The Real Drawing Secrets

How To Draw A Realistic Portrait

Brought To You By Chris Sia
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Hi, Chris here.

For the past 7 years, I’ve been drawing realistic pencil portraits and teaching more than 10,000 of my students around the world online to draw as well.

People have been asking me for the steps of how I draw a realistic portrait, so I thought of sharing it here for you.

In this tutorial, I will teach you the steps of drawing the realistic portrait below:
And the reference picture is found below:

Please note that this tutorial isn't a step-by-step guide on drawing a pencil portrait, but more about how and which steps I take first when I draw a realistic pencil portrait. It will be way too long of a page for me to show exactly step-by-step how to draw a complete portrait. 😞

Once you know the steps of drawing a realistic portrait, then you need to know the steps of drawing each facial feature, which is very important for a realistic portrait... I'll talk more on that later.

Right now, I will show you the steps of drawing a realistic portrait…

**How to Draw a Realistic Portrait**

At first, I will start to draw outline the different facial features, hair, and head with a 2H pencil. I always put a blank and clean sheet of paper underneath my hand so it won’t dirty my drawing.
Once I’ve finished drawing the outline, I start to draw the eyebrow of the left eye. After finished drawing the eyebrow, I go on drawing the iris with a 5B pencil, and then I start to draw from upper eyelid to lower eyelid and the skin under the left eye with 2B pencil. After I’ve finished drawing everything, I draw the eyelashes with a 5B pencil.
After that, I go on to draw the right eye while utilizing the same steps used when drawing the left eye.
Once I've finished drawing both the eyes, I then add shading on the nose with a 2B pencil starting from top of the nose bridge to bottom of nose bridge. Then I draw left side of the nose, right side of the nose. And lastly, I draw the ball of the nose in front with the highlight on top of it. I also observe some details to be added on nose.
After that, I go on to draw the mouth and the teeth with a 2H and 2B pencil. I start by drawing the upper lips. Then I draw the teeth individually from left to right. And lastly, I draw the lower lips with some highlights on top of it.
After I’ve finished drawing the mouth, I then continue to add shading on both side of the ears with a 2B pencil. I start by drawing from the left ear, then on to the right side of the ear.
As you can see, drawing facial features realistically makes the portrait become life-like.

After I’ve finished drawing the eyes, the nose, the mouth, and the ear, I start to add shading on the face with 2H and 2B pencil. I always start to draw from the skin around the left eye. While shading half way, I also observe some details to draw next.
I focus on drawing the face area located on the left eye. Then I continue moving downwards towards the cheek and beside the mouth.
I continue drawing the jaw and skin above the mouth. Once I've finished drawing the skin around the mouth, then I draw the shaved moustache that's around the mouth.
After that, I start to draw the right side of the face, starting from the skin around the right eye. Again, I observe the details around it and slowly move downwards to the right cheek.
Usually, I save the forehead for last for face drawing. I focus on just one area then to another area starting from left to right.
And now, there’s only hair drawing left. I begin to draw from the bottom of the left sideburn by moving upwards towards the left side of the hair, then to the middle, then moving downwards to the right side of the hair and the right sideburn. I use 5B pencil for hair drawing. Sometimes I use also 8B pencil to achieve some really dark part of hair.
After that, I draw the neck and the coat to finally complete the realistic pencil portrait drawing. Lastly, I observe the reference picture again to see which area should be slightly darker and subsequently darken it.
That is how I draw a realistic pencil portrait.

Instead of looking at the whole picture to draw, focus on drawing and completing just one small area then move on to another area. Using this way, not only will it be complete and accurate, you will also speed up the whole process.

Take your time to draw a realistic pencil portrait and don’t rush it. Drawing should be a relaxing activity and not a stressful chore.

“Discover The Secrets Of How You Can Draw Realistic Portraits Like A Pro… In Just Days From Now!”

Before                                      After

Click Here Now…

Remember I mentioned that you need to know the steps of drawing each facial feature, which is very important for a realistic portrait?
In The Real Drawing Secrets Blueprint, I will show exactly, step-by-step, how to draw each facial features in details. Because of showing each steps, you will be able to follow easily.

You will not see this kind of drawing program available at anywhere else.

Hope you enjoy this lesson.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at chris@realdrawingsecrets.com

Yours Truly,

Chris Sia

Founder of RDS
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P.S. If you want to draw realistic portraits of your friends, family, or anyone that you like, make sure to check out The Real Drawing Secrets Blueprint now.