



DRAWING REFLECTIONS by Anita

The face we are most familiar with and yet see with the least objectivity is usually our own. Many of us draw on our faces every day, emphasising the things we like and minimising the things we don't. While we may take 'selfies' from our camera phones, we still use a mirror to look and see, to find a reflection of our own faces.

Mirrors have been used through the ages to see what we cannot see – our own faces. They have been made of all sorts of reflective surfaces - obsidian, metal, polished marble, glass - and form a lens through which to see and observe ourselves.

We learn through drawing . We find what we see, by looking, observing, documenting, and decorating. We will work from observation using mirrors to make a series of drawings that explore how the pose, gesture, expression and mark-making can be used to depict a figure or character

What you will need: some paper, a sharp pencil, perhaps an eraser, and a small mirror.

Pick up a small mirror – take it from your pocket, your bag, the bedside table, the bathroom, wherever it is found in your world. Hold this in one hand, pick up a pencil or other drawing implement in the other hand, place some paper on a surface in front of you. Take some time to look at what you see. Take some time to look at you, to feel comfortable with who you are.

- Draw around the mirror to form a shape or contour on the paper.
- Within this shape, draw the outline of your face; follow the line of your chin, your forehead, your cheekbones, with a line made by your pencil on paper.
- Locate your features, ears, eyes, nose, mouth with your pencil.
- Map the contours of your skin.
- Think about your expression and the gesture of your head.
- And then stop and look at what you see - you looking back at you.

Do this exercise again [and again]. Rehearse who you want to be; rehearse how you want to draw; rehearse how you want to see you; rehearse how you want others to see you. Celebrate being you.

Anita Taylor is an artist, educator and founder of Drawing Projects UK and the annual Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize exhibition. In 2021, with Chloe Briggs 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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