Grade 5 – Self-Portrait Paintings

Portraiture

What do you see?

Untitled 109, Barry Johnson

Artistic Focus: Portraiture

Untitled 109, Barry Johnson

A **PORTRAIT** is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic representation of a person, which usually focuses on the person's face and head.

Today's objective:
1. To create a simple and well-proportioned portrait.

WA State Visual Arts Standard
Compare one's own interpretation of a work of art with the interpretation of others.
(VA: Re7.1.5)

Barry Johnson

- Born July 30, 1984 in Kansas.

- Moved to Seattle after college.

- Self taught artist, painter, photographer, sculptor, and children's book author.

- Worked with the American Red Cross and then in the tech industry before becoming a full-time artist.

- Starts working very early in the morning, 3:30am, seven days a week.

- Believes that consistent hard work is more important to the professional artist than is inspiration.
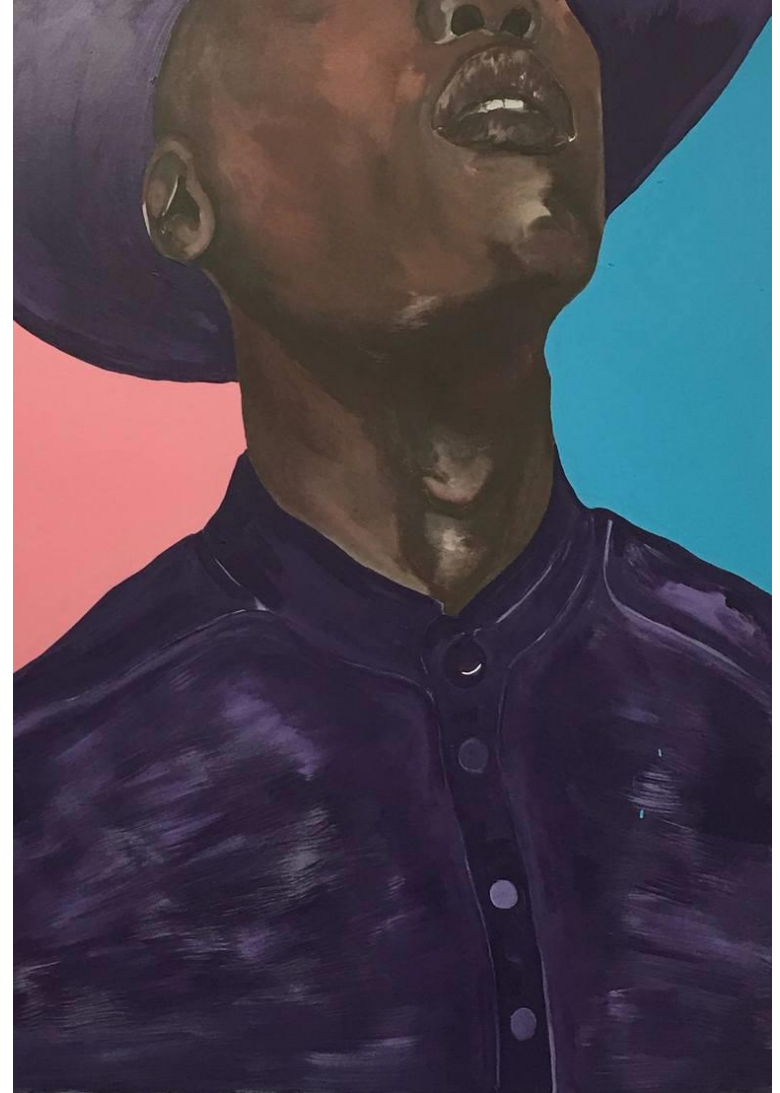
Artwork

Rue, Barry Johnson

Untitled 110, Barry Johnson
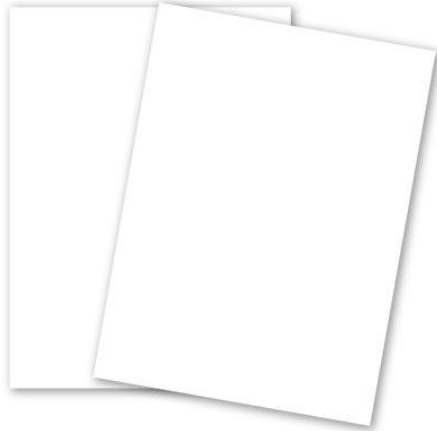
Artwork

Cotton, Barry Johnson

Duality, Barry Johnson

Materials

90# white sulphite or other stiff paper

Palette or paper plate

Paper towels & wipes

Pencil

Water cups

Acrylic paint

Eraser

Watercolor or tempera paints may be substituted for acrylic

Paint brushes (large & small round)

Example of Today's Project

Before You Begin

1. Write your **name** in pencil on the **back** of your paper.

2. Flip your paper over.

3. **Roll up your sleeves!**

Sofia

Step 1

Drawing a portrait can feel stressful, drawing a self-portrait can feel even more stressful, but it doesn't have to.

