

ART ASSIGNMENT #20B

Facial Features:

Ears

Vincent Van Gogh, *Portrait de l' artiste, 1889*

AN OFTEN OVERLOOKED FEATURE

- **Even though ears are often thought of as a secondary feature that isn't as important as eyes, noses and lips, not knowing how to draw them can really take away from your portrait pieces.**

- **Just like with the other features we've covered, it's important to know basic anatomical aspects because this will help you know what to look for in references, and what to make sure to bring in for believable ears.**

- **Even though ears come in lots of different sizes and shapes, they are always in the same location within the head, tend to stay within a certain range of sizes, and always have 7 parts that I'll be sharing with you today.**



Girl with a Pearl Earring, Johannes Vermeer, c.1665

LOCATION OF EARS WITHIN THE HEAD

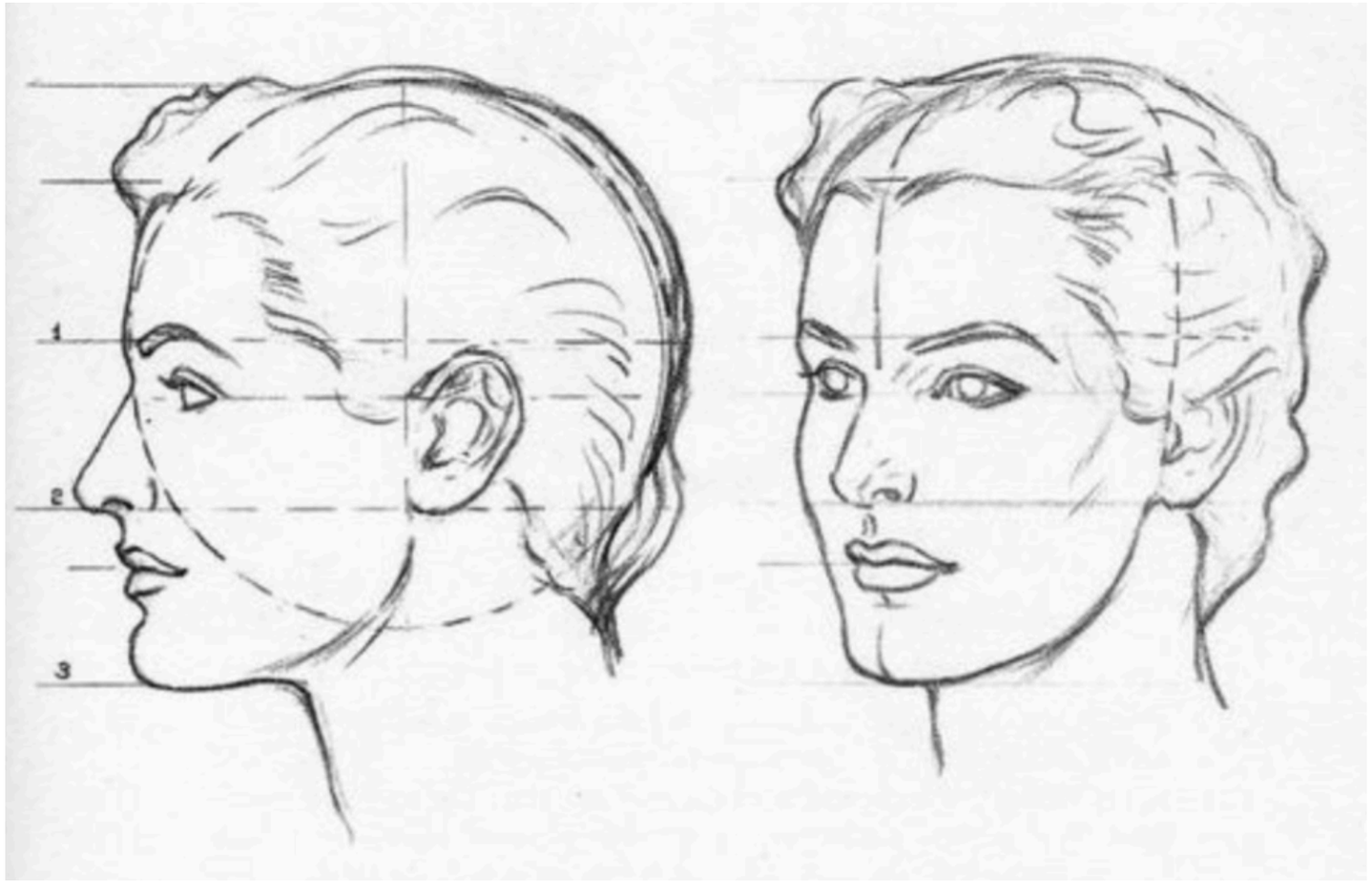
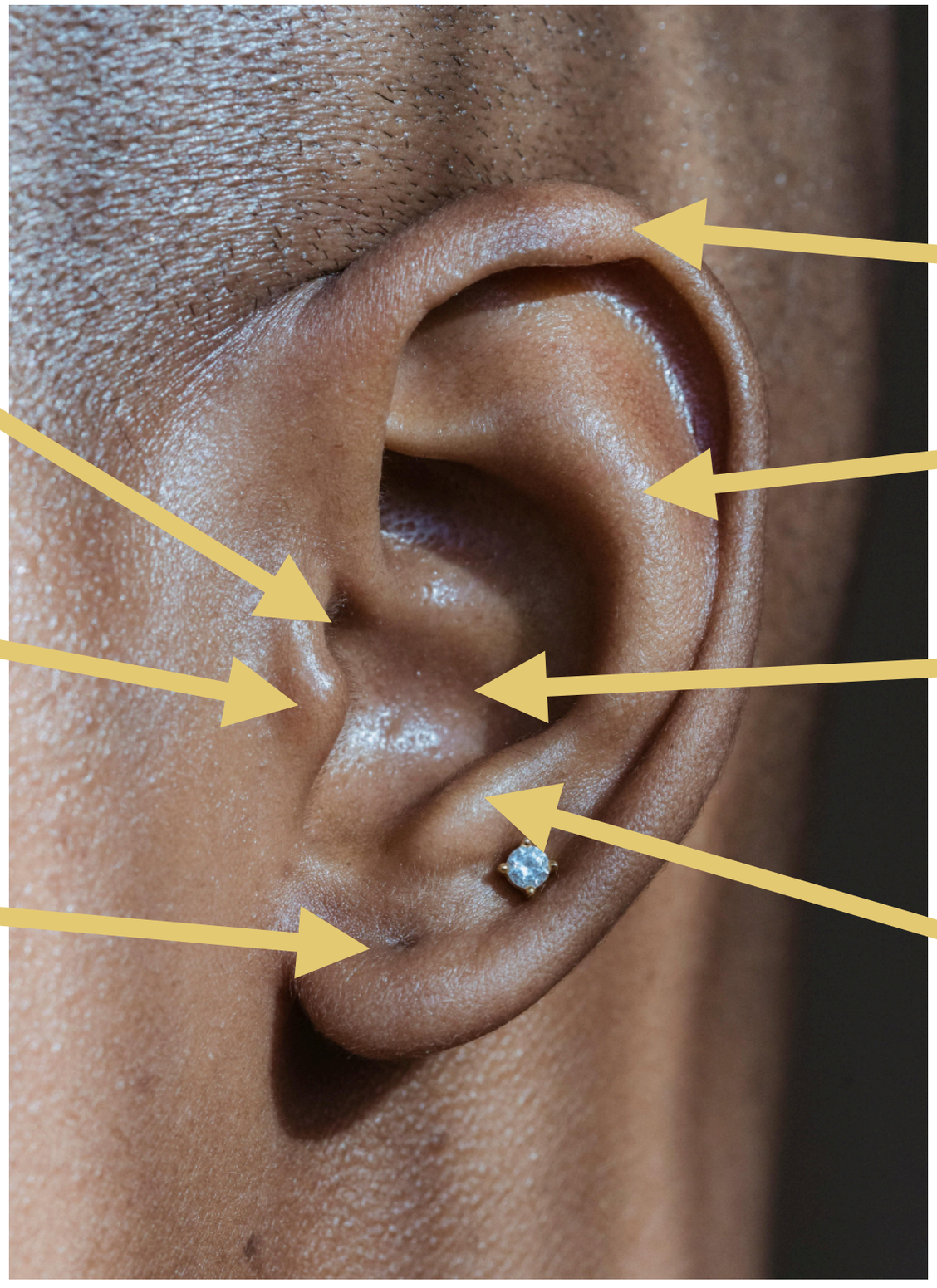


