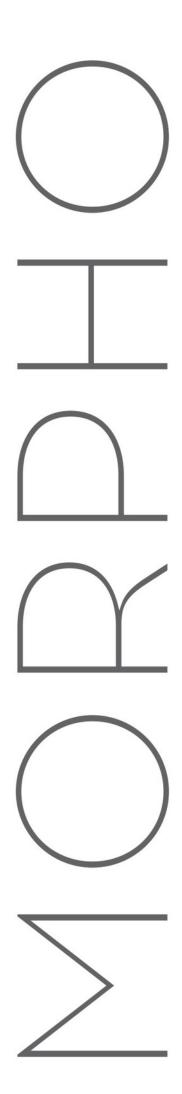


Face, head, and neck



rockynook



Face, head, and neck

Michel Lauricella

rockynook

Morpho: Face, head, and neck

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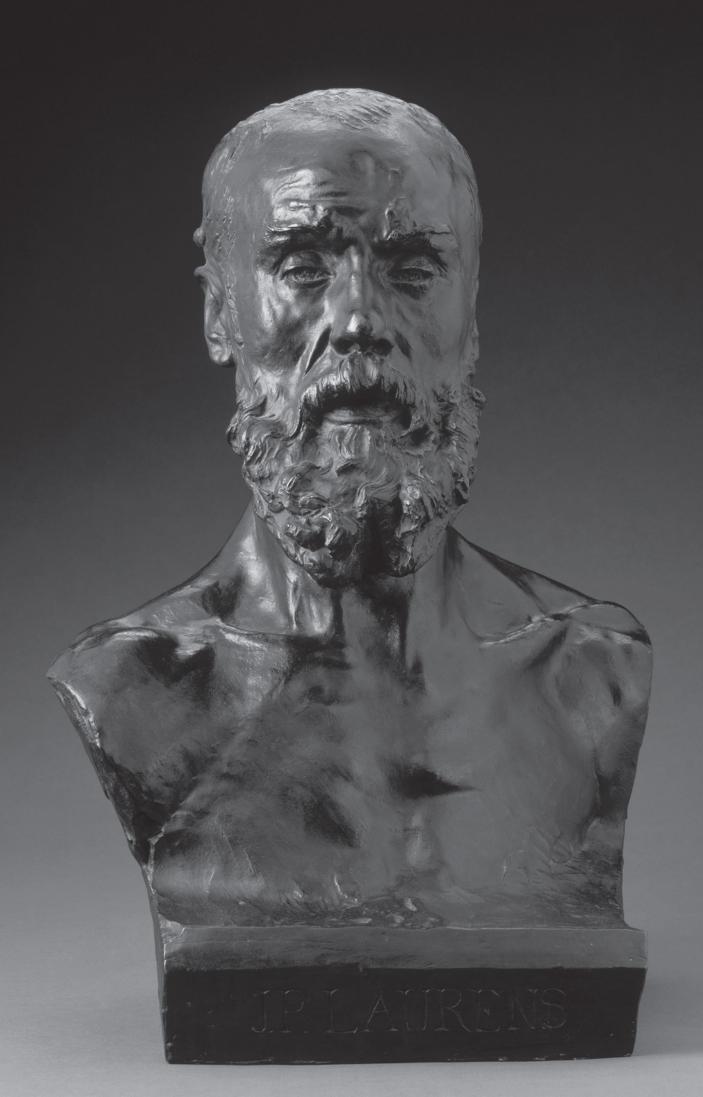
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Auguste Rodin Bust of Jean-Paul Laurens 1882

FOREWORD

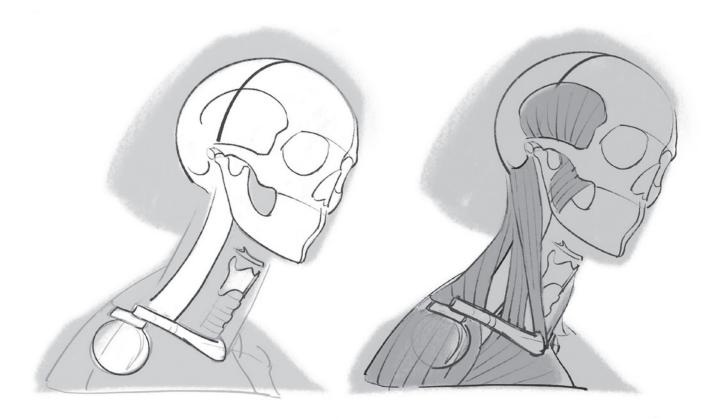
The art of portraiture, whether sculpted, painted, drawn, photographed, or filmed, is a genre in itself. There are very fine examples of portraiture dating back to antiquity, and many contemporary artists also focus their research on this theme. While these representations have multiple functions—the faces given to Egyptian mummies, imperial propaganda portraits, portraits of famous people, self-portraits, passport photos, family portraits, movie close-ups, etc.—we find it completely natural that this fragment of the body should be entirely self-sufficient and able to evoke the whole person.

