

Seeing Things Differently: a time-honoured method

Find a favourite drawing by a famous artist.

Print it out quite large on a piece of paper. If you don't have a printer but only have art books, find a large, clear image.

Turn it upside down, and draw the upside down image you are looking at onto your paper..

This will encourage you to think in terms of abstract shapes (rather than named parts). Concentrating in this uncomplicated, honest, abstract way often results in more accurate and interesting drawings.

Alternatively:

Find a photo of yourself. If you have the means, enlarge it and print it out the size of your intended drawing. Turn it upside down and work from it, again, thinking in terms of abstract shapes. i.e. look at the character of the shapes, curves, straight lines, angles etc. Avoid thinking 'nose', 'mouth' and so on.

Only turn it round the right way when you are done. Has this resulted in a more convincing self-portrait than you would normally do?

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