To make it easier, the whole class will work at the same pace and follow steps 1 through 8 together.

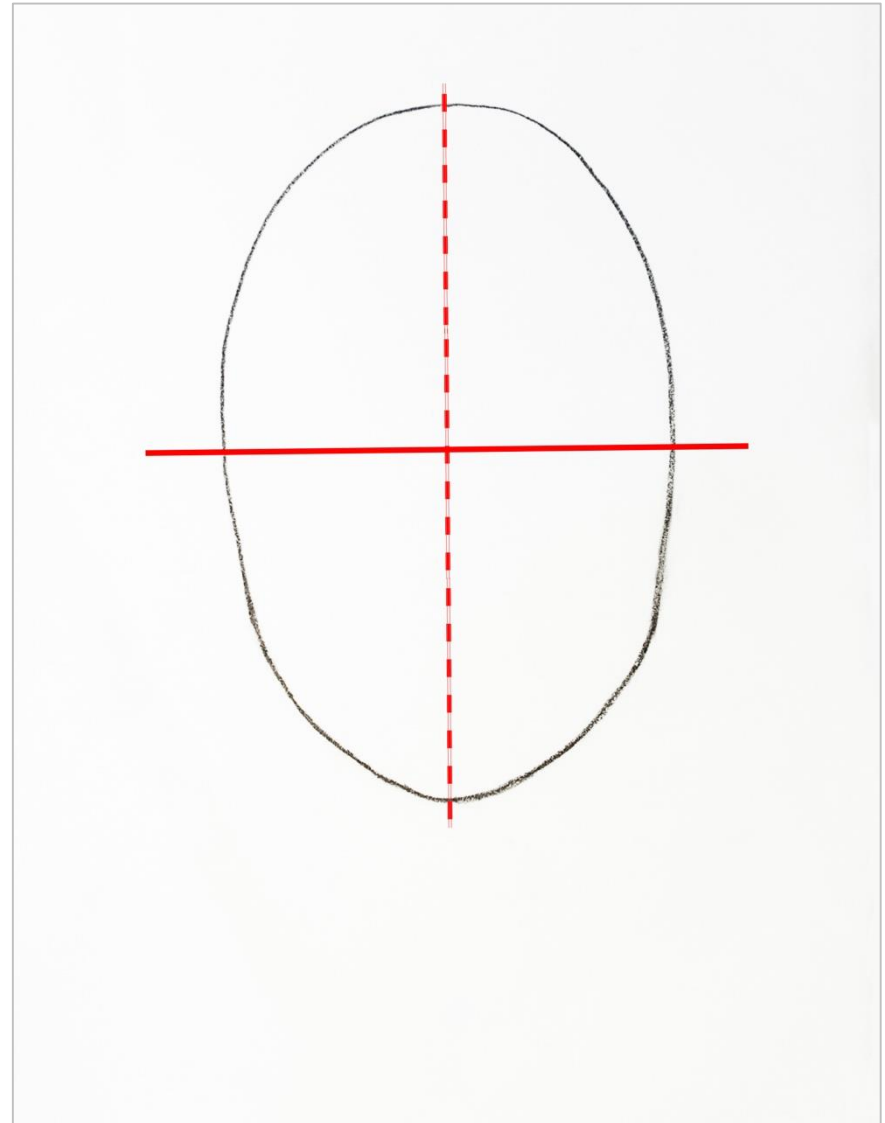Work quietly and listen for instructions as you draw. The steps will appear on the screen.

- Start by drawing an oval to resemble a human face.

Step 2

- Lightly pencil in a vertical line in the center of the oval (like the dotted line shown here). This vertical line will help you achieve lateral symmetry as you draw facial features.

