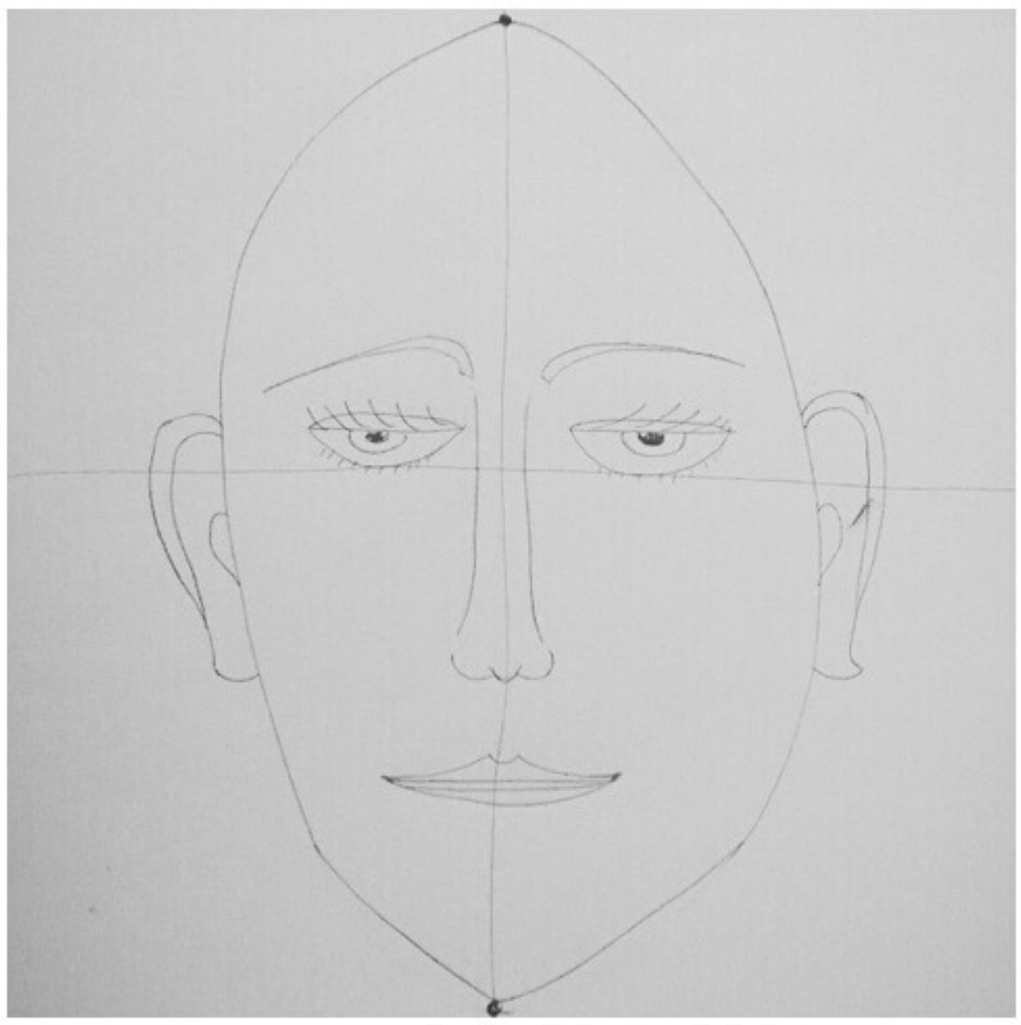
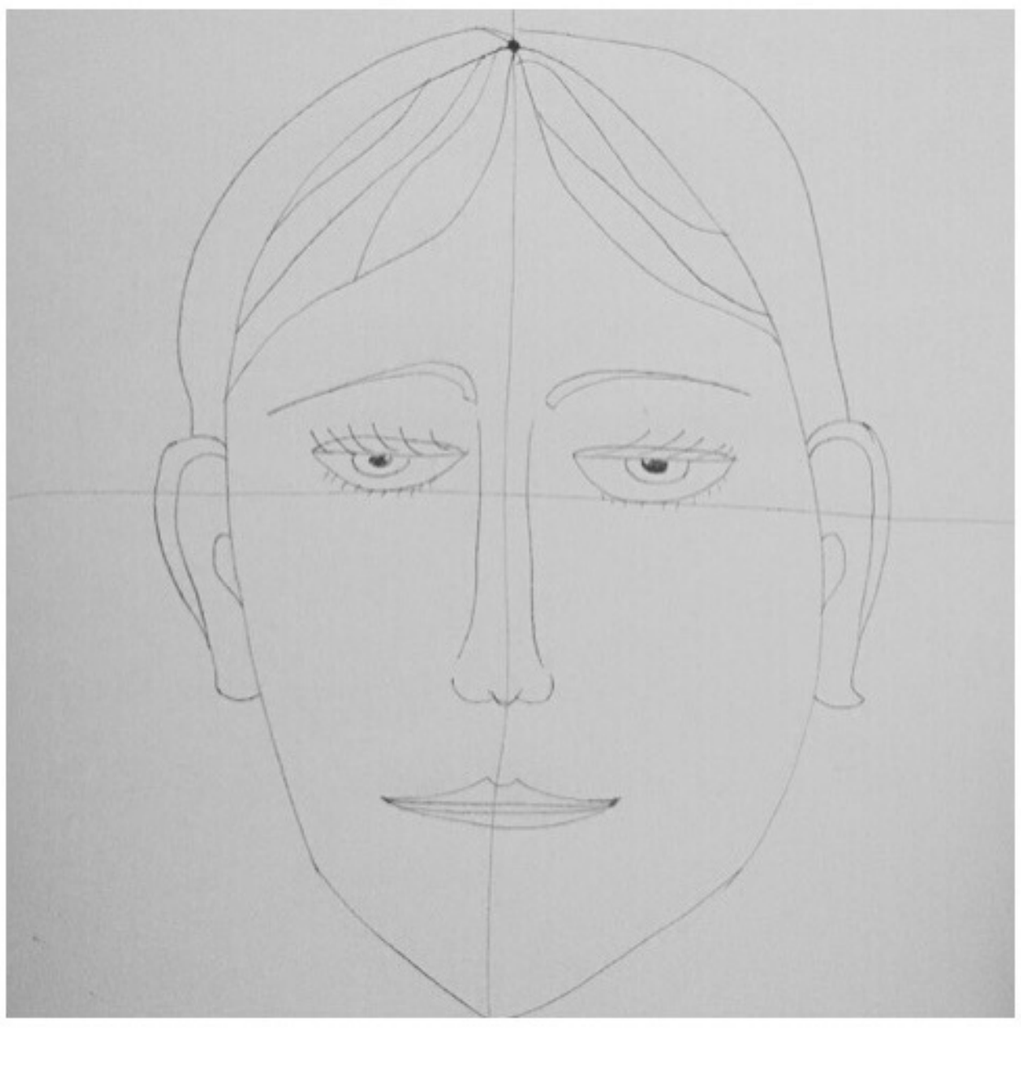
