



# PRELIMINARY PENCIL SKETCH

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How to Achieve  
Effective Proportions  
Via Freehand Sketching



# INTRODUCTION

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Drawing is the basis for *all* kinds of art and there's *nothing* like having the ability to build up a new artwork *completely* from scratch, without the need for tracing paper or laying down intricate grids.

Though freehand sketching can be intimidating for the beginner, the sooner we're able to start with this practice, the faster progress we'll achieve.

In this class, I'll be sharing the method that I personally used when I was first getting started with developing my freehand drawing skills.

By practicing with this method, I was able to build up my observational skills, my hand-eye coordination and my confidence.

Today, I'm at a point at which I'm able to draw pretty much *any* subject completely freehand.

# IS LEARNING TO DRAW REALLY NECESSARY?

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- Short answer? *No*. There really are no “rules” in art and you don’t *have* to do anything you don’t want to do. Different artists have different goals and creative processes. None of these processes are *right* or *wrong*, or better or worse.
- **It all depends on *your* personal artistic goals.**
- **This said, I believe that if an artist is *really* serious about building up solid bases, improving his/her skills and getting to a point at which he/she is easily able to create an original artwork from scratch, then drawing/sketching are essential.**
- Make no mistake, the quality of your paintings improves *tremendously* when you get better at drawing, no matter what art style you’re going for. Many famous abstract artists throughout history started by studying realism and learning how to draw or sketch.
- What’s more, taking up a drawing habit will enable you to *stay consistent* with your art and to continue making heaps of progress, even when you’re short on time.

# FREEHAND VS. TRACING AND GRIDS

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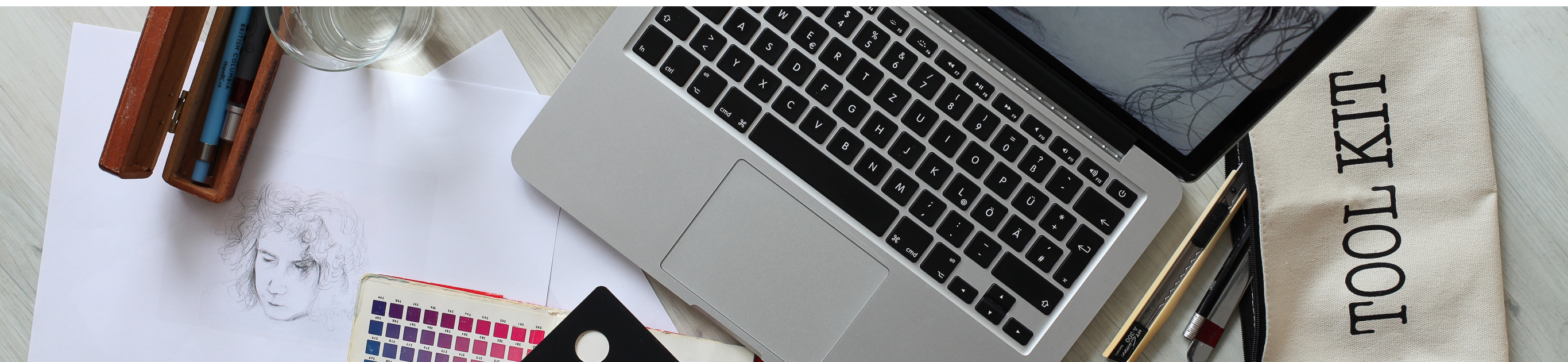
- Though tracing and using grids are oftentimes great methods to start building up our confidence with drawing and art in general, continuing to use them over long periods of time will leave beginners stagnant.
- There's this common misconception amongst many beginners and even often shared by art teachers, that tracing and grids are great because even the old masters used transferring methods and grids to create their artwork.
- What's important to understand, is that these old masters *already knew* how to draw and were using these methods to accelerate the art-making process for very complex commissions they were asked to create.
- Tracing and grids aren't going to allow you to develop your hand-eye coordination or your observational skills the way freehand drawing or sketching does.
- Grids break up an image into so many small parts and we're focusing on copying only *a part* of a complete line or *a part* of a complete shape. This doesn't allow us to develop our ability to recreate proportions effectively, or even understand the actual structure of what we're drawing.



# DRAWING FROM PHOTOS VS. DIRECT OBSERVATION

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- When we draw (or paint) from a photo, we're replicating an image that is already two-dimensional and flat, even though we *do* perceive different values and overall realism in the image we're seeing.
- When we draw (or paint) from direct observation, there's absolutely *no chance* to cheat. *Everything* comes into play: our drawing skills, our eye for composition, perspective, knowledge of light behavior, etc. We're turning a three-dimensional subject or object that we can actually reach out and touch, and translating it into a two-dimensional drawing.
- These are two *very* different art-making processes and I always recommend practicing both to get the fastest growth.



# **4-QUADRANT DRAWING TUTORIAL**



## FOR THIS TUTORIAL YOU'LL NEED:

- **Printed image with the 4-Quadrant overlay** *\*See downloadables included with this class\**
- **Regular sheet of letter-size printing paper or sheet of drawing paper trimmed to letter-size format**
- **Drawing pencil** *\*I'd recommend an HB pencil grade but any will do as long as you're making sure to draw as lightly as possible\**
- **Soft graphite eraser**
- **Ruler**

**CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THIS CLASS!**

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