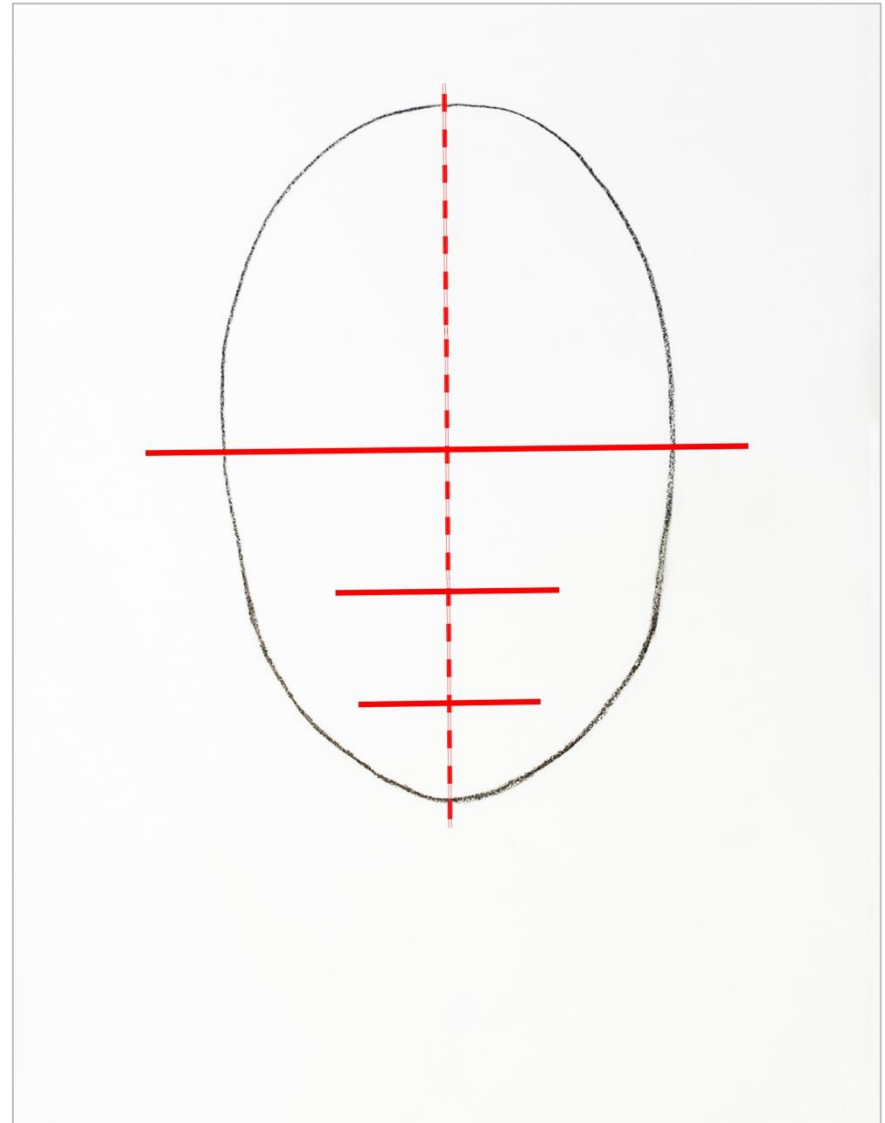- Lightly draw a horizontal line near the center of the oval.

Note: It is important to draw these guidelines lightly, so that you can erase them easily later.

