# Drawing Faces

Drawing can be intimidating. And drawing faces even more so. Have no fear! Drawing faces can be fun and easy with these simple techniques from Julie Nutting.

From face shapes to eyes, mouths and hair, you'll learn to draw fashionable faces in no time. In this excerpt from *Collage Couture* by Julie Nutting, you'll learn simple shapes to draw and practice to incorporate pretty, feminine faces into your collage pieces or whatever mixed media art you create.

To learn more about or purchase *Collage Couture* by Julie Nutting, click here.

www.CreateMixedMedia.com
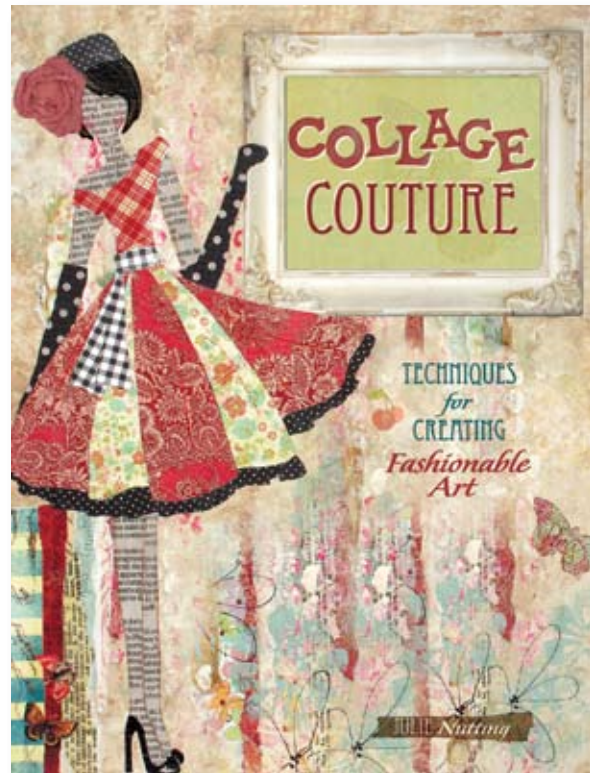
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Facial Features and Hair

Let's Face It

Many moons ago, I worked for a fashion designer. She could not draw nice presentation sketches. One day she asked me if I knew any classmates who could draw well enough to do some presentation sketches for her. I very shyly told her that I could draw. She asked me to bring something in the next day to show to the sales team. Of course, I panicked. Could I really draw as well as I thought? I stayed up most of the night sketching out some cute kids in current fashion collections. When I showed them to her the next day, she said, "Very cute! But where are the faces?" I told her they didn't need faces; after all, it was all about the clothes! I was sweating it; I couldn't draw a decent face if I stayed up for a week straight. She bought it! I did her sketches for many years until she retired. She never knew that I couldn't draw a face!

I share this with you so you won't be afraid to draw a face. It really wasn't until about a year ago that I started drawing faces regularly. I learned to draw them by doodling and experimenting. My meeting notes from work always had girly-girl faces all over them!

The Perfect Set of Eyes

Let's start by practicing each part of the face, and then we will put it all together when we're finished. Referring to my sketches, draw some random eye shapes, drawing round eyes as well as narrow ones. Sketch in the iris and pupil. Cut out one eye.

Across another paper, draw two lines parallel to each other about 1" (2.5cm) apart, as in Figure G. Place the cut-out eye shape between the lines and trace around it. Turn it over and trace another eye ½" (1.5cm) to the right of the eye you just traced. You now have a perfect set of matched eyes. I use this method sometimes when I really want my eyes to match. Other times, I will draw them freehand because, after all, nobody has perfectly matched eyes! Of course, you can use my shortcut to achieve the perfect set of eyes: just draw one eye and cover the other with bangs. Works every time!

Pucker Up!

When I was learning to draw faces, lips and noses were always the hardest for me. This is where developing your own style comes in handy. I've provided various lip shapes for you to practice in Figure H, and I'm sure you'll probably come up with more of your own. I simply draw lines for my noses, making the lips and eyes the focal points.