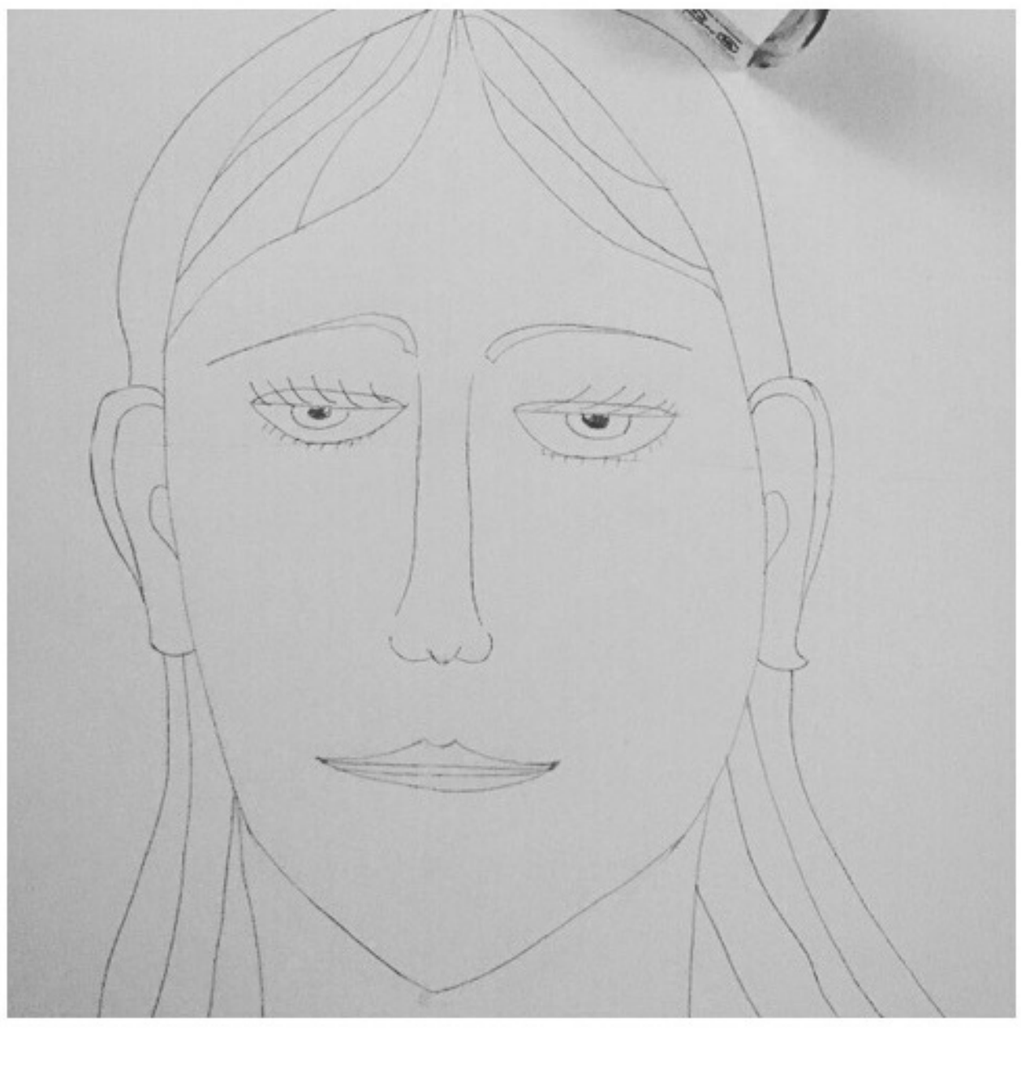


