



Lesson: How to Draw a Face

Ages: 6-18

Projected time: 1 hour (2 if you color or paint it)

Supplies needed: Paper, pencil, eraser. Optional: colored pencil, crayon, tempera paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, pastels, etc.

Project Intro: Drawing faces is hard but here are some basic things we can do to get a great start! It comes down to where you put things on the face – following some basic steps helps!

You can chose to make a portrait of another person, or a self portrait. When you draw portraits, don't worry about making them look super realistic! Think about Yayoi Kusama (image 1) & Chuck Close (image 2) who use patterns in their self portraits, or Frida Khalo (image 3) who used symbolic images to show viewers more information about her life.

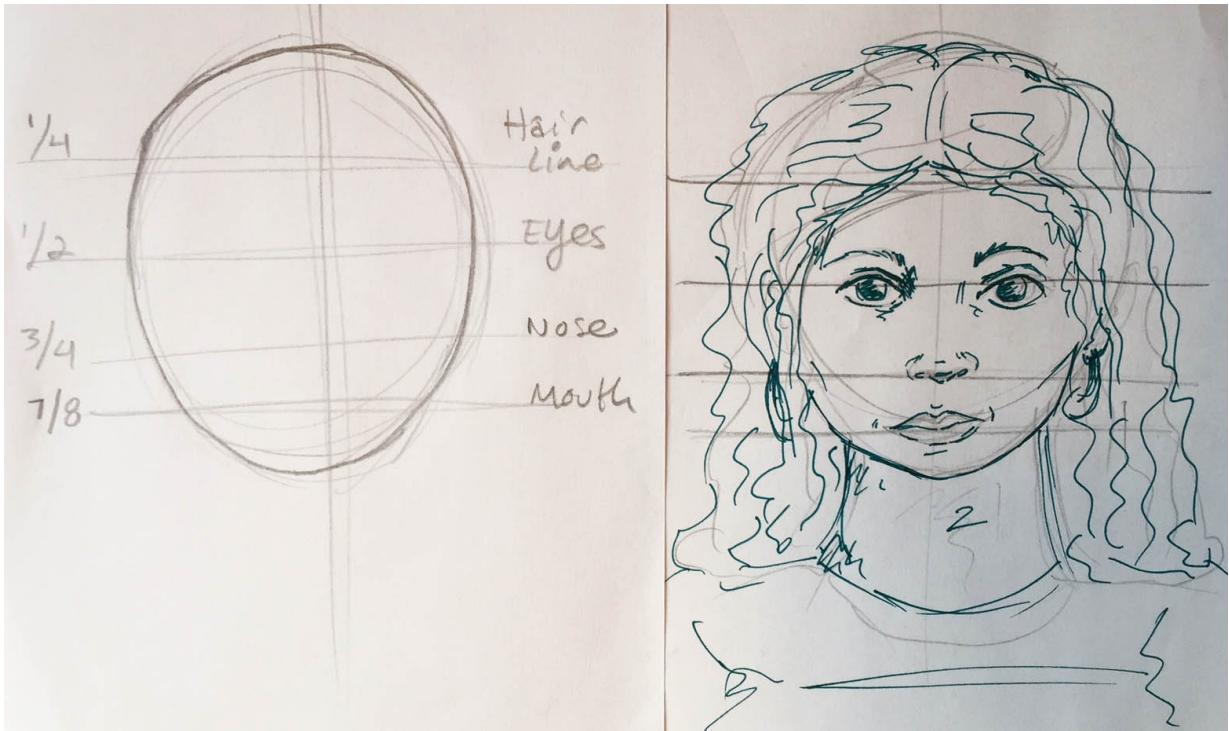
Artist or Medium Reference: Many artists make self portraits, and have been for hundreds of years. Here are a few great examples. Yayoi Kusama is an artist from Japan who uses polka dots in her artwork. She's still making and showing art in museums, galleries and parks all over the world (<https://www.artsy.net/show/gagosian-gallery-yayoi-kusama>). Chuck Close is also a famous artist who is still alive. He's been making portraits for a long time, and he uses a grid to organize his paitnings. (<https://www.sfmoma.org/exhibition/chuck-close/>) Frida Khalo (1932-1954) is a famous artist from Mexico who made some amazing self portraits, look her up – her self portraits are full of complicated images that describe her life (<https://www.frida-kahlo-foundation.org/>)!

Vocabulary:

A *Portrait* is a piece of art that represents someone, a *self portrait* is a portrait an artist makes of themselves.

Guidelines are lines you draw to figure out where things go, you'll erase them later, so press lightly with your pencil.

Facial features are the eyes, nose and mouth.



Steps for this are below.

Project steps:

1. Decide whose face you are going to draw, look carefully at what makes this person beautiful and unique. Notice details like hair, eyebrows, eye and nose shapes.
2. Start by drawing an oval, like an egg with the small side pointing down. You can do this by first drawing a circle, then making it longer on the bottom.
3. Divide this oval in half with light pencil lines (you'll erase these guidelines later), both vertically and horizontally. Press lightly, if you can hear your pencil as you draw you may be pressing too hard.
4. Draw horizontal lines that divide the face oval in quarters, and then another horizontal line halfway between the bottom line and the bottom of the face (about 7/8 down the face oval).
5. The hair line starts at the first 1/4, just draw the shape of the hair, don't worry about each strand of hair!
6. The center horizontal line is for the eyes, and there is enough room for a whole eye between them. Eyes are almond shapes, make sure to look closely and draw their

centers along the eye line. The colorful part of the eye, the iris, is in the middle of that almond, make sure it's slightly covered by the eyelid almond and the lines touch. Draw a smaller black circle inside, that's the pupil! Draw curved lines above the eyes, for eyebrows. Don't worry much about the eyelashes, just make the top line of the eye thicker and it'll look like lashes.

