



HOW TO DRAW CARTOON PEOPLE - 8

Faces

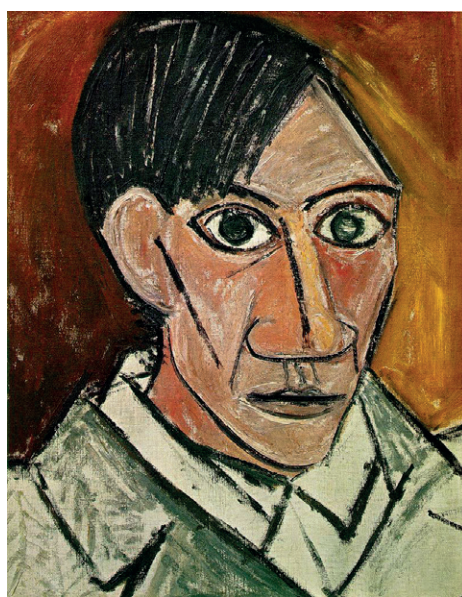
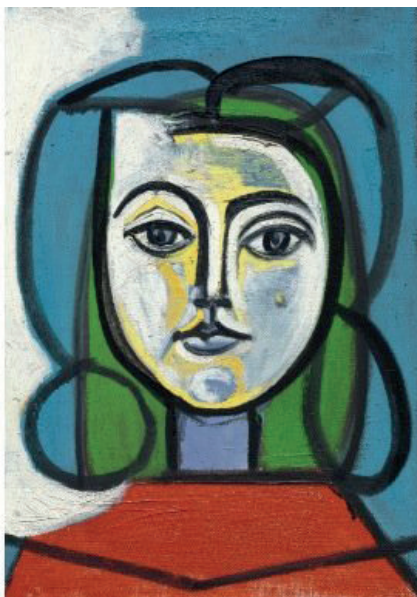
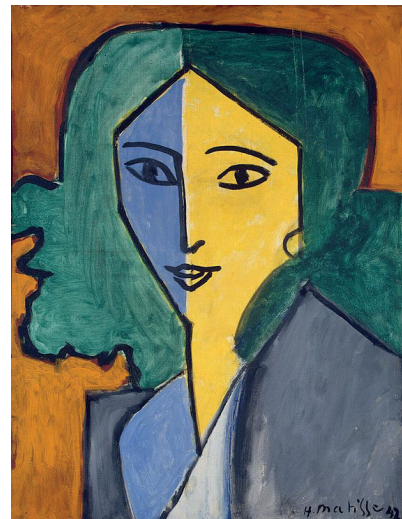
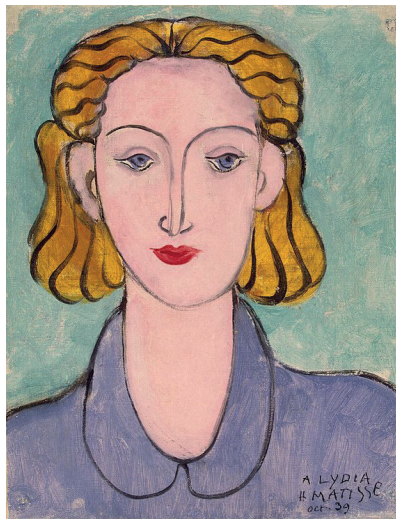
So far, in this learning to draw cartoon people series of videos, we have been drawing bodies, studying proportions, the underlying framework of the skeleton and how to make it move.

Now we come to the face, which is where most of the viewers attention is drawn and where we most easily express individuality, identity and emotion.

Let's remind ourselves again of our definition of a cartoon

A cartoon is - a simple, two dimensional drawing.

Take a look at these images by Matisse and Picasso. What better description could you give these images than - simple, two dimensional drawings?



Are these cartoons? Most people would say that they are priceless works of art by the masters - They are definitely simple and two dimensional. They are so simple because they are made by masters of their art who studied and practiced until they could express what they wanted in a few simple lines.

Let this idea free you from the technical constraints and expectations of western art tradition.

This Holbein of Henry the eighth is a classic portrait that sets standards by which we judge portraiture. Its what we think of as a “proper” portrait.

Similarly this wonderful drawing by Ingres is what we expect of great portrait drawing.



But these were all made before the camera. In those days, the large part of an artist’s job was to be a camera - to record likenesses as we use a phone to post to facebook today.

The modern artist is free to develop their own style and view of the world - to simplify or complicate according to their vision.

Ingres was a fantastic draughtsman working in his time - today he might have been drawing Manga comics.

Is there much difference between this picture of Matisse’s daughter, Marguerite and Disney’s Belle? Born now, would Matisse be a cartoonist?

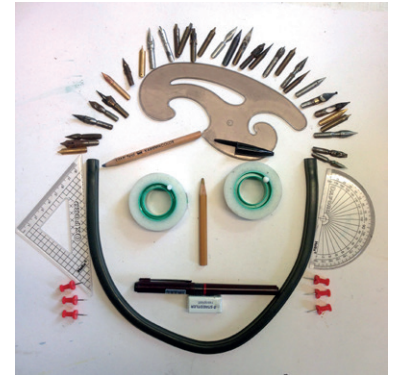


So throw away all those hangups about what your drawings should look like and start very simply, building complexity as you learn new ways of drawing noses, eyes, ears, mouths and hair in the next videos. Learn from the greats, who have done all the work for you, then put their shapes together to create your own, unique style.

