

Blind Contour Portraits

What is a blind contour drawing?

A **contour drawing** is one where you draw the lines and outlines you see in an object. You're basically recording all the edges that you see. So your picture will consist of lines and no shading.

When you're making a **blind contour drawing**, you make a contour drawing, but you **don't look at paper at all**. Yup. You draw and only look at the object that you're drawing. You don't look at your hands at all until you're done.

View the video: [Blind Contour Portraits](#) to see an artist demonstration.

To do a blind contour portrait of yourself...

Set yourself up with a mirror, a sharpie and a piece of drawing paper taped to your desk. You can make a guard for your drawing hand if you are tempted to cheat by poking a hole in a sheet of paper and draping it over your pen. Study your image carefully in the mirror and draw what you see with out looking at your paper until all details have been drawn.

Here are some things to keep in mind while you do blind contour drawings:

- **Don't peek.** Once you start drawing, don't look at your paper at all! I know it's hard, but it's so worth it. (If you really find yourself struggling, you can put a sheet of paper over your hand while you draw.)
- **Don't think.** Just draw. That's right. Turn off your brain. Instead of saying to yourself "This is an apple, I'm drawing an apple," note the lines, angles, and curves of what's in front of you. Remember, this is an opportunity to train your eyes and hands. Don't let your brain get in the way.
- **Draw slowly.** Remember, you're noticing all the lovely detailed lines and edges. Move your eye slowly along the object and draw each detail that you see.
- **Keep your pen down.** It helps if you don't lift up your pen. This way you won't lose your place.
- **It's ok to laugh at yourself.** Your drawings will look silly. Everybody's drawings look silly. It's ok. It's all part of the process. :)

To finish: darken the lines with sharpie and paint shapes you've made with watercolor. Have fun with this! These drawings are intended to be free form, loose, interesting and very expressive!

