

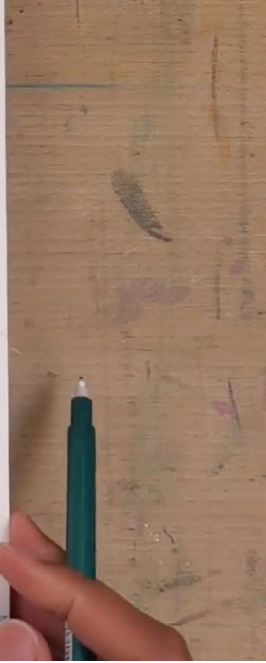


Strathmore ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

SKETCHING: THE FOUNDATIONAL ARTISTIC SKILL

with Jordan Rhodes

LESSON 3: TIMED PORTRAIT SKETCHES – LOOSEN UP!



SUPPLIES:



Strathmore 400 Series Recycled Sketch Pad 11x14, 60lb / 89gsm

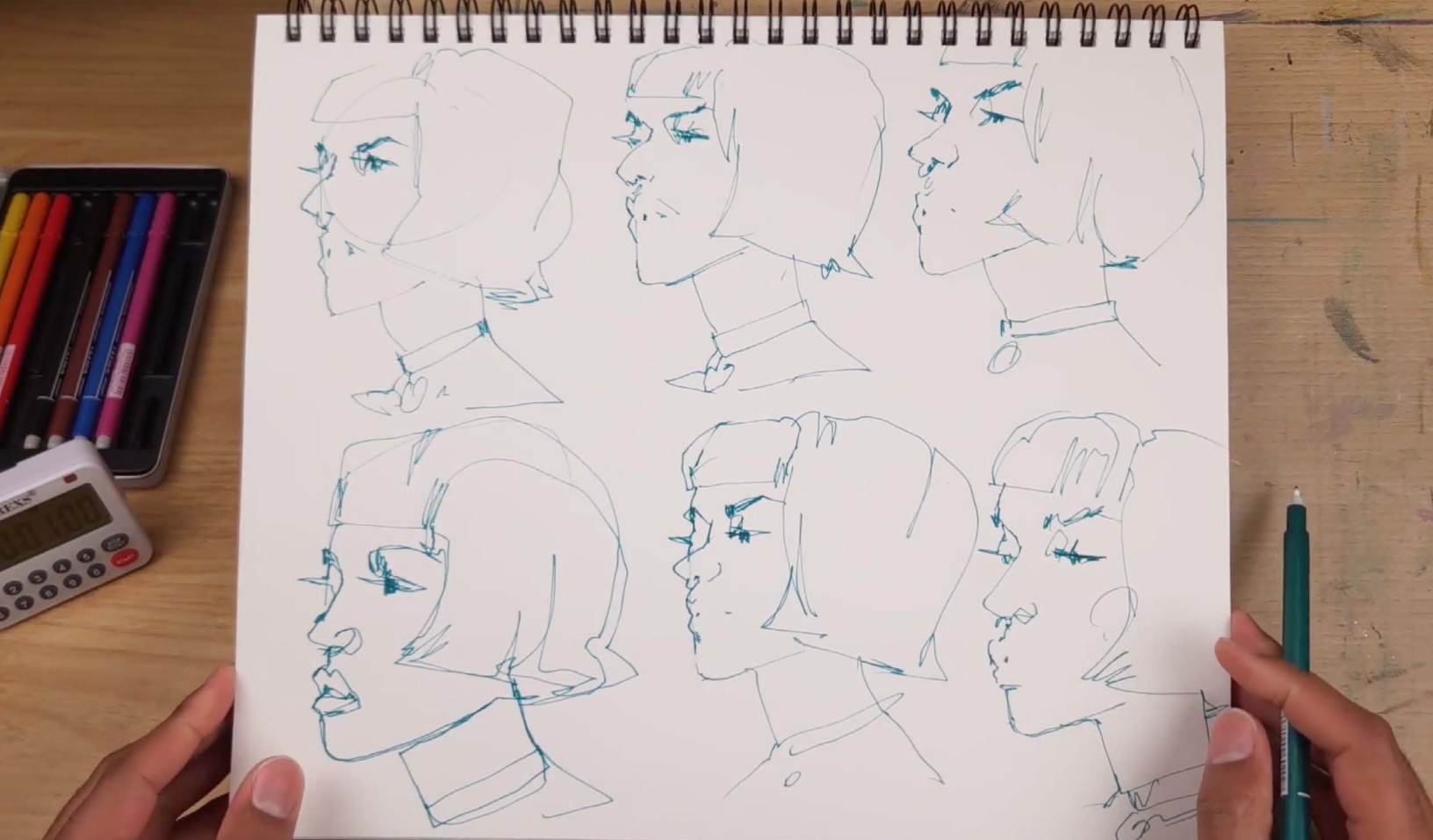
Lyra



Lyra Graduate Fineliners



Lyra Aquabrush Duo, Viridian

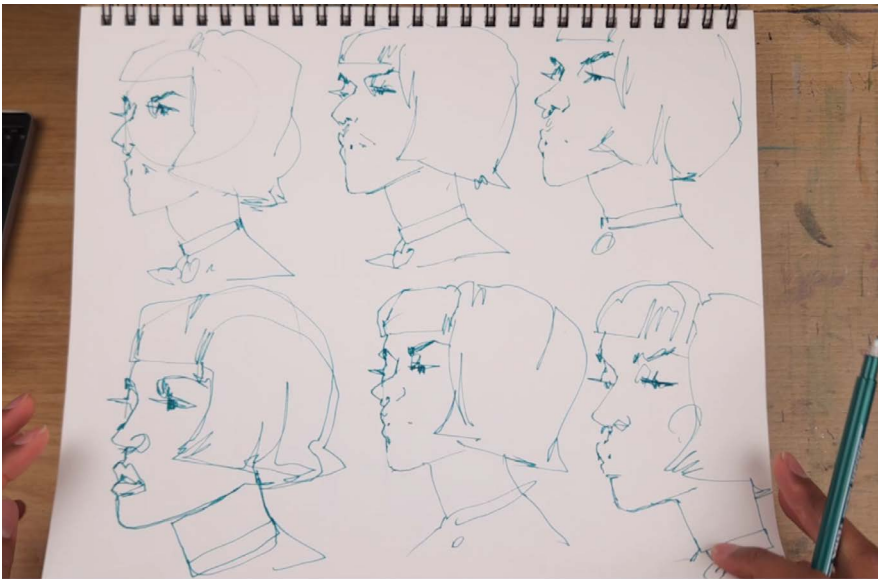


Notes from Jordan

