



Draw a portrait a day

ROYAL POSE
Queen Elizabeth II
posed for more than 960
painted portraits during
her 70-year reign.



Paul Klee liked drawing portraits.

Hello, my name's Olaf Falafel. I'm a children's author, illustrator, dad and also a stand-up comedian. During the Covid-19 lockdowns I created an online Art Club. Each episode was filled with drawing tips, funny animations and information about different artists.

The artist I'm going to be focusing on this week is called Paul Klee ("Klee" rhymes with "day"). Klee was a Swiss-German artist who loved to experiment with different methods of making images. He also taught at the famous Bauhaus art school in Germany where he was the only teacher who refused to give his pupils grades. Klee said that "drawing is simply taking a line for a walk," and would sometimes draw using one continuous line.

For February, I'm setting you a 28-day art challenge: draw a single-line self-portrait every day. A self-portrait is when you draw a picture of yourself. The aim of the challenge is to try and make each picture unique. Vary your pictures by wearing different clothes, a hat or glasses – or draw yourself from different angles. You can also change the amount of time you spend on each portrait; you could take 30 seconds one day and five minutes on another. Whatever you do, don't stress about trying to get the perfect picture – after all, you have 28 different tries at this. So get your pens ready and take a line for a walk!



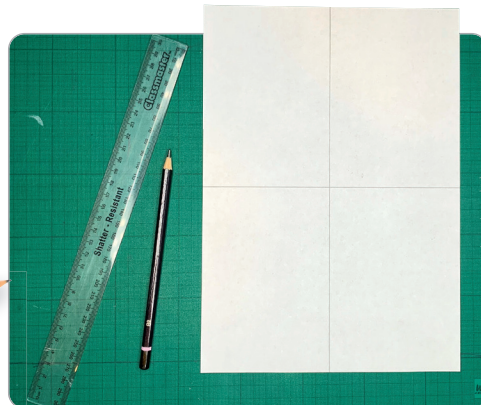
Olaf with his self-portraits.

What you need

- Seven sheets of A4 paper or an A4 sketch pad
- A ruler
- A pencil
- A mirror or mobile phone
- A pen (if you prefer)

1 Prepare to draw

Make a space on a table to draw. Take a sheet of paper. Using a ruler and pencil, divide each sheet of A4 paper into four rectangular spaces.



2 Have a look

Find and place a mirror on your table. If you don't have a mirror, use the camera on a mobile phone. However, always check before using and moving someone else's mirror or mobile phone. Look at yourself in the mirror and prepare to start drawing.



3 "Take the line for a walk"

Choose a pen or pencil. Without taking it off the page, try and draw yourself. Don't worry if it isn't perfect! Write the date under your picture.



4 Repeat and reflect

Draw a portrait every day in February. Look back at your pictures. How have they changed? Which ones do you like the most? Does it become easier to draw, the more you do it?



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