Step 3

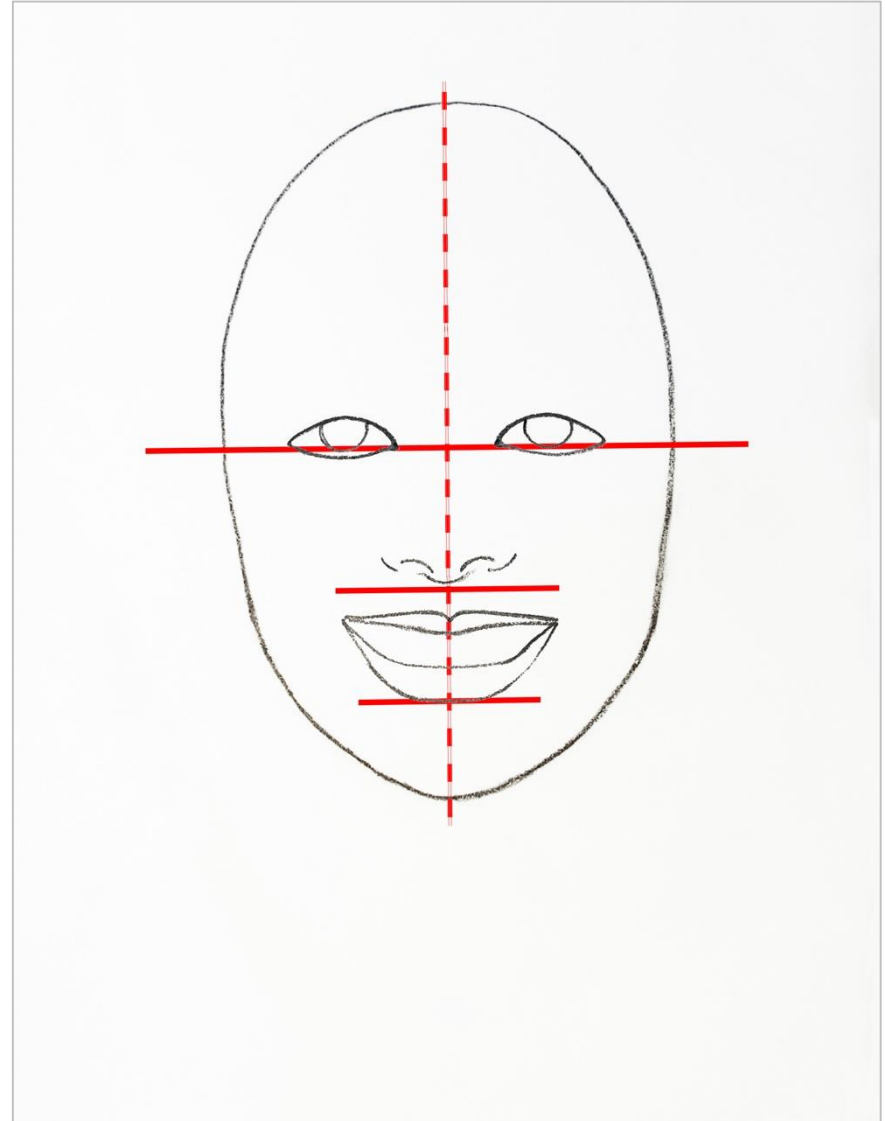Now you should add small guidelines for bottom of nose and mouth.

- Slightly above halfway between the eye line and chin draw a line for the bottom of the nose.

- Draw another line roughly halfway between the nose line and chin to mark where the mouth should go.
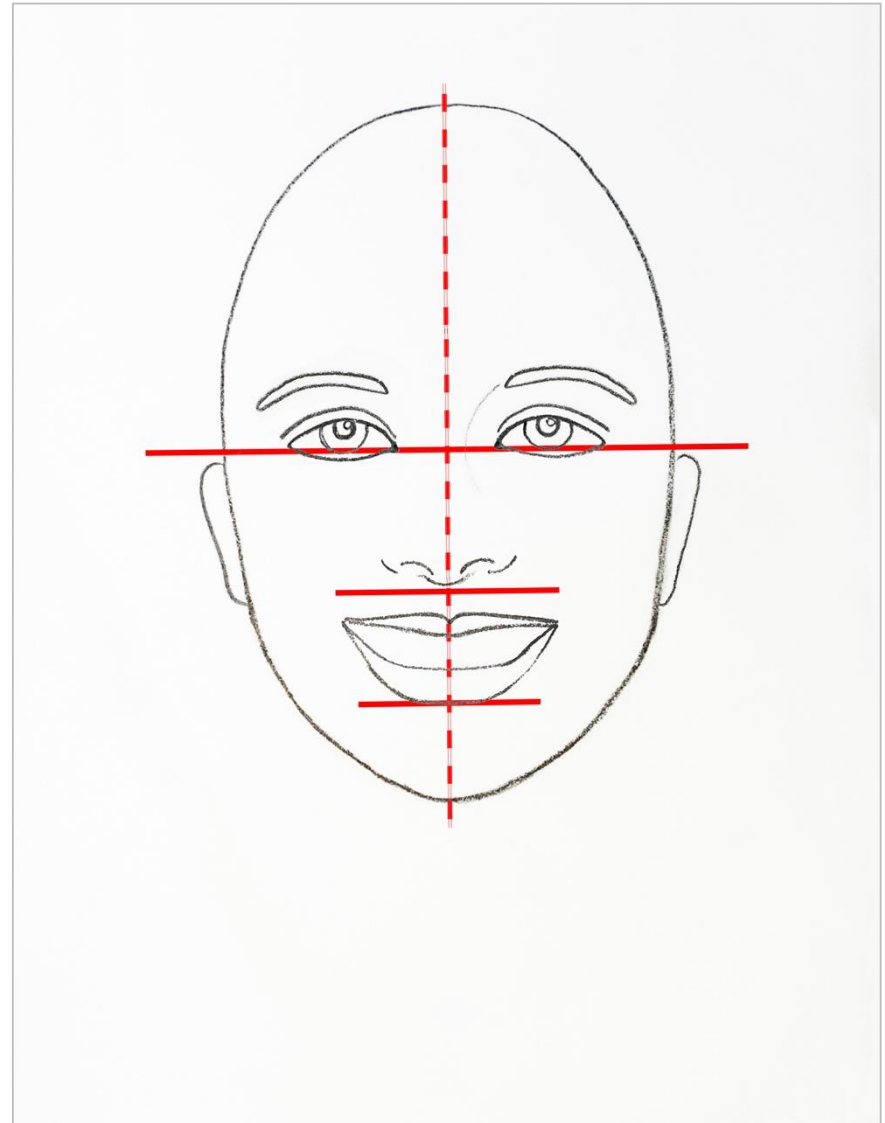
Step 4

