



DERWENT

DRAWN TO PERFECTION

IDEAS TO STAY CREATIVE

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Artist Jake Spicer takes you through a step-by-step guide on drawing a portrait that can be done in 20 minutes. Maybe draw a portrait of someone you love and send it to them to show you are thinking of them during this strange time.



DRAWING PORTRAITS:

A drawing is one of the most personal gifts you could give someone – whether it is a portrait of your mum, one of yourself or a drawing of brothers and sisters, it will always be meaningful.

It does, however, sometimes feel like a little too much pressure to make a perfect drawing that feels gift-worthy, so rather than just giving a drawing as a present, think about making a drawing with a loved one.

Whether you and your partner are confident artists or not, sitting down and making sketches of one another means you're not just giving a gift, you're sharing an experience.

Laughing together at the silly scribbles of a blind contour drawing and taking it in turns to sit for sketches of one another gives you time to look at your drawing partner through fresh eyes and make something together that will be more than just a picture.

It becomes a tangible memory shared between the two of you and whatever the outcome of that time drawing, the sketch will bring that time spent together to mind every time you look at it.

Blind contour drawing – warm up!

Worried you can't draw? Drawing isn't just about making a pretty picture – it is about taking the time to look. A blind contour drawing is a drawing made in a single continuous line without looking back at the paper.

Take a pencil – put the tip of your pencil on that page and with your eye on your subject, make a drawing in a single, continuous line without looking back at the paper. The drawing will come out looking ridiculous – but it allows you time to look and works as a great warm up to a more conventional study.

A step-by-step portrait



STEP 1

Here's a practical process for a 20 minute drawing in pencil or charcoal pencil. Start simple with big shapes for the mass of the head and jaw.



STEP 2

Lightly and roughly sketch in the position of the features, keep your eyes flicking back and forth as you draw.



STEP 3

Lightly rub out your first layers, so that you can just see the impression left behind on the page. Start with the eyebrows, and then draw your way through the features – eyes, nose, mouth and chin.



STEP 4

Draw in the overall shape of the hair and add a little tone.



STEP 5

Draw in personal details – hair, earrings and clothing for a finishing touch.

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