Diagram from
Drawing the Head and Hands
by Andrew Loomis.

When adding ears to portraits, it's smart to start with a basic "block in" in the correct location within the head, and in relation to other features.

Remember that ears are always in the back half of the head and that they fall in between the eyebrow line and the nose line, when viewing the head at profile view.

EAR ANATOMY


Helix
Ear Canal
Antihelix
Tragus
Concha
Lobule
/Lobe
Antitragus

EAR ANATOMY



A little cheat code to help you remember the *Helix* and the *Antihelix*.

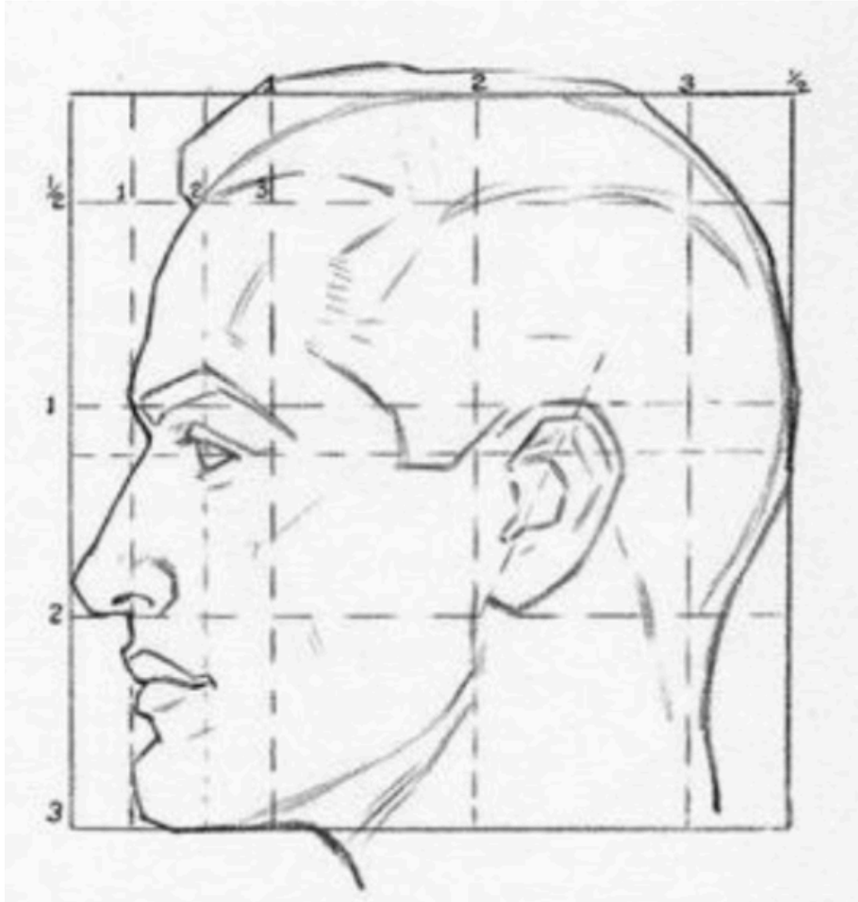
MIND THE TILT

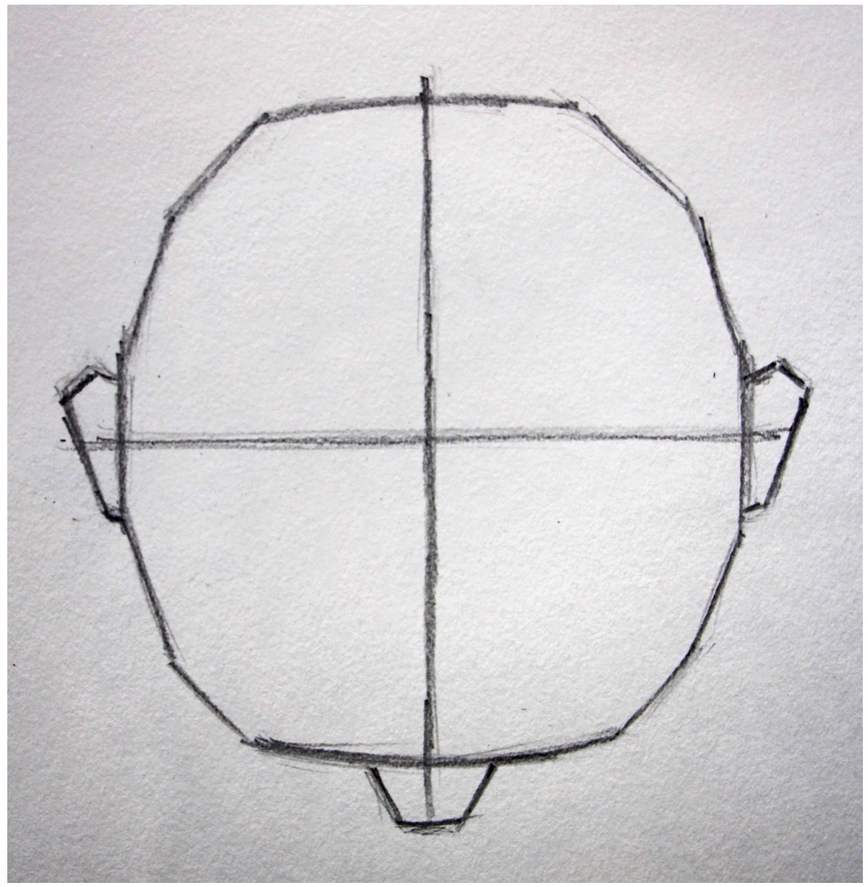
Two things to have in mind:

- **Ears are usually at least a bit tilted and not straight up and down.**

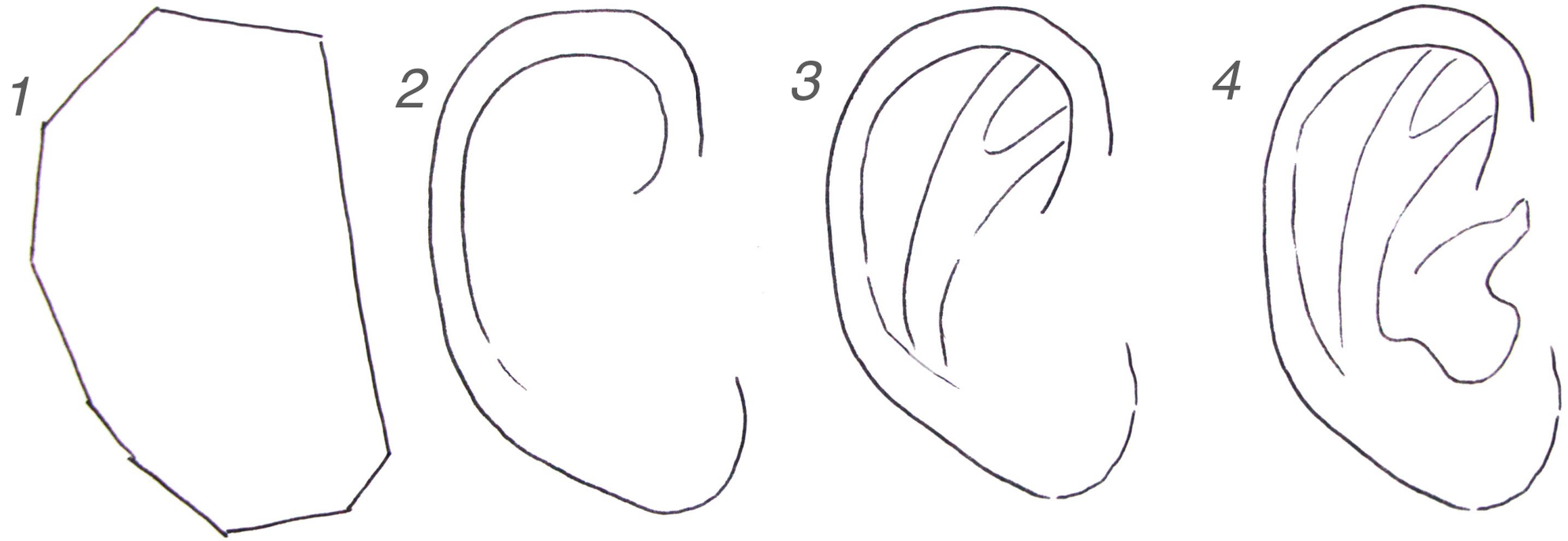
  Notice the diagonal in the diagram on the right.

