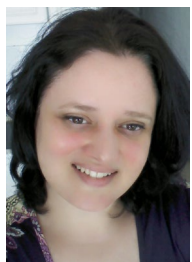




the value of
values

Let's Face It – Main Lesson by Juna Biagioni

Hello and welcome!



Hello, my name is Juna Biagioni, I'm a mixed media artist & online art teacher from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and I'm excited to be a guest teacher here in Let's Face It!

In this main lesson we'll be creating a **profile portrait** using basic supplies such as acrylic paint, a charcoal pencil and a white conté crayon.

Besides creating a profile portrait we'll also focus on the use of **value**, of light and dark tones in the face.

I believe that working with values is one of the most fundamental and important tools you can have to create an interesting portrait. With values you can create depth and three-dimensional volume. When your values are OK, then you can play

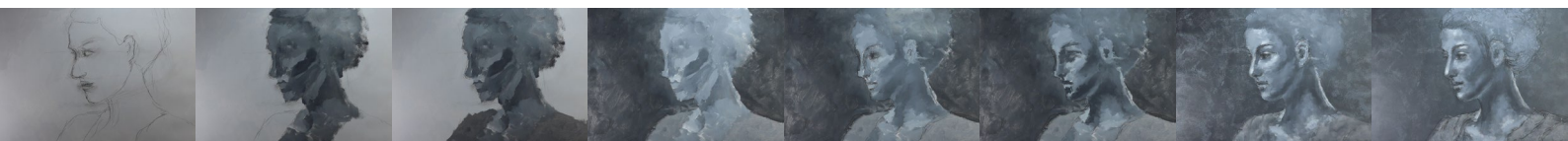
with line and color and your portrait will always look OK.

In this PDF you will find supporting materials for the lesson, such as a supply list, the measurements for sketching out the head, the reference photo that I used, and some pictures of my portrait. I am also including a template, based on the reference photo, for those of you that don't feel comfortable yet to sketch out a profile head yourself. You can print it out and use it as a base for your portrait. On the last page you can find info on where to find me and how to contact me.

If you have any questions just tag me in the Facebook group, or send me a private message or email.

Have fun with this lesson and I can't wait to see your portrait!

Juna



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List of Supplies

Below you can find the supplies that I have used for this lesson. Keep in mind though that you don't need to use the exact supplies or brands that I used. Be creative and work with what you have!

- **Surface:** you can use any type of surface that is suitable for acrylic paint, such as watercolor paper, acrylic paper, canvas paper, or even a stretched canvas or wood panel.
I am using *Fabriano Rosaspina* paper (220 gsm), size 46 x 34 cm (approx. 18 x 13.4 inch). This paper is actually printmaking paper and not especially made for acrylics, but is great for drawing with pencils and crayons. I like it because it contains 60% cotton fibers and is very soft and smooth, and so I do use it for my paintings as well. It does buckle up when it becomes really wet, but I tape it to my easel and usually it flattens back out again when it is dry.
- **Gesso:** white and black. If you don't have black gesso, you can also add a little black paint to your white gesso, or just use white gesso and then paint over it with your acrylic paint in the next step.
- **Acrylic paint:** black and white, and optionally grey.
I am using *DecoArt Americana* in the colors *Lamp (Ebony) Black*, *Snow (Titanium) White*, and *Neutral Grey*.
- **Charcoal pencil:** for the dark details.
I am using a dark charcoal pencil by *Derwent*.
- **White Conté crayon** or a white hard pastel, for the light details. You can also use a white pastel pencil or white charcoal pencil.
- **Rubber stamps** or rubber texture mats/sheets. You can also use other items to stamp with, such as bubblewrap.
- **Brushes:** one large brush and one smaller brush. I use angled brushes from *Catalyst by Princeton*, sizes 12 and 6. These brushes are really sturdy and can withstand a lot of 'abuse' as you can see in the videos. ;-)
- **Palette:** to mix your gesso and later to use for your paint.
- **Palette knife** or another tool to mix your gesso.
- **Water bucket**
- **Paper towel**
- **Spray bottle** with water
- **Baby wipes**