Every artist plays with representational codes. You might want to frame very tightly on the eyes and mouth, as film has made us accustomed to; widen the frame to include the whole face, as in a sculptural mask; pull back even more to cut the face below the chin; or go even lower and include the shoulders. Framed like this, the portrait can become a "bust," which then includes the head, neck, and chest—but not the arms. In order to best meet your needs, I will often choose this last version.



INTRODUCTION

The fact that thousands of human populations have been intermingling for millennia now makes the subject of this work inexhaustible and means that the art of the portrait will always remain vibrant. Our species, with its billions of individuals, offers an infinite number of variations on the same theme. We are particularly sensitive to the tiniest differences that make each and every one of us unique, especially because the creation of a portrait often triggers the search for resemblances. The "morpho" approach and the format of this small book, however, require us to take an extremely concise approach to the subject. All of the ideas about proportions, every attempt to define certain morphological characteristics of our species, will have to be reevaluated when you are face to face with your models. What I provide here is only a starting point, a framework that is inscribed into our Western culture. The canonical proportions that I use emerged from the Italian Renaissance and have been refined by more recent works, particularly those by Richer, Loomis, and others (see the Resources page). Similarly, what we call "sexual" characteristics are often indefinite, blended, and intermingled, and listing every characteristic would reduce their complexity to a caricature of itself. I will nonetheless attempt the exercise, but most often I will draw heads that remain androgynous in both children and adults, devoid of the most obvious cultural gender signals such as hairstyle, clothing, and body hair.



With that being said, the goal here is to find a way to simplify this reality, to allow us to memorize the basic shapes, so we can draw from our imagination and restore, by contrast, the uniqueness of each and every one of us.

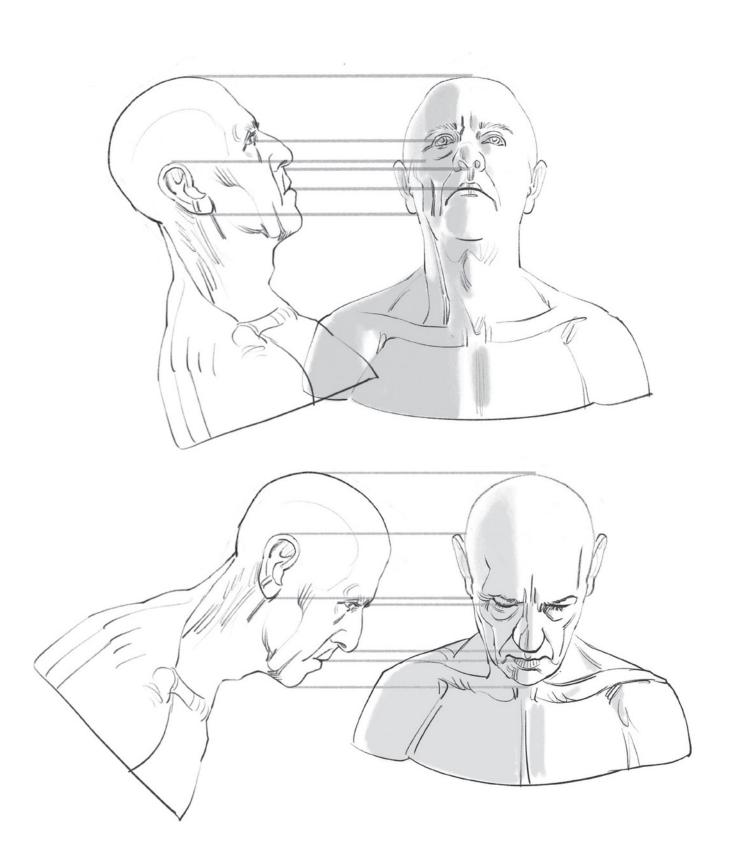
The difficulties do not involve just the drawing of the head itself; the head also has to be connected with the torso. The classical version of the bust requires us to remember the structure of the front and back of the neck, the base of the shoulders, and the top of the torso. After that, we can play with the tilt and orientation of the head with relation to the axis of the shoulders.

In this book, I have brought together a number of drawings that were previously published in the earlier volumes of this collection. You will also find some previously unpublished diagrams, ideas about proportions as a function of age, some views from above, and some tips for drawing hair.



Rather than breaking up my remarks by area, from the head down to the shoulders, detailing each element of the face in turn, I propose here that we proceed layer by layer, repeating, over the course of the illustrative plates, a step-by-step operation that will show how, starting with basic shapes, we can add thickness by requiring ourselves to move through first the skeleton and then the musculature, then to erase, depending on the individual model, the anatomical details that are not important, many of which are hidden by fat, hair, or facial hair. I will "dress" some of the drawings, furnishing them with a variety of accessories that will, I hope, make the shape of the head easier to see, whether by contrast (as with the geometry of a pair of glasses) or ergonomically (as with a helmet).