7. The bottom of the nose at the 3/4 line, draw a short line that curves upward, then two smaller curved lines on each side of it, like brackets.

8. The middle of the mouth is on the 7/8 line, near the chin. Start with the middle line of the mouth, a wavy line that goes from around where the middle of the eyes are. The mouth is sort of like an almond – look closely and make the lips as close to the size and roundness that you see.

9. The ears are shallow curves against the head, you don't see much of them. They start at the eyeline and go down to the nose line, the top sticks out a little further than the bottom. The neck starts around the edges of the eyes, but from the bottom of the face oval. Don't forget to draw your shoulders and clothes too.

More portrait ideas...

Add a background or pattern that you like!

Questions you can ask to figure out where to go after your drawing:

Where would you like to travel?

What would you wear if you were a superhero?

Emphasize your best quality.

Draw yourself as a mermaid, superhero or animal.

Make a pattern from colors and shapes do you like, add symbolic things about your life, or include your family or pets in the background?

Think about the artist examples provided below, can you decide to make your portrait look like these artists work in some way?



Image 1. Yayoi Kusama, Self Portrait (TWAY), 2010

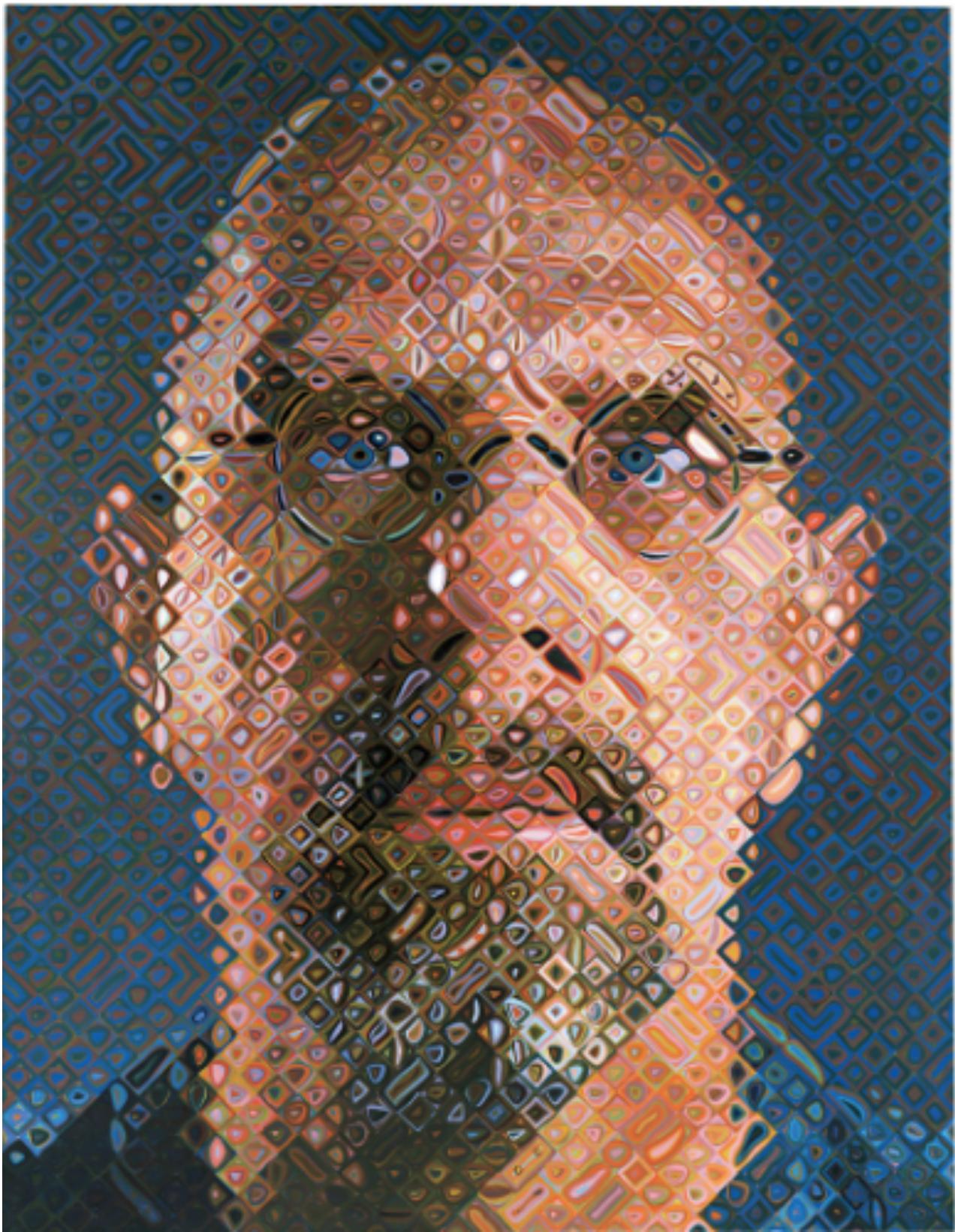


Image 2. Chuck Close, Self Portrait, 2007



Image 3. Frida Kahlo, Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird, 1940