Sketching – Measurements

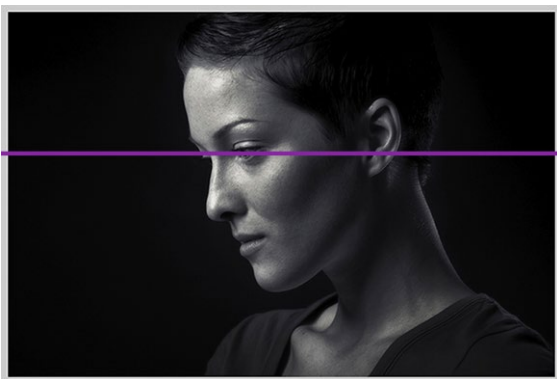
There are many systems for determining the proportions and measurements of the head. Below you can find the measurements or ‘anchor points’ that I used in the lesson to sketch the profile.

Normally I sketch faster than I did in the video, because I don’t always measure out everything. I often eyeball things and then check to see if the measurements are more or less correct. I do it also in later stages, when I am painting and drawing.

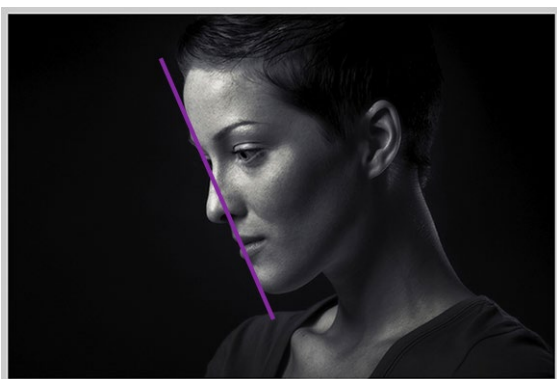
Important to remember is that these measurements or anchor points are just a guideline. You may want to use other anchor points that work for you. They also don’t have to be perfect and they don’t have to resemble the reference photo. Just as long as the portrait looks good or balanced to you!

First I want to make sure that I have the right composition, so that the head is placed correctly on the paper (not too far to the left or right, or too high or low on the paper). Then I continue to map out the head itself.

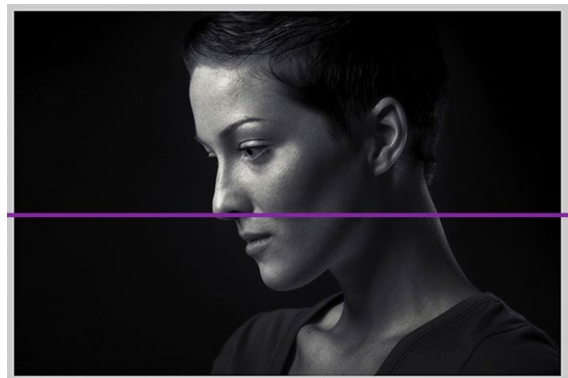
1. I start by determining at which height on the paper I want to draw the eye.



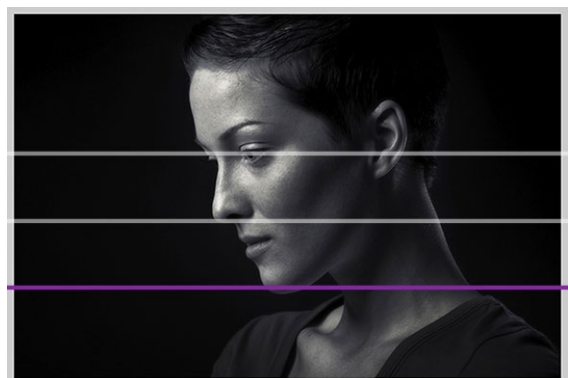
2. Then I draw a line to determine the angle at which the head is tilted.