Image source: https://expressivemonkey.com/collections/drawing-pages/products/drawing-a-face









Secondary: Drawing Faces

Step 1: Choose a photograph of your mother, grandmother or another important woman in your life. Try to choose a photo where you can clearly see her whole face. Place this photograph next to you as you work where you can easily see it. She can also model for you if possible!

Step 2: Observe the image. Take a few minutes to look at your mother's face in detail. Have you ever stopped to properly look at her features? Notice the shape of her chin, the width of her nose, whether her eyes are almond-shaped or round, how high her cheekbones are.

Step 3: Start by practicing your contour lines. Contour lines define the outline of the subject, focusing on mass and volume rather than tiny details. Learn more about contour lines here: https://mymodernmet.com/contour-lines-in-art/. Look at the picture of your mother and practice sketching the lines of her face. Start with just her face shape, then move to her individual features, like eyes, nose and lips.

Image source: https://artisticimaginings.wordpress.com/2014/01/29/simple-self-portrait-contour-line-drawing/

Step 4: Once you are confident, sketch the contour of your mother's face using your photograph as a reference. Play with the thickness and thinness of the lines to emphasise features or to add depth.

Step 5: Add colour to your portrait using coloured pencils or crayons. You can add flat colour, or create depth by shading - adding colours more densely where you notice shadows or deeper hues, and gradually applying less pressure to reduce density.

Teen: Drawing Faces

Step 1: Choose a photograph of your mother, grandmother or another important woman in your life. Try to choose a photo where you can clearly see her whole face. Place this photograph next to you as you work where you can easily see it. She can also model for you if possible!

