

## Drawing the Silhouette in a Portrait

1. Begin first by sketching the shape of the head as an egg shape. Use the middle of the page as the placement for the chin.
2. Find the central median line, this is the middle line of the head running from the bridge of the nose to the middle of the chin.
3. Use lines across to place the bottom of the eyes, ( middle of entire head) nose and mouth.
4. Now begin to sketch out the silhouette. This is the entire shadow shape of the portrait. Use the same tone for all of the shadows.
5. Find imaginative designs within the silhouette in order to better draw it, i.e., the shadow shape of the nose or eye "looks like" a bird or lizard or any other shape or form other than what it is. This "abstracting" of the shape helps to draw it better because we are not so preoccupied with trying to draw a particular facial feature and are disassociating ourselves with "trying to get a likeness".
6. Keep the silhouette tone neat and clean. Erase the initial structure lines as you work.
7. Practice this technique using other faces taken from magazines, newspapers or personal photo's.
8. With practice comes mastery.