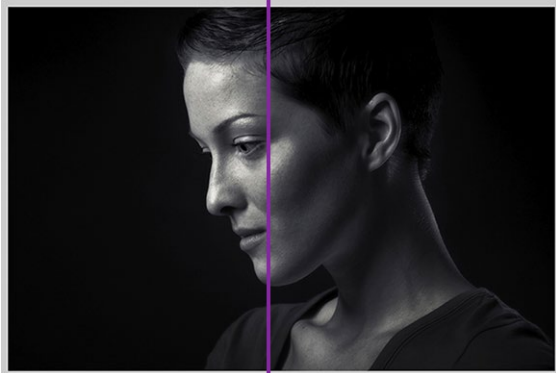
3. Next I determine at which height on the paper the nose is.



4. To determine where the chin is, I measure the distance between the eye and nose and then take the same distance from the nose down to find the line for the chin.



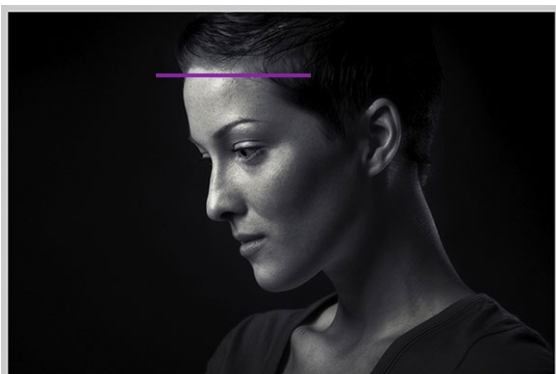
5. I also check how far to the left or right on the paper the chin will be (almost in the middle of the page).



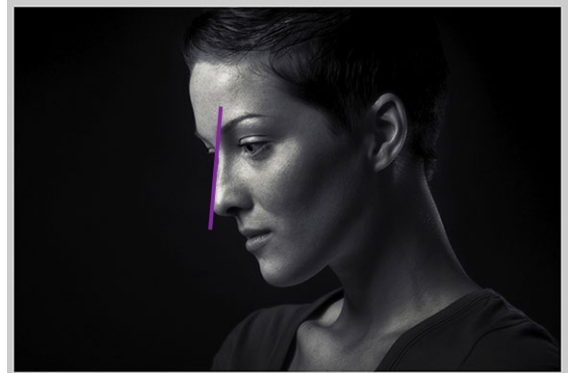
6. To find the top of the head, I take the distance of the eye to the chin and then I go the same distance upward (the eyes are always in the middle of the head). On the reference photo the top of the head is not visible, it is just outside of the paper.



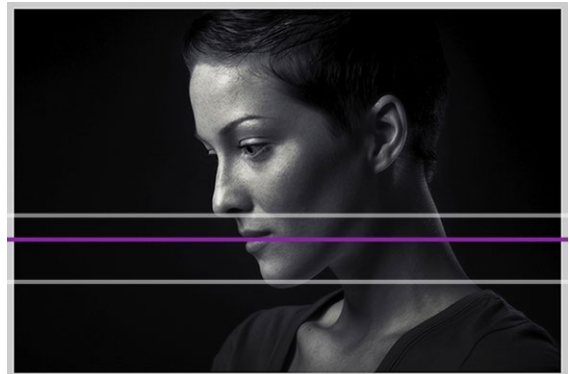
7. Then I take the reference photo to find the height of the hairline. From this point I draw an upward line to the top of the head. Furthermore, the hairline is also important for step 10 later on.