Step 2: Observe the image. Take a few minutes to look at your mother's face in detail. Have you ever stopped to properly look at her features? Notice the shape of her chin, the width of her nose, whether her eyes are almond-shaped or round, how high her cheekbones are.

- What is the first thing you notice about this picture of her?
- Do you notice anything you have never noticed before?
- What does her facial expression tell you about how she was feeling in this moment? Can you identify thoughts she may be thinking?
- What is her posture like?
- Is her face in shadows or full light?
- Does her hair have different tones in it?
- What is her environment? Why was she there?

Step 3: Using your photograph as a reference, start to sketch basic contours to define the shape of the face and features. You can use the basic proportions lesson on page 4 to help you understand scale. At this stage, there will be minimal detail. For example, the iris of your mother's eyes may be only a circle.

Step 4: Start to define the lines by going over your contour and pressing harder on your pencil where you want more emphasis or depth. Don't press too hard at first - move gradually! Your lines will slowly become more rhythmic and defined.

Step 5: After defining your contour more clearly, add tones with clusters of tight strokes or with shading; pay close attention to the way tones move from darker and more saturated to lighter and softer.

Step 6: Add the final details by strengthening your tones, ensuring that your shading transitions well from dark to light, and erasing any rough lines.

Step 7: If adding colour, decide whether you want to add it to the whole portrait, or if you want to emphasize one area by adding colour only to that place. You can choose to replicate the same colours in the photograph, or experiment with different shades to express the emotions you identified when first examining the photograph.

For tips on drawing features from different angles visit: https://sites.google.com/a/napls.us/montague/Home/2d-design/eyes-from-different-angles

