

Self-portrait Drawings and Paintings

Grades 1-4

Overview

Students will create self-portraits. They will be introduced to basic facial proportions to help with placement of features such as eyes and noses on the face. Students will also work with self-expression by choosing what they want to depict in the background of their self-portraits. Their backgrounds can consist of objects, words, designs and colours, or entire scenes such as landscapes.



What you will need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Something to colour with – markers, oil pastels, pencil crayons, wax crayons

What you can also use:

- Paint
- Brushes
- Watercolour/painting paper
- mirror

What is a Self-Portrait?

A portrait is an artwork of a person. A self-portrait is an artwork that an artist creates of themselves. If you make a portrait, you are making an artwork of someone else. If you make a self-portrait, you are making an artwork of yourself. A portrait or self-portrait can be a drawing, a painting, a photograph or even a sculpture.

This painting is part of the Helson Gallery's exhibition, The Collector's Eye. The exhibition features artwork by Canadian artists. This artwork is titled Portrait of Anne Andrews and was painted by Laurie McGaw. We will be creating self-portraits.

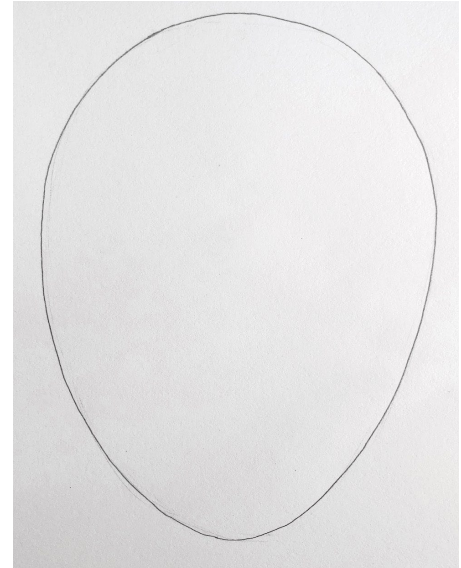


What kind of person do you think that Anne Andrews is based on her portrait? What makes you think that?

What would you want the artist to include in their artwork if they were making a portrait of you? Why?

Step 1: Draw your face shape

We are going to draw ourselves. Instead of drawing our entire bodies, we are going to focus on our faces. Begin by drawing the outline of your face using pencil. Everyone's face is shaped differently, but a general face shape is like an upside down egg. The face is wider at the top and narrower at the bottom. It should look something like this:

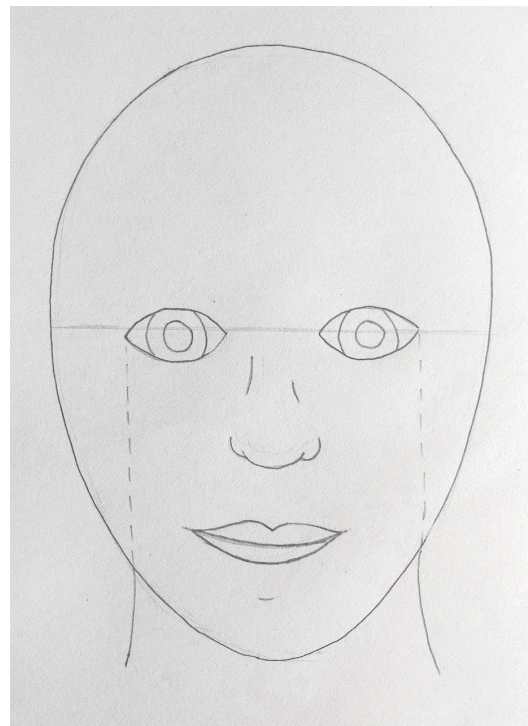


Step 2: Eyes, mouth, and nose

Now we will draw the eyes. Typically, when we draw eyes, we place them too high up on the face. The eyes are actually located half-way on the face, in the middle. Draw your eyes in the middle of the face. You can lightly draw a horizontal line across the face where you think the middle is to help guide you. It might look strange to you at first because you may not be used to drawing them this way. Once you add more features, you will see that the eyes don't seem so low anymore. When you have finished your eyes, draw your mouth and nose. If you like, you can look at yourself in a mirror while drawing your self-portrait.

Step 3: Draw a neck

Just like we are used to drawing our eyes in a certain place, we are used to drawing our necks a certain way. We typically draw our necks too small or narrow. Our necks are usually much wider than we draw them. When drawing your neck, picture a line coming down from the far ends of your eyes. You can make a dotted line to help you see it. Make the line go from the outer sides of your eyes until it meets the line near your chin. This is how wide the neck should be. Your self-portrait should look something like this:



Step 4: Add features and details

You can erase any guidelines you made. Your person may not look quite like you just yet. Now you can add features to make it a drawing of yourself. Add hair, ears and a shirt. You can add glasses, a hat, earrings, a necklace, a bowtie or anything else you would like to complete your self-portrait.

Step 5: Background and colour

We are going to add a background to our self-portraits. Your background can be anything you like. You can make a scene or landscape. Maybe it's a place you like to visit. You can fill it in with colourful designs. You can place objects or words throughout your background that relate to you or things you like. Be as creative as you want with your background. Add colour to your self-portrait to complete it. You can use any material you like such as markers, pencil crayons, wax crayons, oil pastels, or a combination of materials. You can also use paint.

