



LOOKING BACK by Chloe

To draw another's face is one of the most intimate and intimidating ventures. There is a fear of 'getting it wrong', of not capturing likeness, of being confronted with the limits of our skill - of not being good at drawing. I believe that:

We get good at drawing by drawing.

We truly practice when we find pleasure in doing it.

We find pleasure when we are not intimidated or afraid.

I want to give you the courage to try.

What you need: Pencil, small book of drawing paper and access to the Internet.

1/ To begin, find (at least 10) images of faces of women and non-binary people drawn, painted or photographed by artists in the past. I would like you to select sitters that are looking back at you. Choose the faces that you feel a connection with. Below you will find resources to help you begin a search. Ideally you will choose works that you can see in person, taking your drawing book and pencil with you.

2/ Choose one image. This exercise is not about making an exact copy, but a translation of what you see and how you feel about what you see. Start by looking very closely. Spend time. Is it possible to absorb the image you see through your eyes?

3/ Now place your eyes on one point in the image - the corner of an eye, the hair of an eyebrow, the curve of the nostril - and place your pencil in an equivalent place on your blank page. Start to trace slowly, tenderly the shapes and lines that you see and discover along the way. The face is a map, it holds within it the story of a life. Let your line travel across the skin and touch what was seen by the artist many years ago. Try to bring this face a new life in the present. Concentrate on looking at the image, not at your drawing, which can make your confidence falter. Trust your eyes and how they are moving your drawing hand.

4/ Do not judge or criticize your attempt. Try again, another face looking back at you. What can it teach you? Repeat until you have filled a small book.

@jenniferhiggie @blackartlibrary @thegreatwomenartists @therelevantqueer @arthistorywomen @queermodernisms

Chloe Briggs is an artist and educator. In 2021, with Anita Taylor and Tania Kovats she made Drawing Correspondence - a series of Online Programs to connect and empower people through drawing. @drawingcorrespondence.org

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