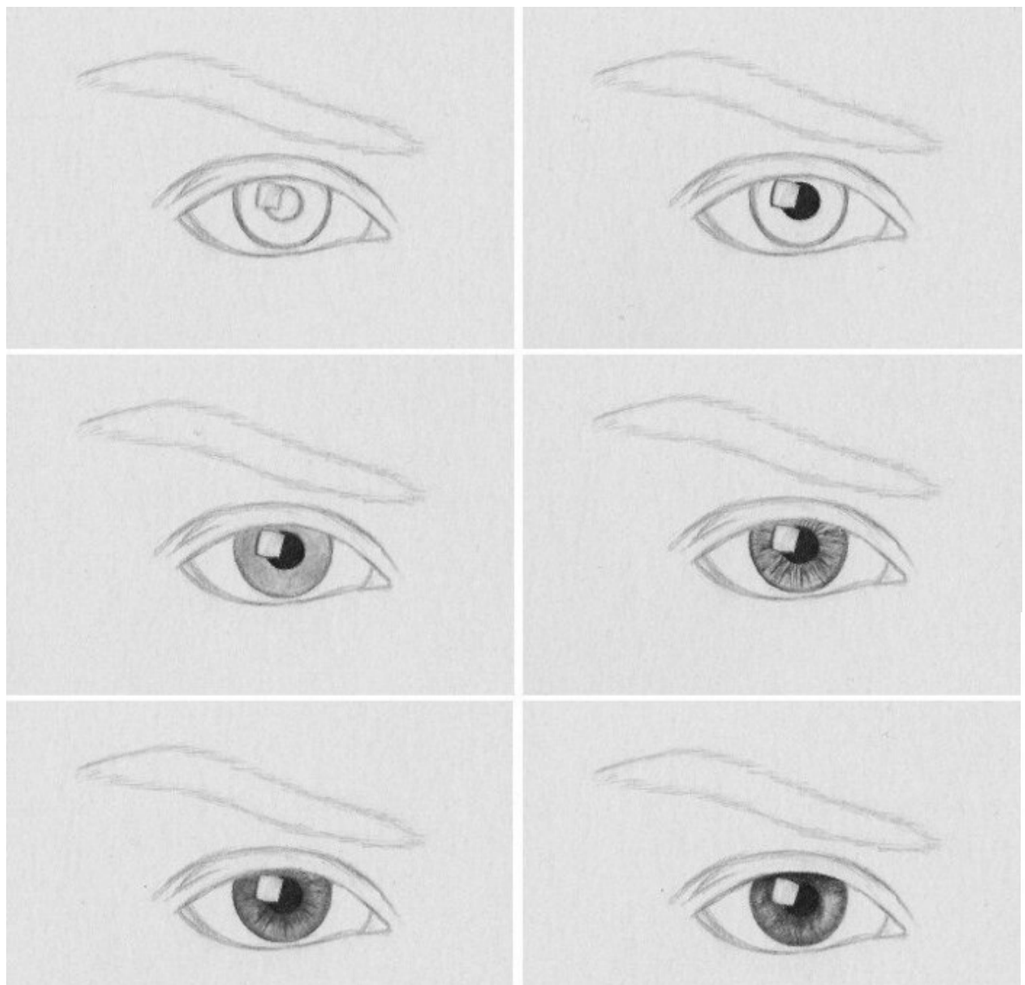


Image source: https://archziner.com/diy/how-to-draw-eyes-tutorials-pictures/?image_id=44932

