

“Chuck Close Grid Drawing”



Objective: Students will draw a portrait in the style of Chuck Close using a grid.

Materials

- White construction paper 8x12
- 4x6 Photograph
- Pencils, Rulers, Erasers
- Colored Pencils

Motivation

- Watch the Chuck Close Youtube video, CBS This Morning: Artist Chuck Close writes note to younger self.
- Explain the basics of why grid drawing can help an artist.
- Show examples of a completed grid drawing in the style of Chuck Close. Discuss how he uses color and pattern in his artwork.

Step 1: Grid and Draw

Students will divide the 4x6 photograph into ½ inch squares. They will divide the 8x12 construction paper into 1 inch squares. Label the top and left row of squares on the photograph and final paper. (1-8 for top row, 1-12 for left row.) Students start to draw the portrait on their final paper looking at the squares one at a time.

Step 2: Colored Pencils

Students will add pattern to each section using colored pencils. The sections are: background, hair, skin, and shirt. Students need to choose 3-5 different tints and shades of the color for each section. Use the colored pencils to add a different pattern to each square of their portrait. Each time they hit a pencil line, they change patterns. They need to work with one set of colors in one section at a time. Repeat process for each section.

Step 3: Outline (optional)

If the different sections are difficult to see, have the students outline the pencil lines of the portrait in black permanent marker.

Tip: Students need to draw lightly when drawing the grid for their final paper. Encourage students to look around the classroom to find different patterns. Rubber band and label their colored pencils to use for the next class period.