The eyes are the windows of the soul.
- Thomas Phaer

From Collage Couture by Julie Nutting, 2011. Courtesy CreateMixedMedia.com.
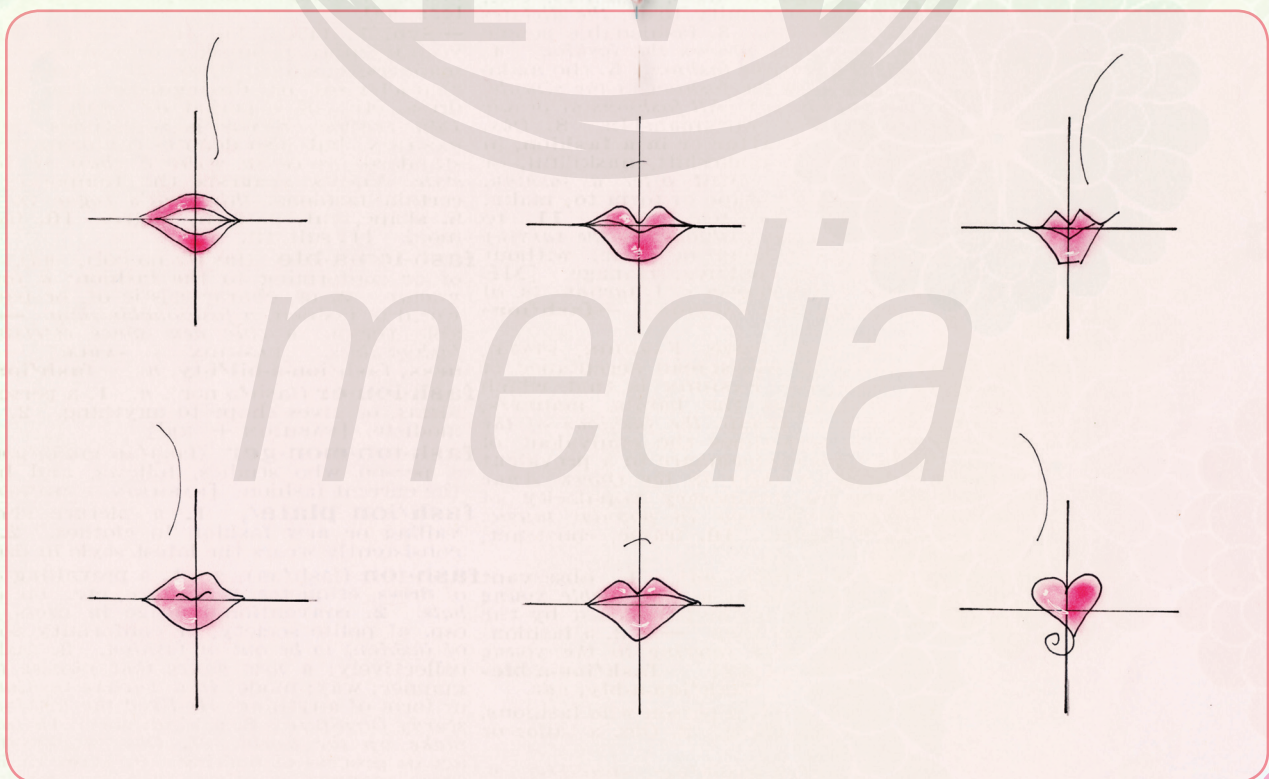
F I G U R E   G

F I G U R E   H

Hair

Any girl knows that the hair is as much a part of the outfit as the clothing. For some reason, the girls in my pieces are mostly brunettes or redheads. Sorry, blondes, it's nothing against you, I promise!

When I was growing up, I wanted to be a hairstylist. I can't even blow-dry my own hair, but I love to paint hairstyles. You can go short and spiky, or long and curly, or anywhere in between. Hair is much easier to create than it may seem. I use a high-quality liquid acrylic paint for hair because the colors are richer than the cheaper brands, and it's important to me that the hair is true to color. Remember, we're not working with fine art, so don't let the prospect of painting scare you away.

For blond hair, I start with a mustard color, then use a burnt sienna over that and top it off with gold metallic highlights. For brown hair, I start with burnt sienna, then use raw umber and top it off with bronze highlights. For black hair, I simply use black with a light touch of bronze highlights. If I want a redhead, I follow the instructions for blond hair, increasing the amount of burnt sienna. I love using metallic highlights, but wouldn't it be fun to try hot pink or deep purple?

Last but not least, I like to finish a hairstyle with a headband, scarf or flowers to complete the look. Don't leave out hats! A big straw hat or a small pink pillbox would be quite fun!

FIGURE I

Let's Put It All Together

Start by drawing an oval. It can be slender or more round; make it your own style. Draw a line down the center and a line across the center of the oval so you have a cross as in Figure J. The intersection is the center of the face. Draw another line above the horizontal line. The distance between the two can be whatever you want. This is how wide the eye will be. Now simply draw in the eyes, nose and lips using a light pencil. Outline the eye and eyeball with a black colored pencil and then color in the pupil. Choose an eye color and color in the iris. Use a white gel pen to dot the pupil with a highlight. Color in the eyelid with the desired color, just as if you were applying eyeshadow. Outline the outer corner of the eye and draw in lashes with a black fine-tip marker. Use the marker to outline the nose and lips, and then fill in the lips with the colored pencil of your choice. Use pink or red chalk to apply blush to the cheeks. *Voilà!* You now have a face!

FIGURE J