

# So you'd like to Paint a Portrait?



## The Nose

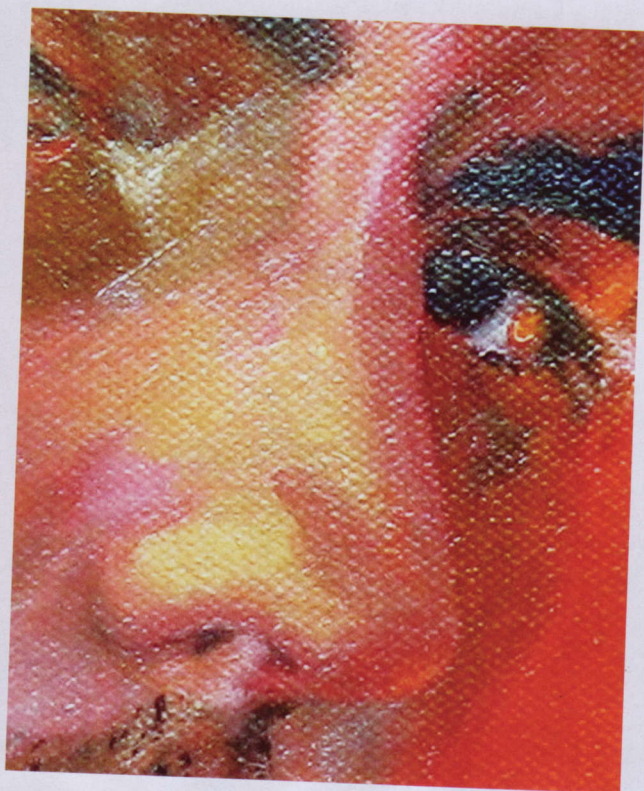
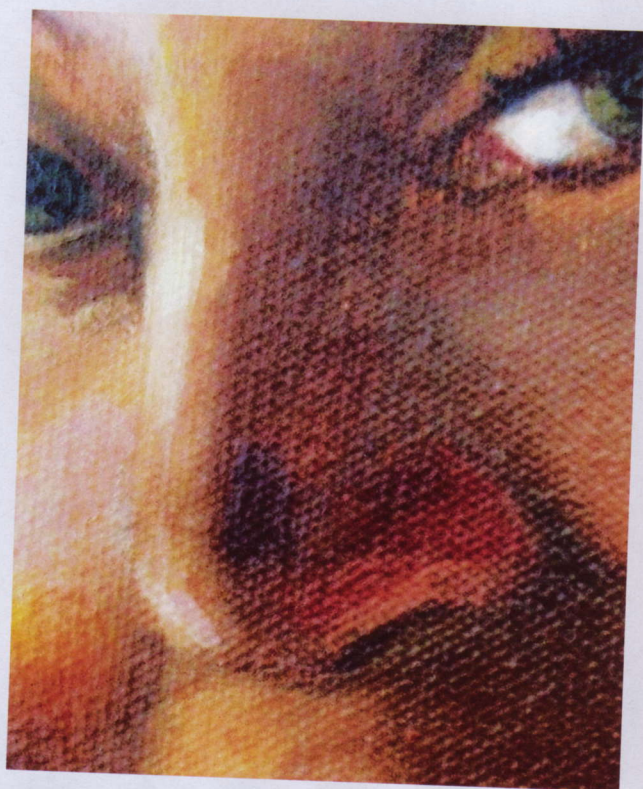
### Observing and Drawing Features and Forms



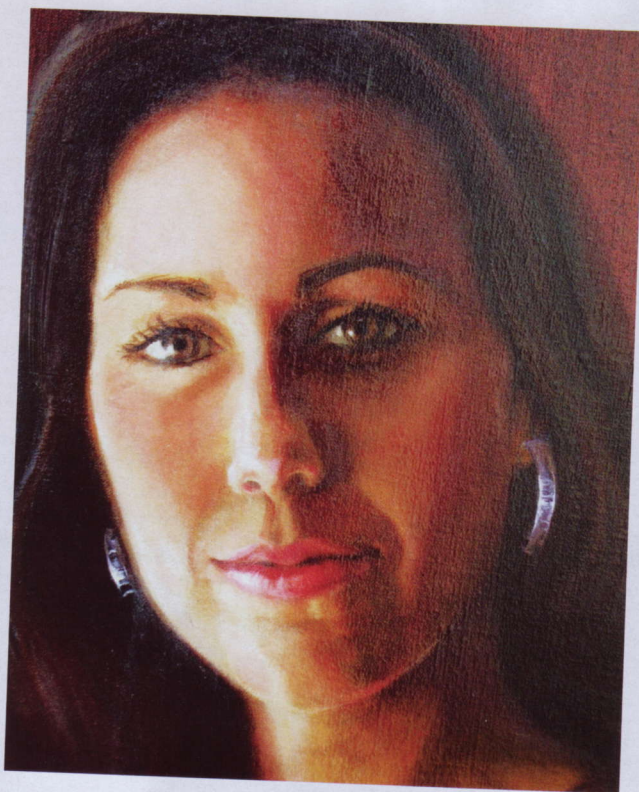
By Rosa Fedele

Noses are dramatically different on everyone;  
however, the basic structure is the same.





