

Tip #62

On the Nose - Again!

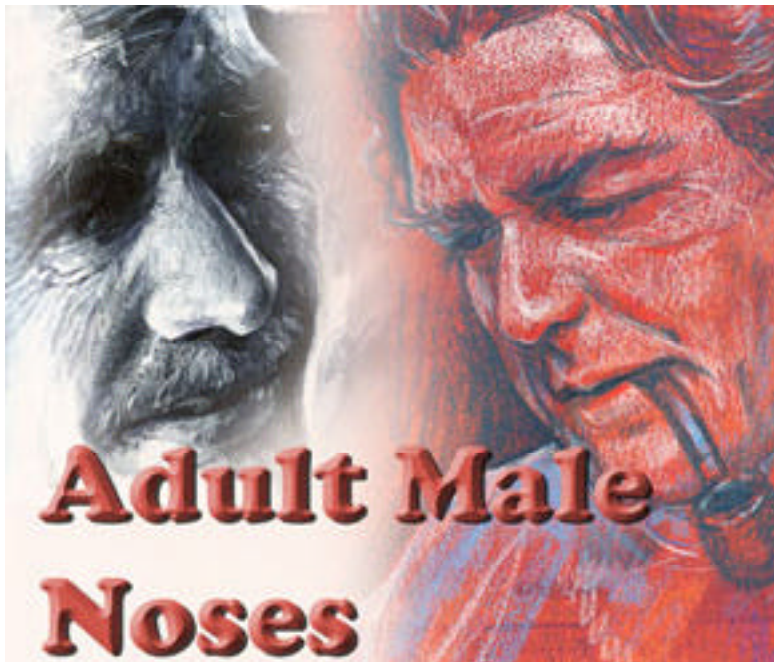
This poor overlooked feature really captured my attention again, making me want to explore all the possibilities! As we said last time, the nose can make or break a likeness, and as one of my correspondents said, trying to capture a baby's portrait can be ruined by a too-old nose!

Art 62-1, Baby noses have their own geometry

Baby Finn's nose is much shorter, rounder, and wider in proportion to the rest of his face than an adult nose. They're often rather turned up, during babyhood. Keep it soft, but try to capture the sense of roundness.



Art 62-1



Art 62-2, Adult male noses can be quite large, or rather modest

Note the difference in shape, size, and proportion when you're trying to capture a particular nose. Here, the two men in my life have had very different nose-shapes. My late husband, on the left, had a big old honker -- it was very distinctive. My love on the right has a smallish nose, very nicely shaped and masculine.

Try measuring against the overall size of the face to see how much space your particular nose takes up!

Art 62-2

Art 62-3, The angle counts!

The same nose can look quite different from unfamiliar angles - practice drawing your own nose in a mirror, as I did - from above, below, the side. Try to suggest that it IS the same nose, just a different viewpoint. Notice shapes, angles and proportions.

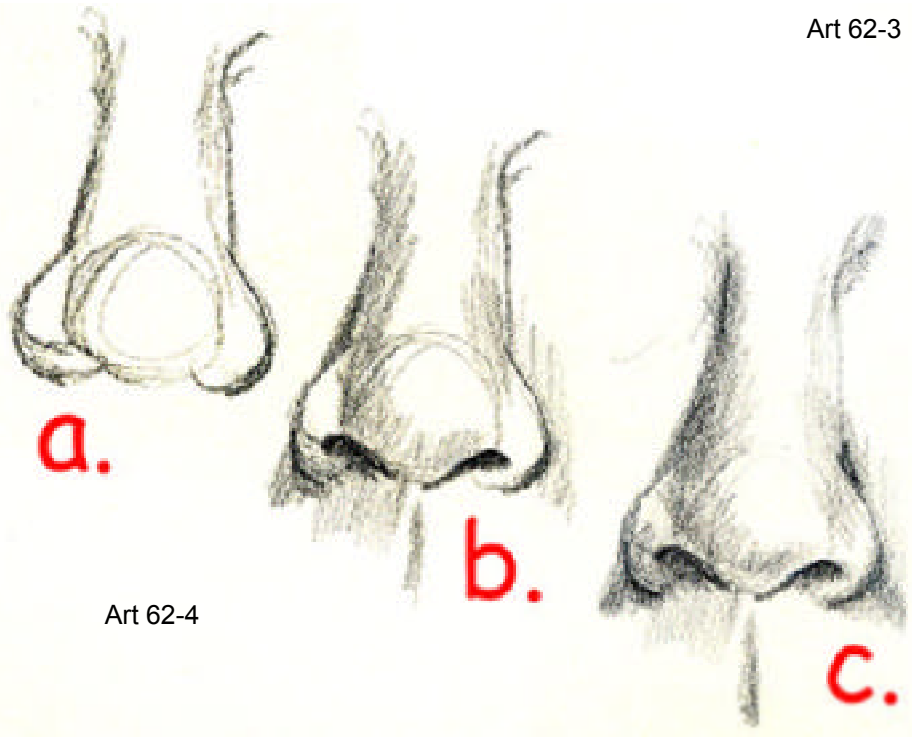
same nose...



Art 62-3

Art 62-4, Step-by-step to a particular nose

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Art 62-4

It may help to block in the basic shape, as shown at (a). The end of the nose may fit within a ball or an oval, and nostrils are two additional ovals on either side. The bridge of the nose may form a cone-shape, narrowing toward the eyebrows.

Suggest the shadowed area of the nostrils-pay attention to their shape, that's rather distinctive too-and begin to lay in some shading to suggest volume, as at (b).

Finally, refine shapes, watch where shadows and reflected lights fall, and lightly erase guidelines if you can. Quite often there is a reflected light under the tip of the nose that helps give it definition and character. (c.)

Try this with noses of a variety of shapes-big and small, long and thin or short and tip-tilted. It's great practice and a lot of fun. And it's our excuse to be nosy!

Look for my newest CD, *Drawn from Life; An Artist's Journal, Vol. II* in my Café Press store, http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, or on my website, in the new CD section of the catalog, <http://www.cathyjohnson.info/books.html>. There are lots of people drawings with quite distinctive noses in evidence... 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>.