

Funhouse Portrait



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The grid method of drawing steps out of line and into distortion in this exploration of graphite forms and tools.

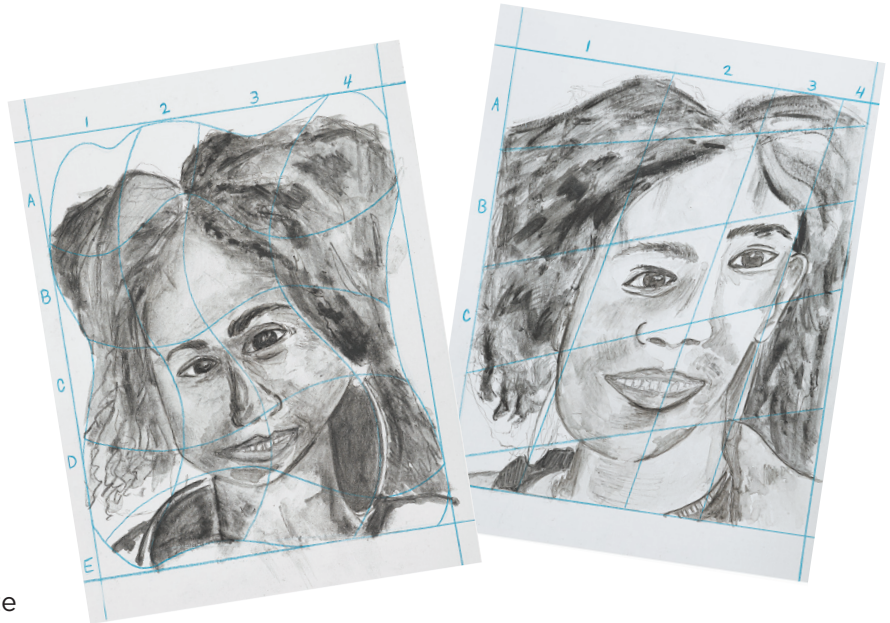
The grid method of drawing has been employed by artists in various iterations for centuries. In modern grid drawing, there are two main elements: a reference image and a drawing surface, both prepared in a 1:1 ratio grid. When drawing the image, the artist focuses on following the reference guide as closely as possible, one square at a time.

The grid system is a useful tool. But, when over-relied upon, it can limit creativity. In this exercise, the traditional grid is manipulated and played with to suit the artist's message and creativity, while still demanding the same focused practice of looking as an artist.

The funhouse aspect of the grid allows the artist to explore the water soluble graphite freely, without overthinking the result. Water soluble graphite is a relatively new addition to a draftsman's toolbox. The pencils' hardness/lightness and softness/darkness are graded in the same way a standard drawing pencil is graded. They are unique in that they allow an artist to work with both wet and dry techniques without changing tools. For this exercise, encourage students to use them with washes, so that they can familiarize themselves with the full range of abilities provided by this tool, in all of its forms. The images are already wacky in nature due to the distorted grid, leaving the artist free to make mistakes and play!

Instructor Note: A variety of graphite and water-soluble graphite pencils and sticks and erasers have been specified. For this experience, it is important to explore a variety of these options. It is at the instructor's discretion as to how many and which ones.

Note: Instructions and materials are based on a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.



Materials (required)

Blick Aluminum Non-Slip Rulers, 12" (56014-1012); need one per student
Westcott Junior T-Square, 12" (55451-1012); share one between two students
Prismacolor Col-Erase Pencils, Non-Photo Blue (20512-5540); need one per student
Blick Studio Artists' Colored Pencil, Scarlet Red (22063-3081); need one per student
Saral Wax Free Transfer Paper, Blue, 4 Sheets, 12" x

3 ft (12917-5012); share one box across class
Saral Wax Free Transfer Paper, Red, 4 Sheets, 12" x 3 ft (12917-3012); share one box across class
Pacon Art1st, Mixed Media Paper, 250 sheets, 24" x 36" (09701-1015); share one package across class
Faber-Castell Graphite Aquarelle Pencils, Set of 5 w/ Brush, HB-8B (22251-2005); share one set between four students
General's Sketch & Wash Pencil, (20419-2001); need

one per student
Lyra Water-soluble Graphite Crayons, Classroom Package of 24, 2B, 6B, 9B (20443-1019); share one set across class
Viarco ArtGraf No. 1 Kneadable Graphite Putty, (22791-2614); share two packages across class
Art Alternatives Blending Stumps, Set of 6, Assorted Sizes (83905-1069); share one set between 6 students
Blick Studio Artists' Colored Pencil, Colorless Blender (22063-0000); need one

per student
General's Factis Mechanical Eraser, (21597-2020); need one per student
Staedtler Mars Plastic Eraser, (21500-0000); share one between two students
Blick Kneaded Eraser, Large (21026-1030); share one between four students

Ready to order materials?

Go to www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/Overdramatic-Masks/ to access a product bundle for your convenience.

Process

1. Print an 8" x10" photo portrait of each student. The portrait should focus mainly on the student's face.
2. Grid the photograph either with the provided template (see the last page of this document) or by measuring and drawing your own 2" x 2" grid.
3. Label the grid for easy reference when drawing. At the top of the image, number above each square 1-4, and in the margin on the left side using letters A-E.
4. Prepare two 9" x 12" sheets Pacon Art1st Mixed Media Paper for the grid drawings. Measure and mark an 8" x 10" rectangle in the center of the page.
5. For the first funhouse grid, use a ruler to create three vertical lines, at randomly selected intervals. Create four horizontal lines in the same manner.
6. The second funhouse grid is comprised of freehand wavy lines. For this grid, make five vertical and six horizontal wavy lines, keeping the outermost lines as close to the bounding line as possible.
7. Label the grid squares on both sheets to correspond with the reference image grid.
8. Using the grid as a reference, draw the image.

- a. Focus on looking at one grid at a time. Build the image slowly.
- b. When moving to a new grid, use the surrounding filled-in grids as secondary reference points.
- c. For shaded areas, start by lightly drawing the outline of the area.

9. Observe the properties and performance of each drawing and erasing option.

- a. Use washes over drawn lines.
- b. Try dipping the end of the water soluble pencil or small piece of graphite putty in water, then make a mark.
- c. Try re-lifting and layering.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

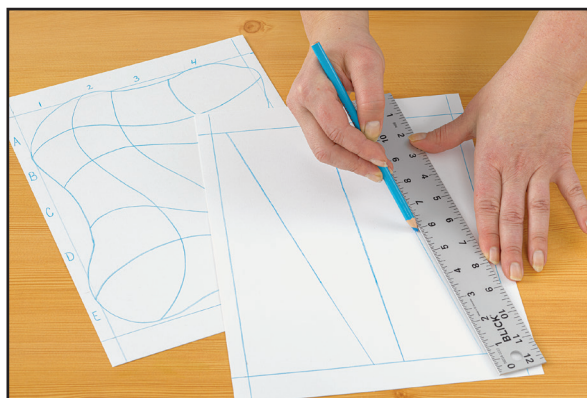
Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.



Step 1: Draw a grid directly onto an 8" x 10" portrait printout.



Step 2: Create two funhouse grids, one with wavy lines, and one with angled lines.



Step 3: Draw the portraits using the gridded photograph as a reference.

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