Loosening up can be difficult for artists especially when using a reference. One way that can help is by using timed studies in pen. With timed studies, the short deadline forces you to be decisive and let your arm go. Don't expect amazing results, but every now and then flashes of your natural tendencies will reveal themselves, which you can use as inspiration to further develop your own style.

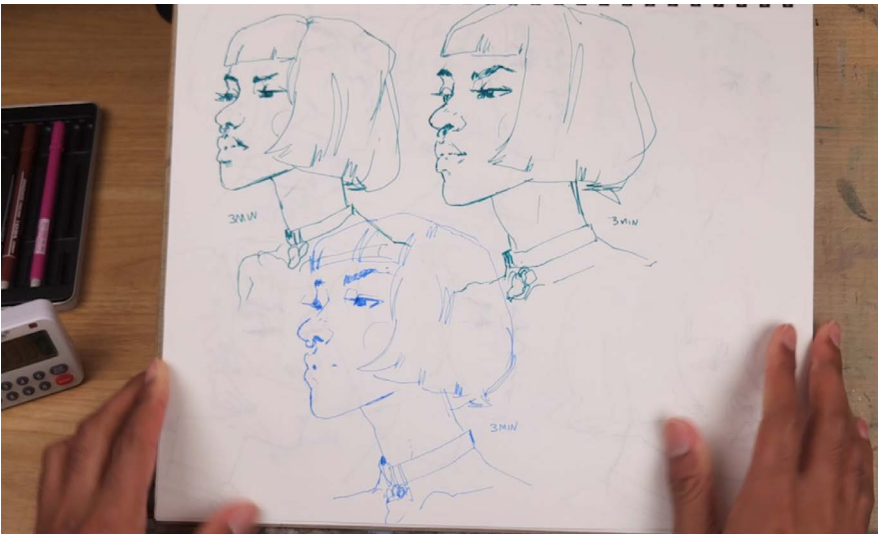
Reference Image: [Cottonbro Studios on Pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com/photo/woman-with-red-hair-1000000000/)





