

Tip #61

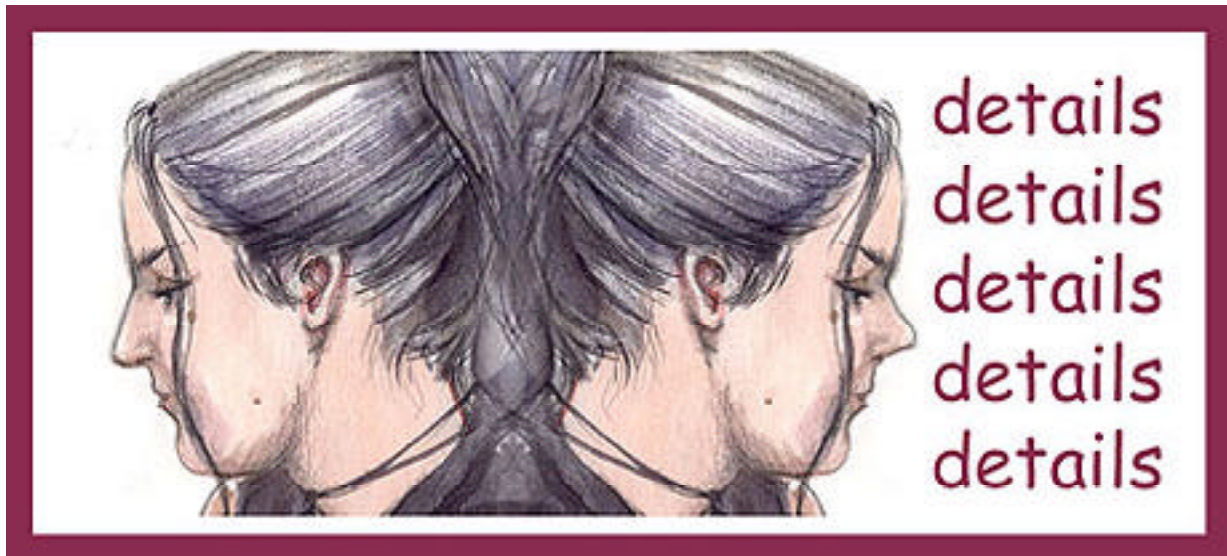
Feature Focus -- The Nose Knows ...

Many times we see a portrait-even a photo!-in which the nose is barely indicated. Perhaps there will be no more than a line at the bottom, or two dots for nostrils...but that's passing up a wonderful opportunity to capture a characteristic feature that may make or break a portrait!



Art 61-1, Consider my young friend, the Goth Angel ...

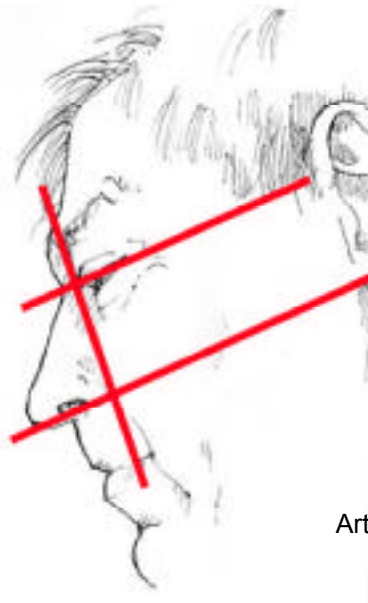
She has a very elegant, straight Roman nose, which I drew from life, on the left. For fun, I Photoshopped a nose job for her-cute girl, with that turned-up nose, but not the same girl! Details are important, if you're going for a likeness.



Art 61-1

Art 61-2, Take measurements and comparisons ...

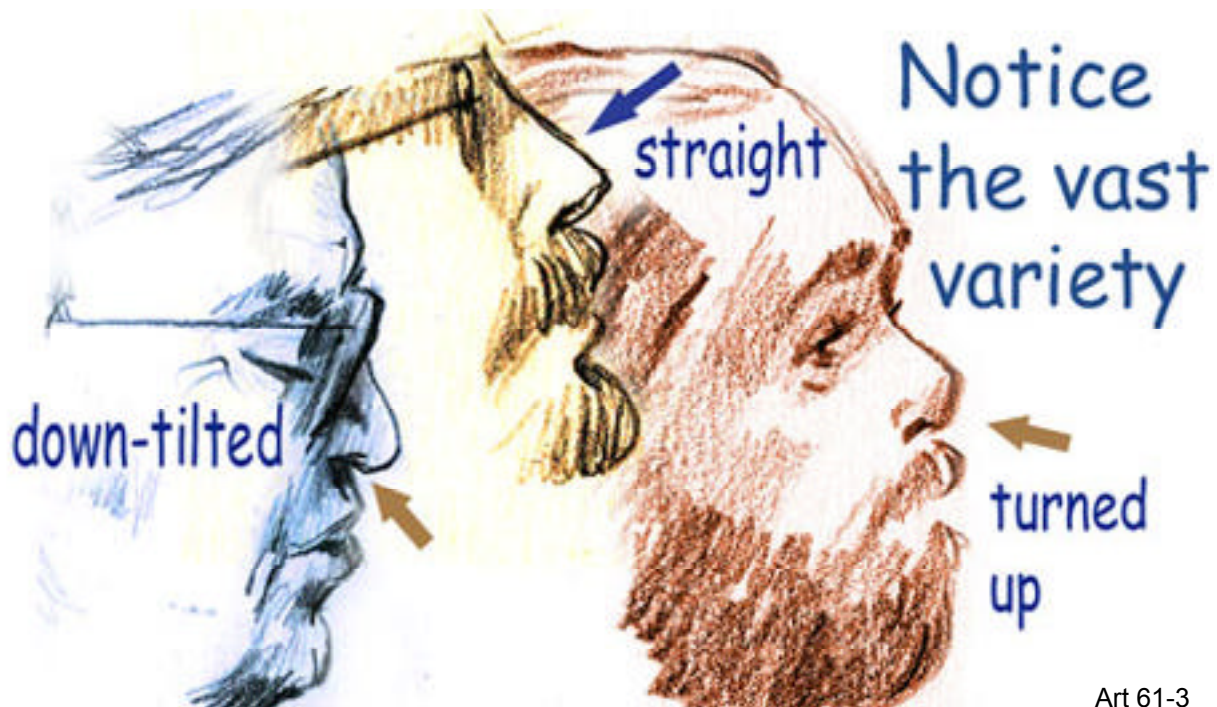
...to help you get the nose right. Draw an imaginary line from the bridge to the eye to the ear and note where that line falls. Check how long the nose is against other features, and look where the nostrils fall on the vertical line. That will help you to get the proportions right ... it helped me capture my friend Ken on paper.



Art 61-2

Art 61-3, Notice how different our noses can be ...

Here, three of the men I know have let me sketch them over the years. Richard's nose is distinctive, sort of downturned; his grandson Rufus, middle, has a straight, rather pointed one that makes him look elf-like. At right, my buddy Don has a classic Irish nose that gives him a perennially innocent look.



Art 61-3

We'll talk more about noses next time, and get down to a how-to!

For more on other features like skin, hair, eyebrows and facial hair, you may like my North Light book, *Creating Textures in Watercolor*, <http://www.cathyjohnson.info/bookpages/creatingtextures.html>.

Watch for my newest CD, *Drawn from Life; An Artist's Journal, Vol. II* in my Café Press store, http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, and on my website, in the new CD section of the catalog!

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