8. Next I look at the reference photo to find the angle of the nose.



9. The mouth (opening between the lips) is at about 1/3 of the space between the nose and the chin.



Some people draw the mouth halfway between the nose and the chin, but if you want to get a more realistic proportion then it is best to sketch the mouth at 1/3. You can draw the bottom lip halfway between the nose and the chin. Of course, every face is different so these measurements will also differ from person to person, but if you look at people's faces you will notice that more often the mouth is at about 1/3 of the height between the nose and the chin.

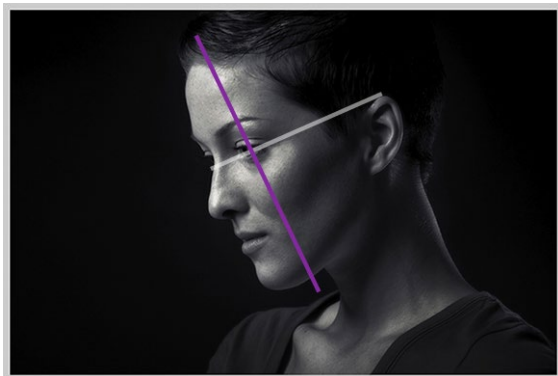
10. Now to determine the width of the skull, I draw a square starting with an angled line between the hairline (not the top of the head!) and the chin. Notice that the



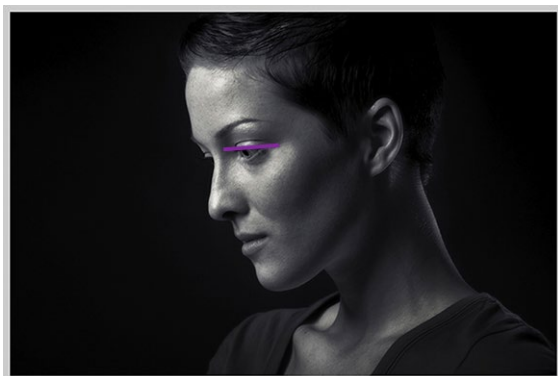
square is tilted the same way as the head, which I determined in step 2. At the back of the head this full width of the skull continues until about the height of the nose, then the skull curves inward to the neck.



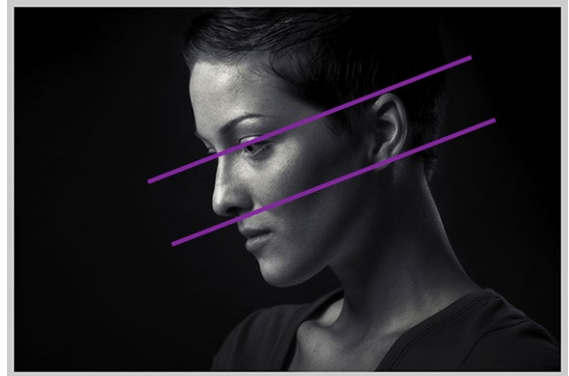
11. I use the reference photo to determine at which point in between the nose and the ear I am going to draw the eye.



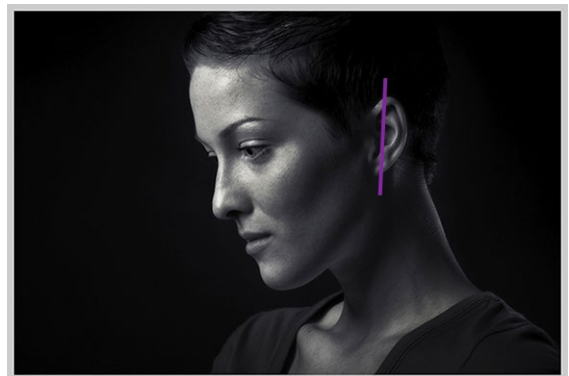
12. The eye lashes are more or less horizontal.



