

SELF-PORTRAIT SKETCH

Inspired by the many sketchbook challenges started during this time of physical distancing; sketching yourself is a great way to practice drawing techniques. Whether using a picture or looking into a mirror, each sketch will reflect yourself in a different way. I am calling members of our figure drawing group to take up the challenge!

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MATERIALS

- Assorted conte crayon sticks - cool and warm grey tones
- White conte stick
- Stomp
- Kneaded eraser
- Heavy multi-use paper 90lbs
- Damp cloth
- Mirror



HELPFUL TIPS

Kneaded erasers by their nature are molded to shapes, and points. They clean as they are worked.

As I work I lift the conte out of the box by value and place in on the edge to remind myself which one I've just used.

There are advantages to life drawing - using a mirror allows you to see depth, and allows you to adjust your light source as you draw.

STEP 1



Preliminary shapes roughed out:

- Draw the face on the page
- What size will the face be? How much body will be sketched?

STEP 2



Placement of features:

- Size, relationship to each other, begin acknowledgement of shadow

STEP 3

Focus on shadow areas:

- Less on the details
- Still drawing (do not use of the stomp)

Working without erasing and staying loose, as long as possible, makes it easier to make changes.

I used a cool grey conte stick.



STEP 4

Going over the details a little more:

- Eyes, nose, mouth, glasses and hair
- Shadows are layers

I used a black conte stick to add details. So now, there are three values at play.



STEP 5

Stomp - softening the lines:

- Using the edge and the point of the stomp to draw and smudge
- Redrawing areas with various conte sticks to deepen shadows after a lot of smoothing.



STEP 6

Layers and reworking:

- Repeats: stomp and draw

Using the stomp and layering the conte, the drawing softens.

The use of warm toned conte adds some variety and separated the hair and the closer side of the face.



STEP 7

Kneaded Eraser:

- Using the eraser to reduce the amount of conte on the paper for highlights.
- Used to draw the glass lens and the softened areas of the hair

Oops! A drop of oil must have hit the paper at some point. It's very hard to disguise.