Time to start drawing facial features! We are drawing portraits that face directly front, so try to balance features more or less equally on both sides of the vertical line.

- The inside corner of the eyes should sit on the long horizontal line. Most of the eye sits above that line. Think of an almond.

- Leave an empty space, about the width of an eye, between the two eyes.

- Draw the bottom of the nose just above the middle horizontal line.

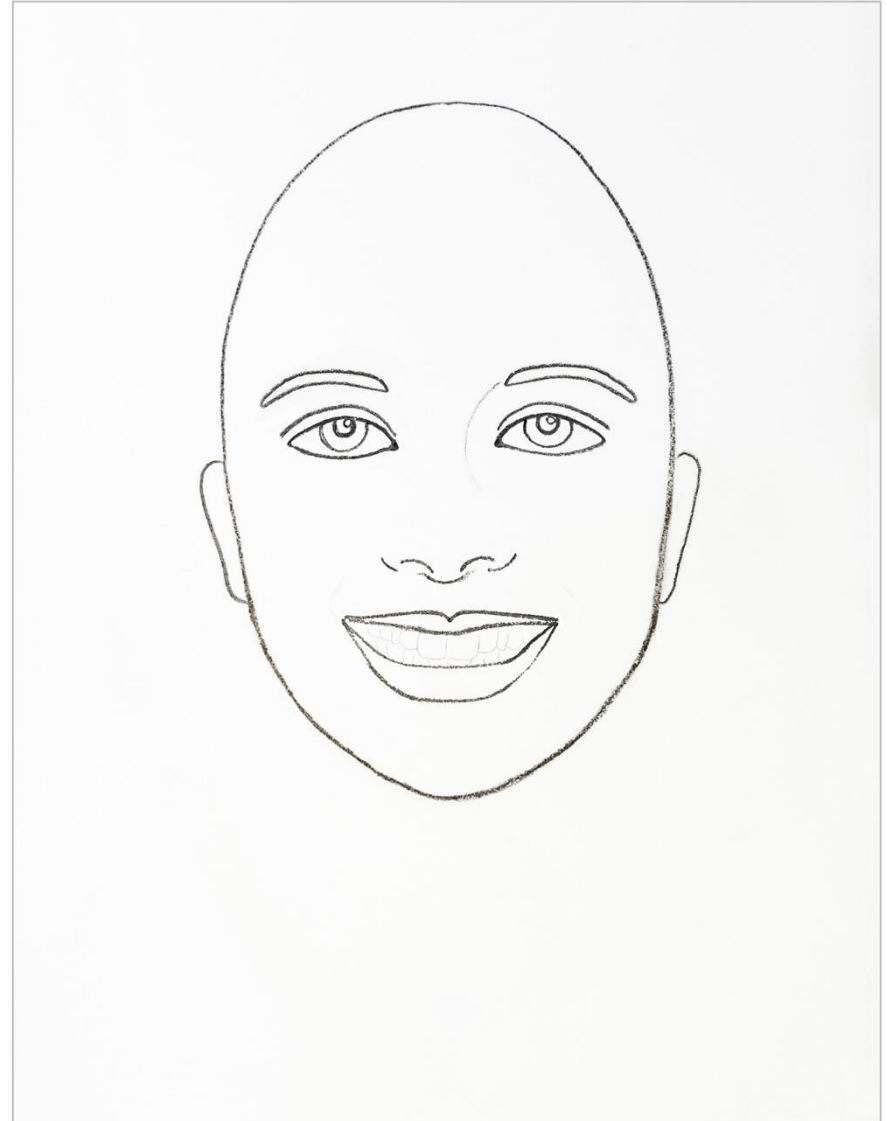- Draw the mouth sitting on the bottom horizontal line.