The human brain sees faces in almost anything, so don't worry what people will think of your drawings!

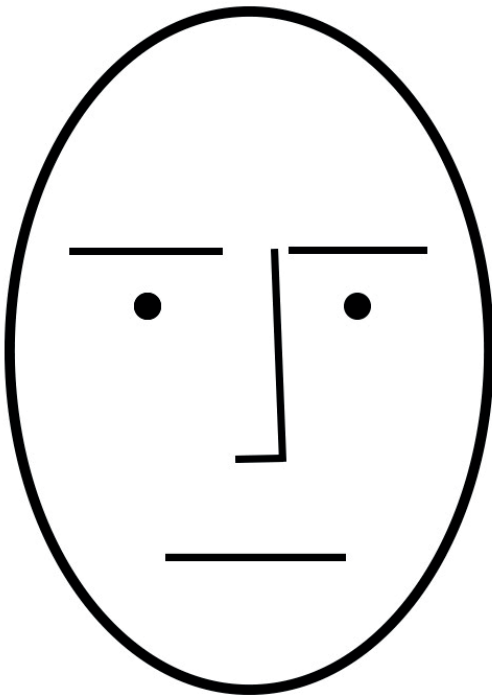
Just this week I saw a hashtag on twitter called facetionery - I quickly threw bits of stationery in my drawers together to make this face. It was one of my most retweeted posts ever!

You can make a face out of almost anything!



Generally, a head is an oval shape and all it requires are two dots for eyes and a line to make the mouth. A nose makes it more interesting and the addition of eyebrows gives us a simple way to add more emotion and expression.

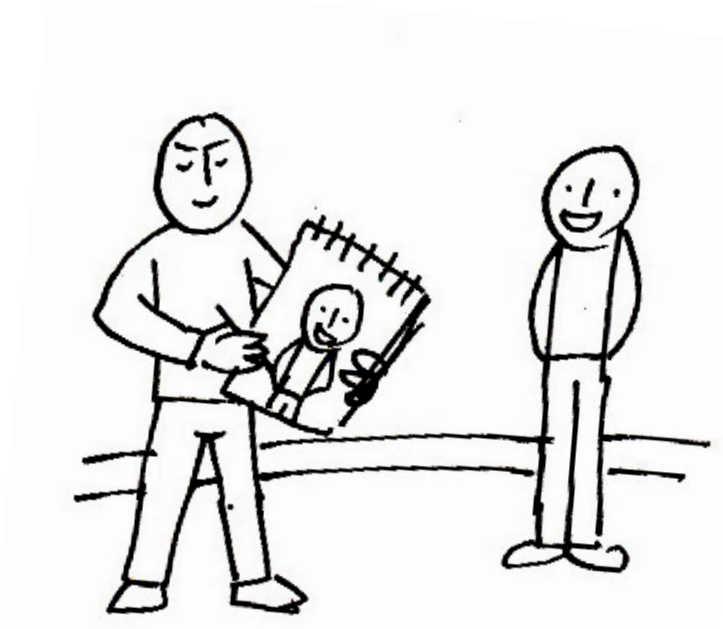
Varying the lines, by curving them gives us masses of permutations with which to express a wide variety of moods and emotions.

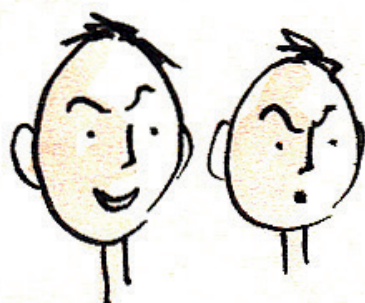
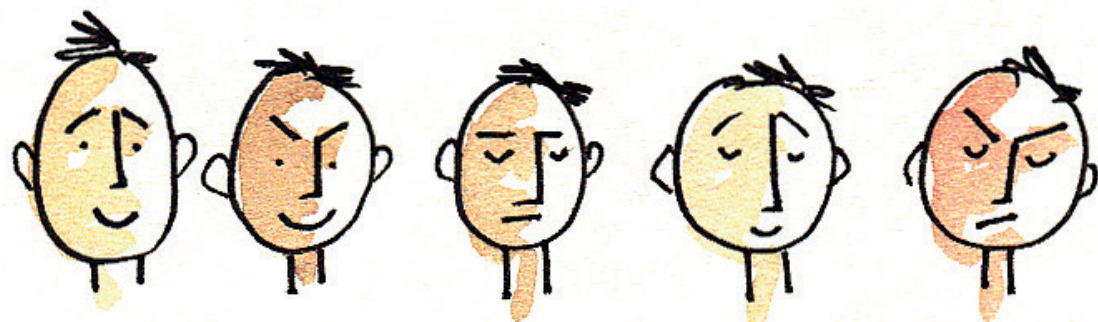


This is our basic face. Practice it again and again and again, to see how different permutations produce different expressions. Then try thinking of an expression and try to draw it until you feel confident of producing any expression required.

In the end, there is no better way of improving face drawings than to ask your friends to sit down and let you draw them. Or you could sit in a café and draw the people who come in. You can use photographs or paintings by the masters too. They copied the masters that came before them while learning and building up their skills.

In the next lesson we will look at eyes and the myriad ways of representing them as simple, two dimensional drawings.





Do not
park
here!