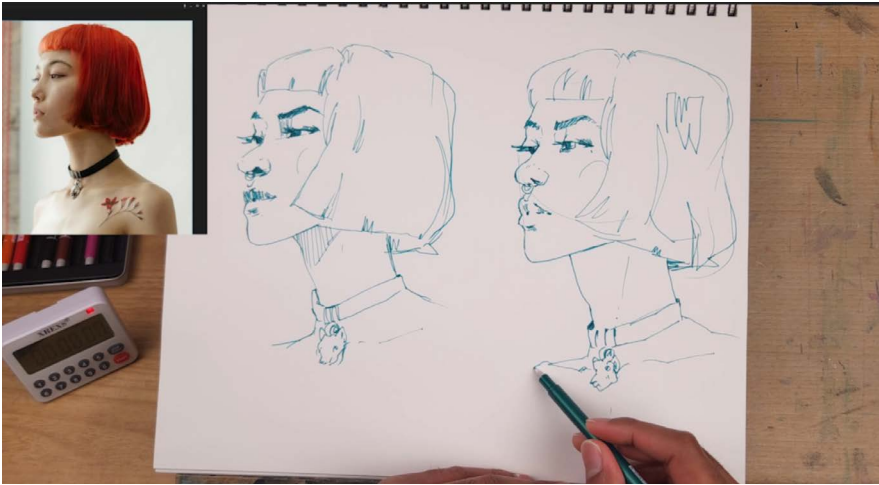
ONE MINUTE SKETCHES

One Minute sketches. One minute is not a lot of time at all. At this time interval just try your best to get something on the page that has the general shapes of the portrait. Try to have confident strokes instead of scratchy lines. Also try different ways of drawing like not lifting the pen of the page for the whole drawing or blind contour.



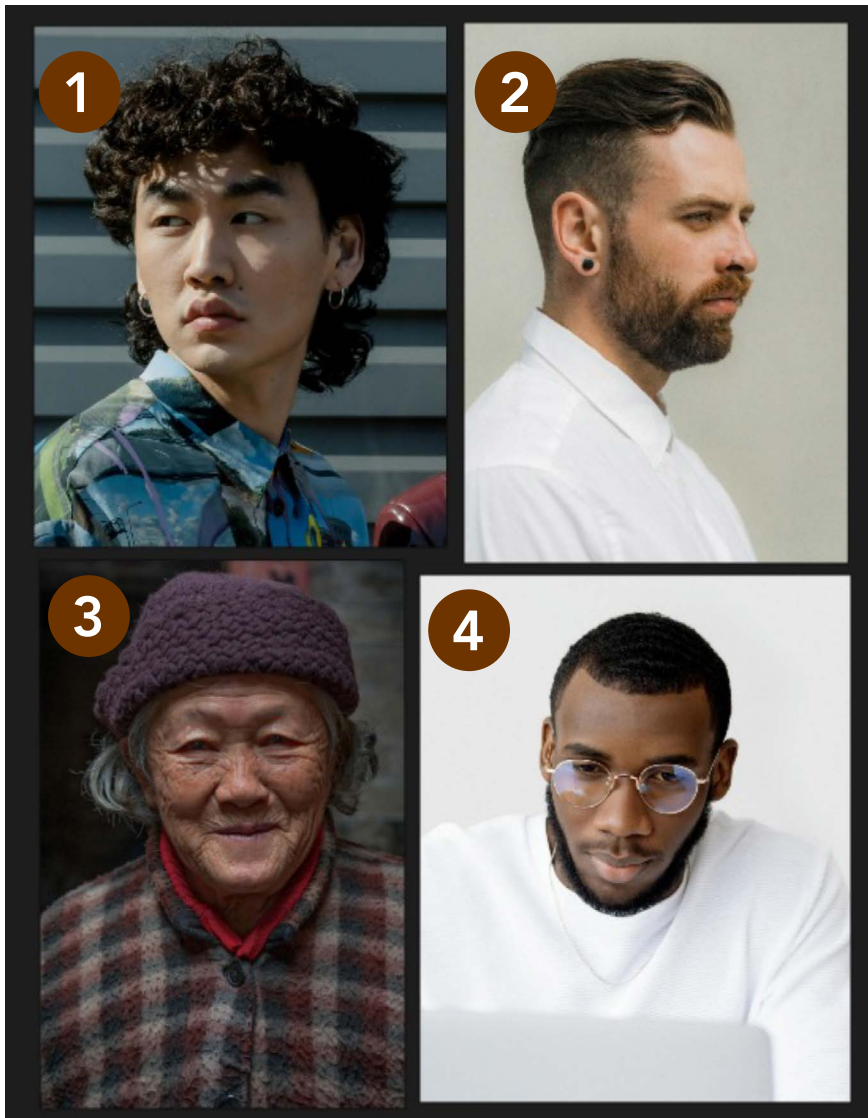
THREE MINUTE SKETCHES

After doing one minute sketches, you will find that three minutes feels like a lot longer in comparison. And since you are drawing repeatedly from the same reference, the lines should start to flow out of you more easily and naturally. You still don't have a lot of time for detail but what you are able to include can be done more intentionally and less rushed.



FIVE MINUTE SKETCHES

Five-minute sketches are a nice sweet spot where it is still fast enough that you have to be decisive, but long enough that you can really take your time and get clean lines. Still focus on simple shapes rather than trying to copy the reference exactly how you see it. Some of the accidental stylization discoveries made in the shorter timed poses can be intentionally included and refined with the greater time limit. Do lots of shorter timed poses in your practice to really improve your line confidence, especially if it is in a non erasable medium like ink.



For more practice, here are other references of different ages, ethnicities, genders, etc.

[Reference 1](#)

[Reference 2](#)

[Reference 3](#)

[Reference 4](#)