

# Drawing: Oil Pastel Self-Portraits

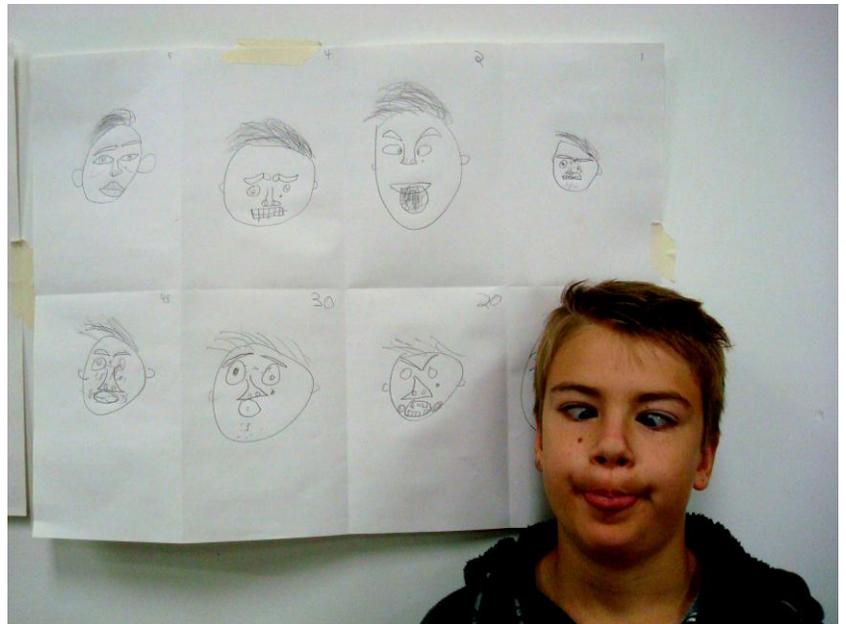
by Kim Fjordbotten

## Materials

Cartridge paper or sketchbook, 12"x18"  
Graphite pencil, 2B or 4B  
Small mirror for each student  
Timer or stopwatch  
Oil pastels 12/set, Holbein or Rose brand  
Black Tiziano or Mi-Teintes pastel paper

## Goal

The purpose of this project is to expose students to quick gesture sketching before making a more finished picture. Teachers should explain that sketching projects like this are more about training the eye to see details quickly and less about making finished works. Quick sketches have their own charm: viewers are intrigued by the loose style, with unfinished areas and only essential information recorded.

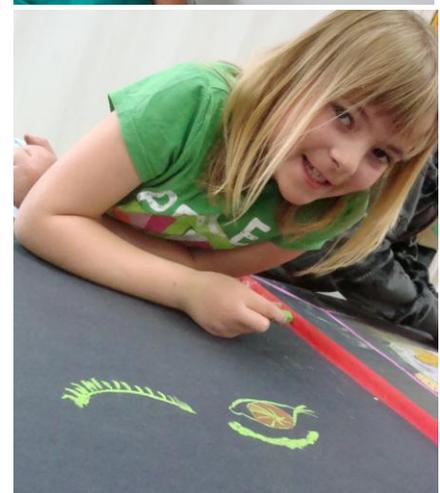


## Preparation

The project *Oil Pastel: Dog Caricatures* helps students build an image using geometric shapes.

## Procedure

1. Teachers can show images from make-up or portrait books to illustrate basic face shapes: square, oval, heart shaped and round.
2. Look at yourself in the mirror. What makes you unique? Look at your hairstyle, eyes, freckles, glasses, cheekbones, lips, nose. Look at each feature and imagine each is a simple geometric shape. We will be drawing our faces five times using graphite pencil on white paper or a sketchbook.
  - a. Ready? Go! -- 5 minute drawing
  - b. Ready? Go! -- 3 minute drawing
  - c. Ready? Go! -- 1 minute drawing
  - d. Ready? Go! -- 30 second drawing
  - e. Ready? Go! -- 10 second drawing
3. Hang the drawings. Students can discuss whether they got better at seeing and capturing details using less time and less drawing. Sometimes the simplest images are the best ones.
4. After, students can choose their favorite drawing to create a pastel portrait.



The project *Soft Pastel: Bright Lions* will allow students to experiment with bold colours.

The project *Oil Pastel: Scraffito* will encourage students to layer oil pastels.