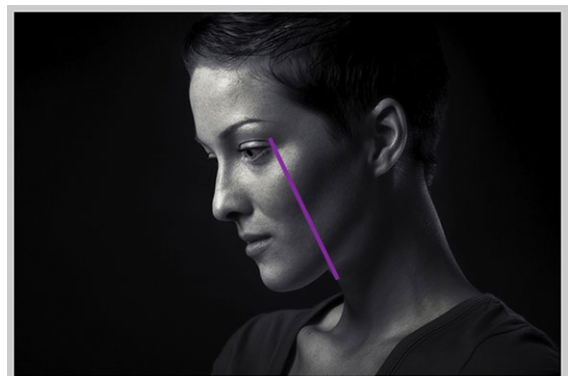
13. The ear is in between the eye and the nose. Make sure to measure these lines in the same angle as the square (following the tilt of the head).



14. The ear is almost straight up (90°). This is because the head is tilted forward.



15. And lastly: the front side of the neck is at the same height as the outer corner of the eye (still following the tilt of the head).

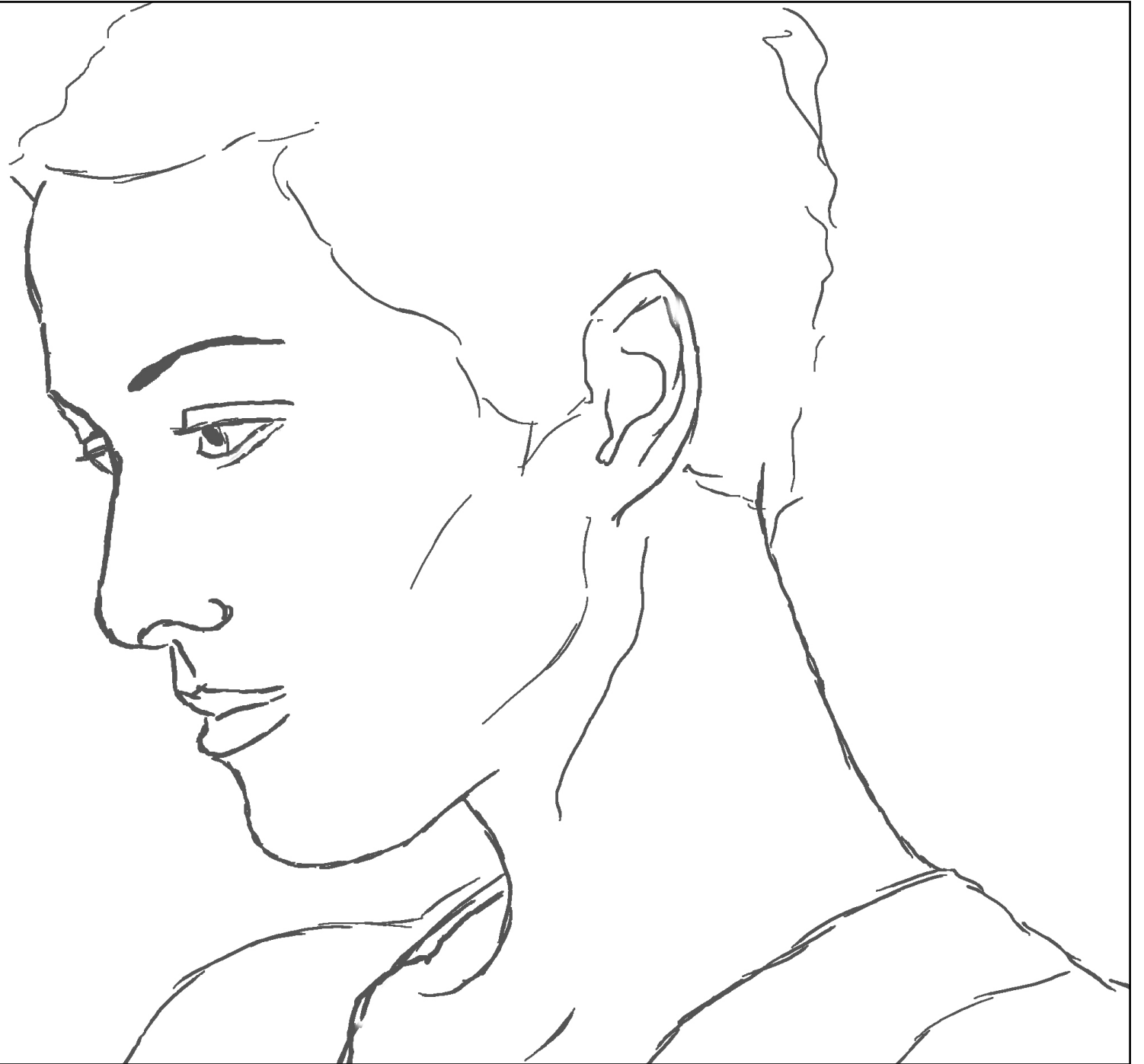




Reference Photo