ILLUSTRATIVE PLATES



Proportions

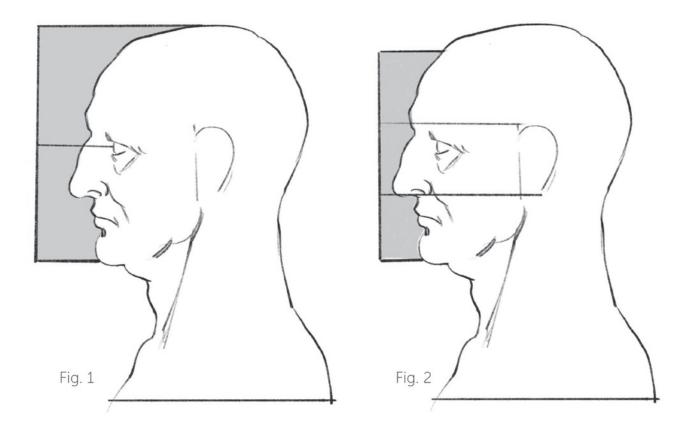


Fig. 1: I decided to start from the "classical" rule, which is easy to memorize because it positions the eyes, on an adult, halfway up. Leonardo da Vinci drew this very precisely and made large numbers of studies of heads that deviate from this proportion to show that the relevance of any such canonical rule is relative.

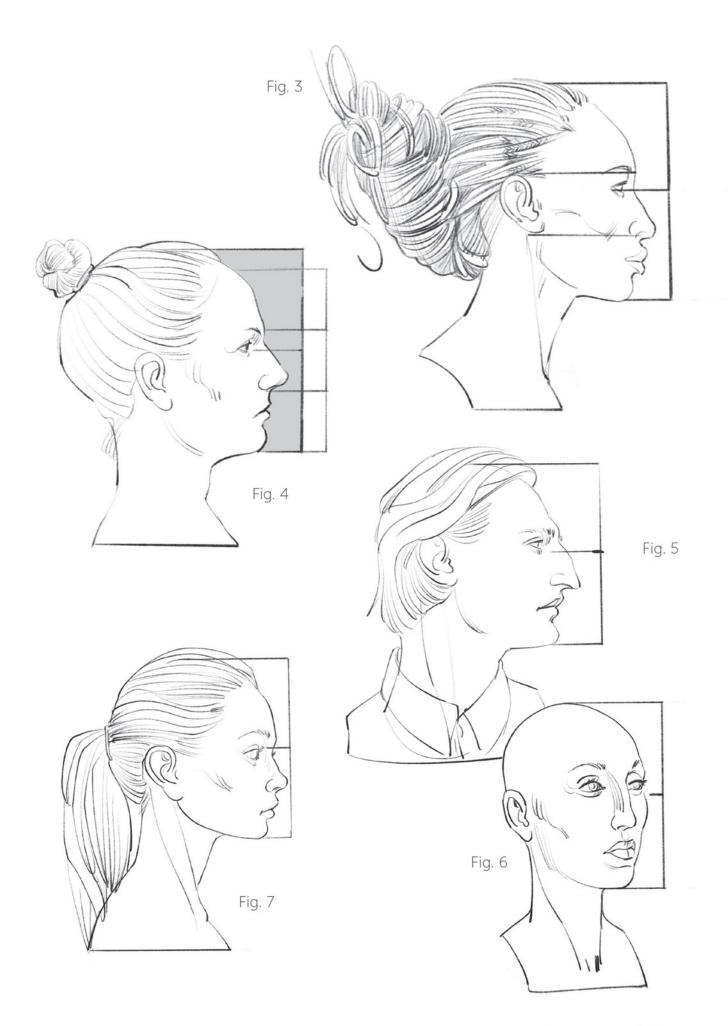
Fig. 2: Da Vinci distinguishes the face from the head and divides the face into three equal segments: the height of the nose in the middle, with an equal segment above it that designates the forehead ending at the hairline, and another equal segment below that ends at the point of the chin. The ear is placed at the level of the nose.

The drawings on the opposite page (copied from photographs) give more nuance to this point.