It's a three-dimensional object which stands out from the face and must be depicted as such because drawing a nose incorrectly on a portrait can change a person completely. Remember in Part I of this series where I tilted the nose of the 18-year-old youth and made him look much younger?



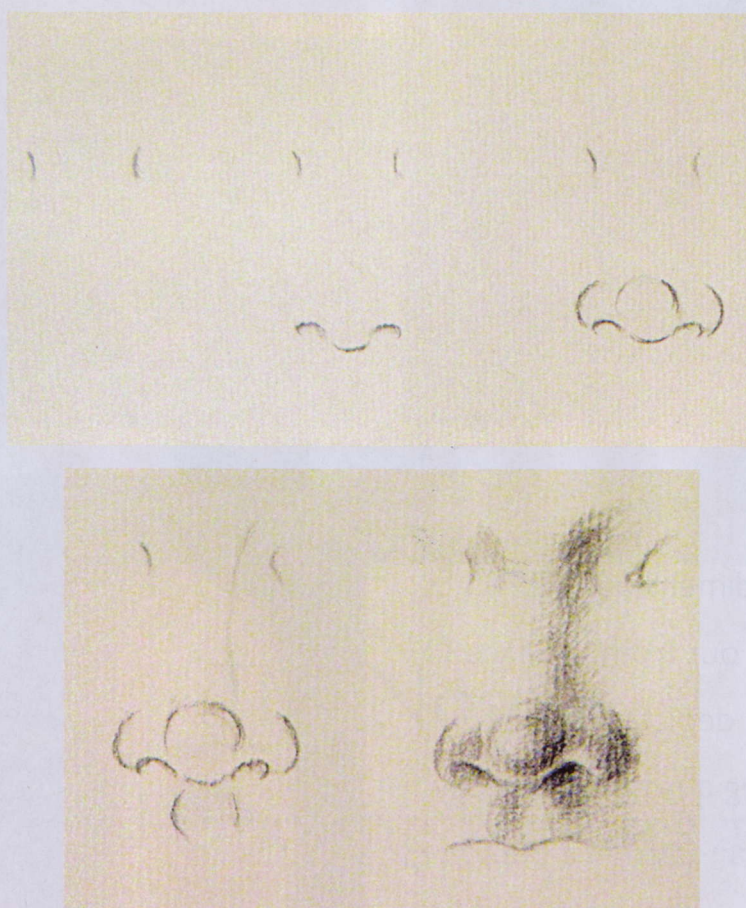


## FRONTAL VIEW OF THE NOSE

- Step 1 – Gently mark the curved indents beside the nose.  
Step 2 – Draw the nostrils. Remember to use the plumb line to measure the distances!  
Step 3 – The tip of the nose is a 'ball' with small 'half-balls' on either side.  
Step 4 – Slightly shadow or indent above the ball of the nose and add the philtrum below the nose. Place soft marks defining the sides of the nose.  
Step 5 – The nose has definite planes, which catch the light and form cast shadows away from it.

Depict light and shadow using hatches, remembering your previous exercises when drawing the 'orb'.

When we start to work with colour, you'll notice that the 'ball' of the nose is a warm pink or orange tone – more so than the skin around it. The nose is defined by tones, rather than lines. Finally, find the highlight on the nose and complete the 'orb', then find the lesser highlight on the bridge of the nose – this is usually just between the eyes.



## PROFILE

It's easier to obtain a likeness with profile drawings, especially of people who have distinctive, defined noses.

Always check the depth of the eyes from the bridge of the nose.

Use the plumb line to gauge the relationships between:

- the forehead, the bridge of the nose and the nose 'wings'
- the distance from the ear to the nose
- the upper lip in relation to the brow and the bridge of the nose

## CHILDREN'S NOSES

Children, especially, have the most beautiful little noses and it's one of my favourite parts to sketch. A youngster's nose doesn't project as far as an adult's and really should be underplayed. Usually, the philtrum on a child is very short.

Never use heavy lines when drawing children's noses – soft, feathery brushstrokes will do it.

Happy sketching!

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