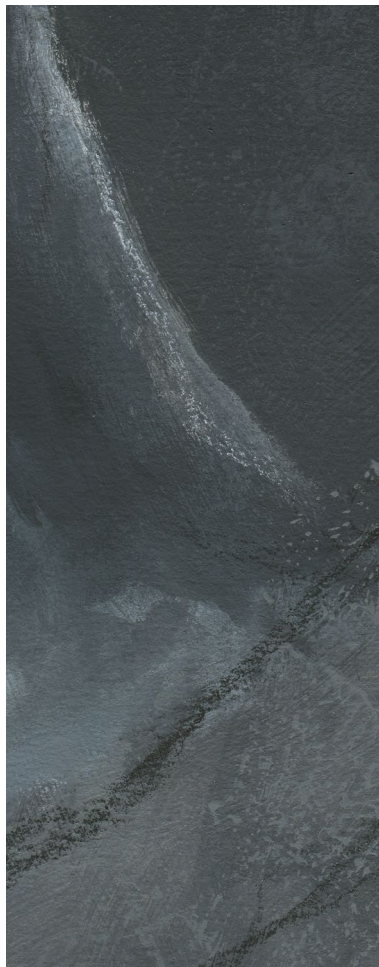
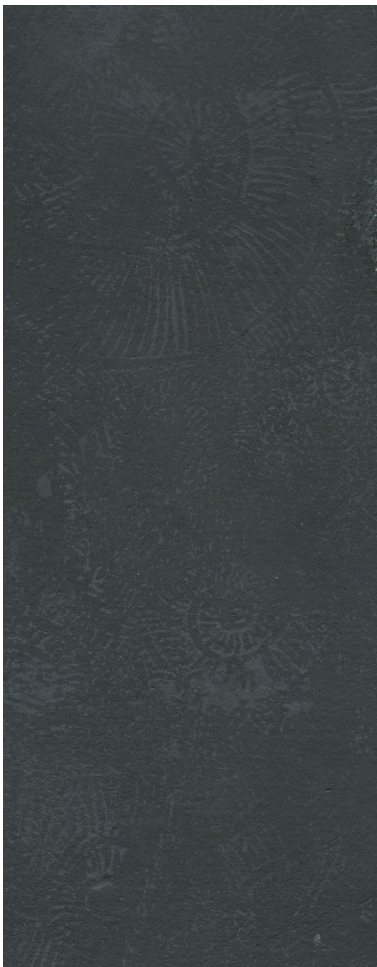
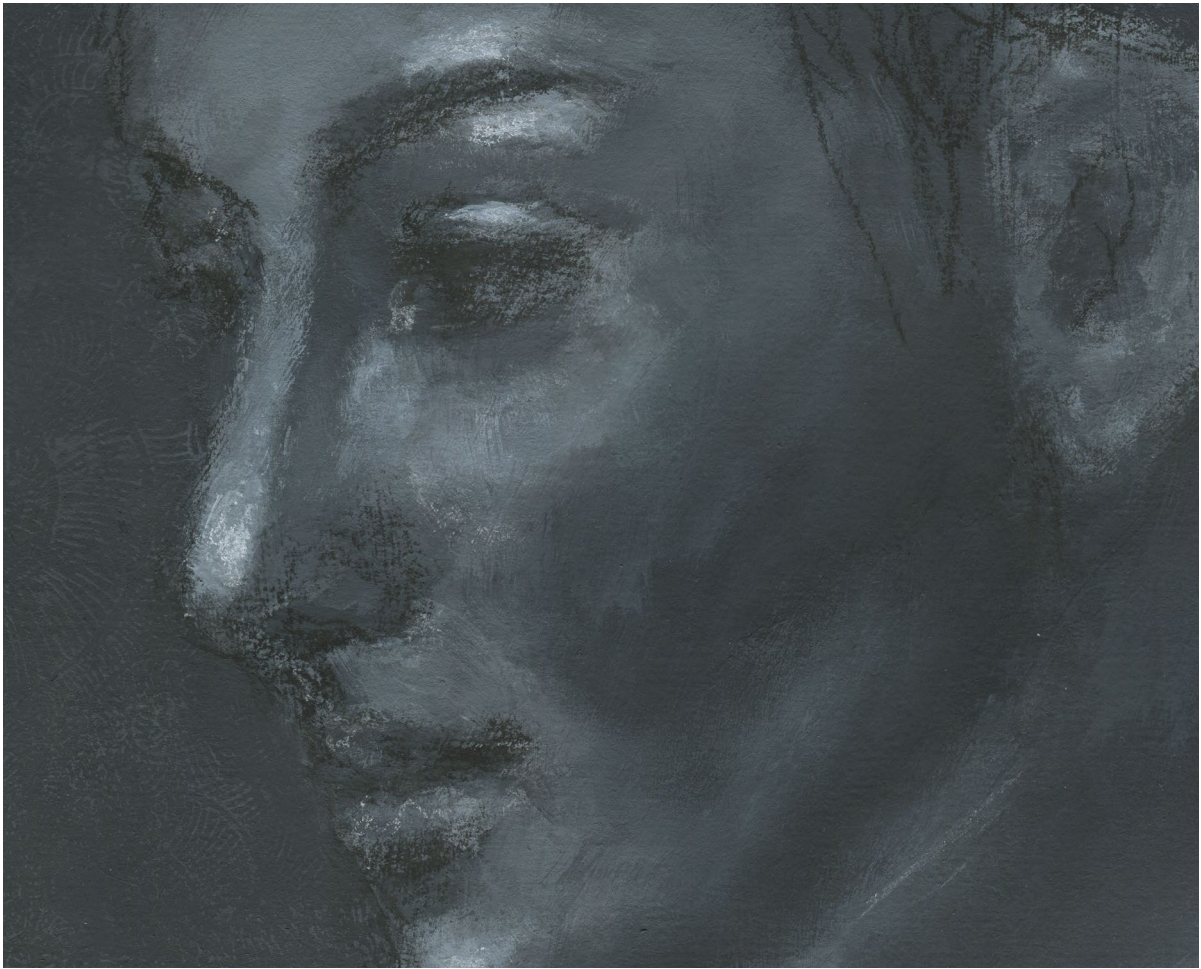
Template





My Portrait





Thank you & Where to find me

Thank you so much for doing this lesson with me! I hope you enjoyed it and are inspired to try out these techniques for yourself.

If you have any questions, feel free to drop me a message through the Facebook group or contact me via my **website** or social media.

If you would like to know more about me, you can go to my website to find the online **art courses** I have available, such as my portrait course **Drawing in the Soul**.

On my website you can also follow my creative journey via my **blog**. And you can sign up for a **free downloadable portrait tutorial**.

On my **YouTube channel** I have several short portrait tutorials available and I love to connect with you on Facebook or other **social media**.

Website: www.junabiagioni.com
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