Step 5

- Add eyebrows above the eye.

- Add a crease line to the eyelids if you want to. Not everyone has an obvious crease line in their eyelids.

- You may draw a light line down one side of the nose if you want to give it some definition.

- Draw ears. Ears often start level with the eyes and extend down to the level with the bottom of the nose or top of the mouth.

- Draw eyelashes if you want to. This example does not have any.

Step 6

- Carefully, carefully erase the vertical and horizontal lines you drew before.

- Then re-draw any facial features you might have erased.

- Lightly draw some teeth if you want to show teeth in the smile.

Step 7

- Draw a neck and shoulders.

- Draw the top of a shirt or dress.

- Draw some hair. It can be short or …

Step 8

- … or it can be long.

- Have fun with the hair!

Paint

A note about mixing paint for skin tones:

- If you have brown paint, you can start by mixing brown with white or a tiny amount of black, red, or yellow.

- No brown paint? Carefully mix yellow, red, and blue on your palette to create brown. You can use this brown, or you can mix it with white to lighten it, adding a touch of red or yellow as needed. To darken the brown, use a tiny amount of black paint.

- Especially when working with acrylic paint, you need only a small amount on your palette. You can thin it out with water to make it spread farther, more transparent, or easier to apply.

Step 9

Now it is time to add some color to this portrait!

- Start with the skin, since most of it is toward the middle of your paper.

Step 10

For the next step of painting facial features, work carefully so as not to smear the face paint.

- Paint the eyebrows. Since most people have eyebrows that are near the same color as their hair, you can mix enough of the color for hair and brows at the same time.

- Paint the irises of the eyes with a black pupil in the middle. Adding a small white dot gives the eyes a fun, little twinkle.

- Paint the mouth.

Step 11

- Paint the hair.

- If you have time, use two colors that are very similar to give the hair highlights and lowlights.

Step 12

This is where your chosen emotion or feeling-related colors get to shine. The girl is happy in this portrait, so the artist chose cheerful, warm colors.
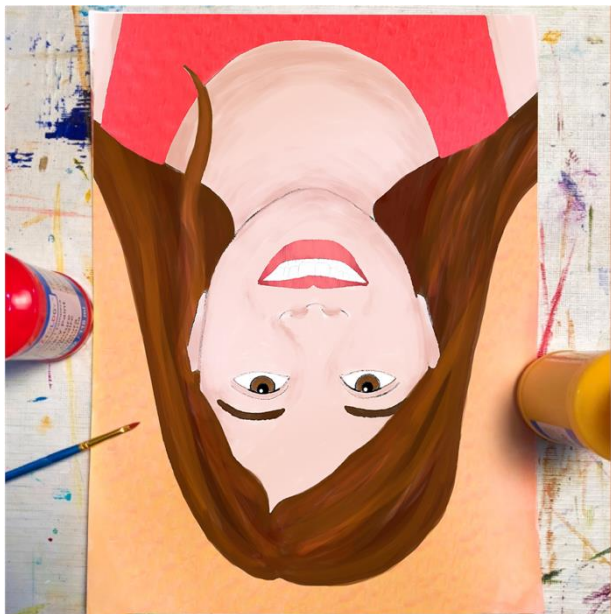
- Choose one color for the shirt and one color for the backdrop.

- Paint the shirt or dress top.

Step 13

Now a nice, friendly peach color for the background.

- Remember that you can spin your painting upside-down to paint the background. This will protect the rest of your painting from smearing.

Reflection

- What mood does your self-portrait painting convey?

- What were the aspects of painting a portrait that you found challenging?

- What was your favorite part of this lesson?

- Would anyone like to share their art?

Credits

1. Barry Johnson's website https://www.barryjohnson.co

2. More about Barry Johnson http://realchangenews.org/2017/12/13/breaking-boundaries-many-faces-artist-barry-johnson

3. On Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BJohnson84

4. Original LWSD art sample, used with permission.