- **They are also closer to the head at the front and they go outward/ separate from the head as they recede.**





EAR DRAWING PROCESS



1. Create a quick block in to decipher tilts, major angle changes and general proportions.

2. Draw the *Helix* and the *Lobe* (‘?’ shape). They can be drawn with a single stroke because the *Helix* turns into the *Lobe*.

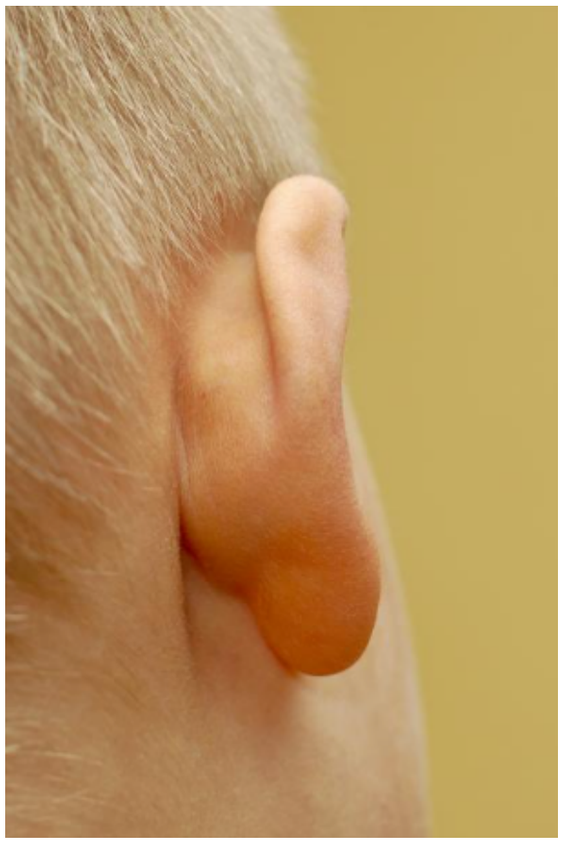
3. Draw the *Antihelix* (‘Y’ shape) inside the *Helix*.

4. Draw the *Tragus* and the *Antitragus*. *Continuations of lines you’ve already created.

Use reference photos!

LET'S DRAW SOME EARS!

- **It's important to practice drawing ears from different angles/ perspectives so that we're able to add them to portraits that show different head orientations.**









CREATIVE ASSIGNMENT #20B:

- **Follow the 4-step drawing process to create at least 3 studies of ears, seen at different angles. *I'd recommend starting with the front view, profile view, and from behind.**
- **First focus on creating an effective "outline" sketch that shows believable shapes and proportions. Then, move on to quick shading.**
- **Feel free to use my photos or the extra photos I'll be making available in the compressed folder below. You can also take your own or look for photos online.**