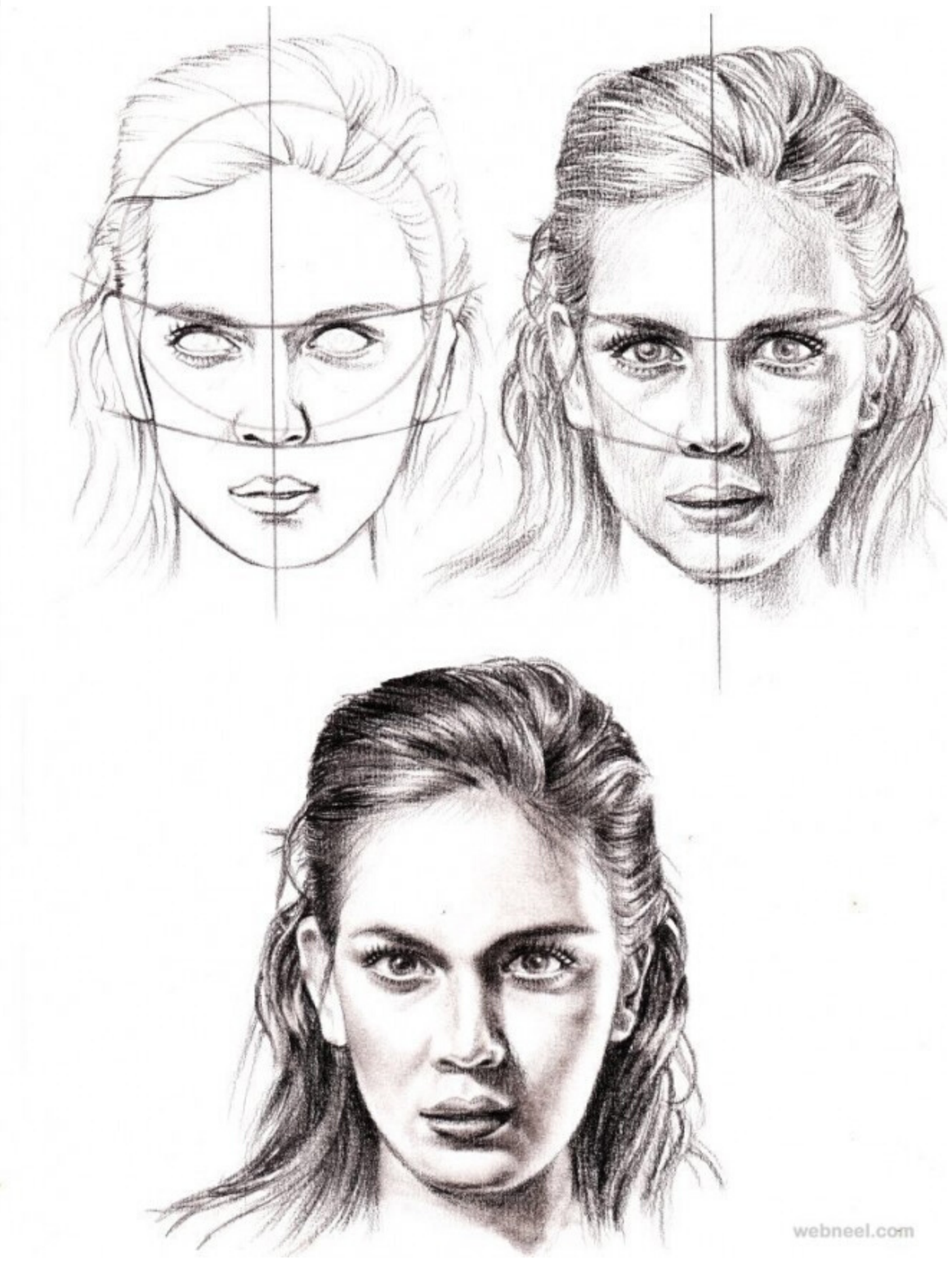


Image source: https://webneel.com/how-draw-faces-drawings

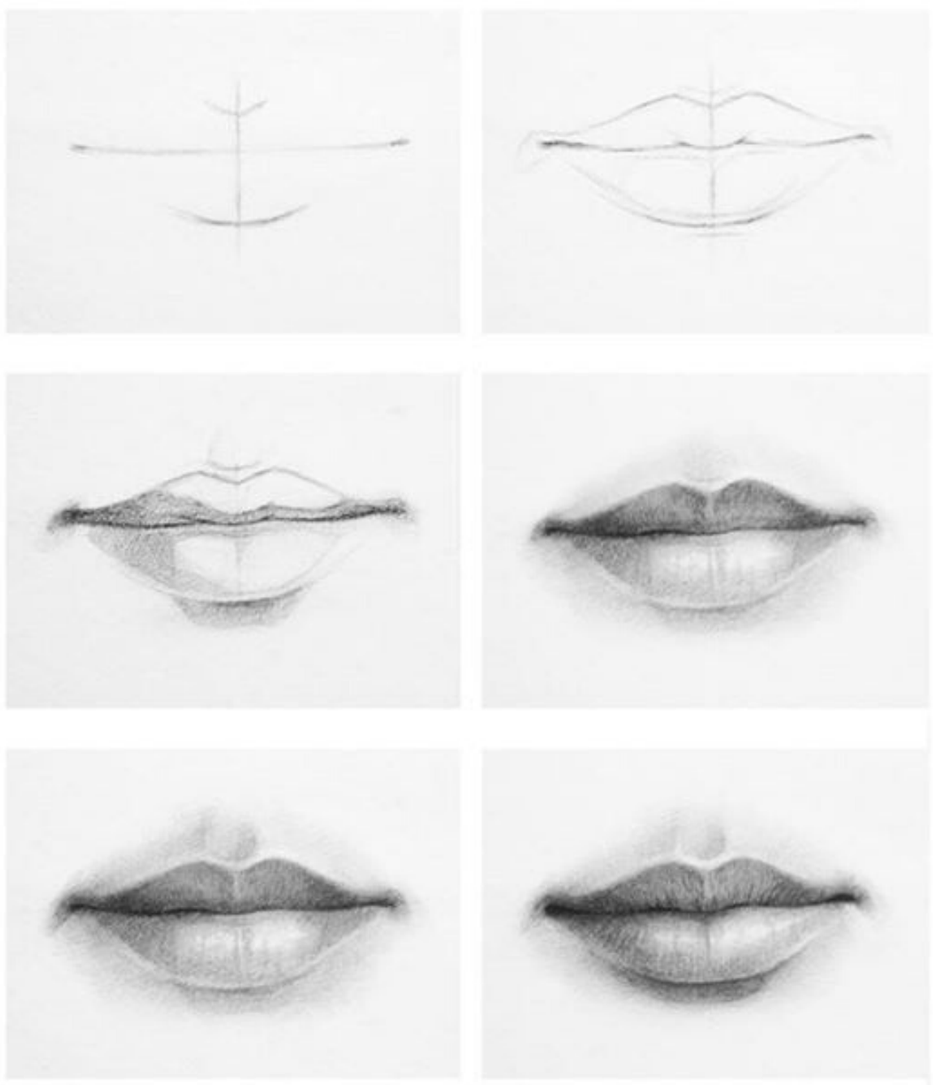


Image source: https://favim.com/image/4752937/