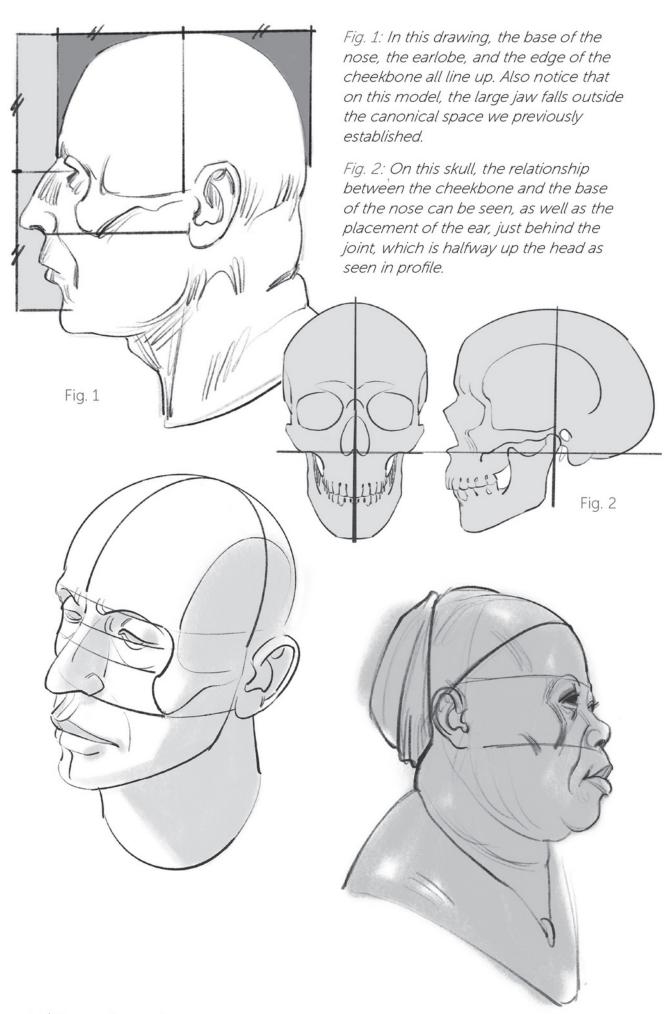
- Fig. 3: This model is a perfect illustration of the rule that we have just looked at.
- Fig. 4: I have often seen the ear placed as we see here, just a little lower down.

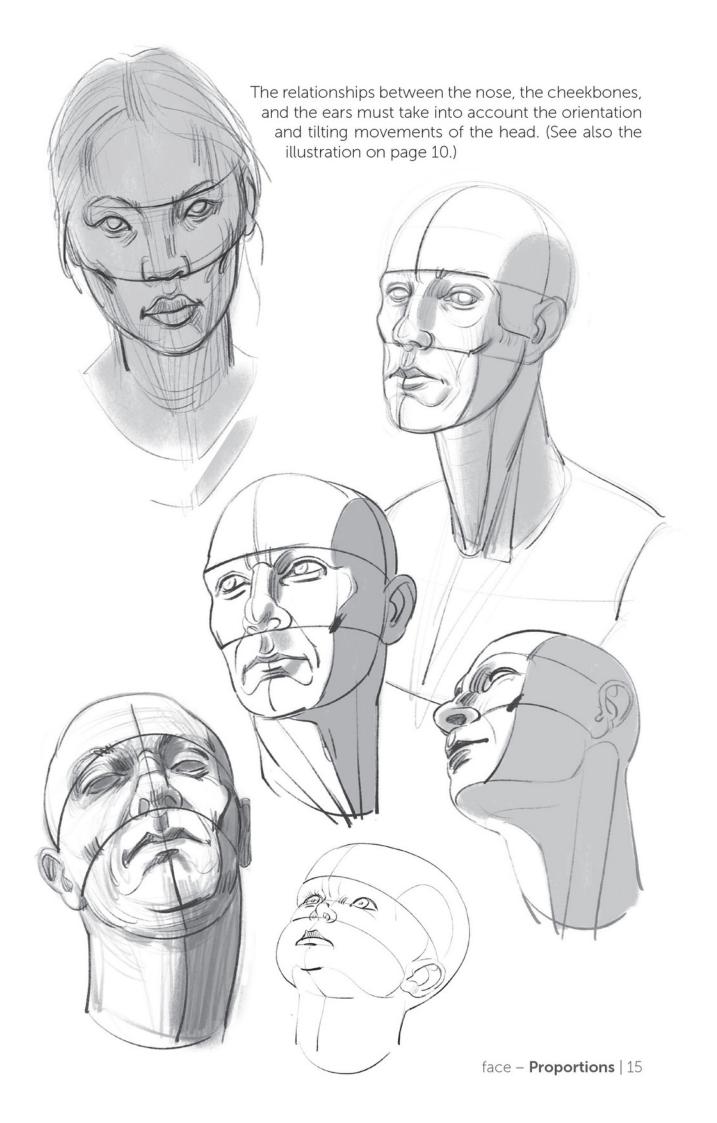
Figs. 5 and 6: The size of the jaw on both of these models means that the eyes are no longer halfway up the head, but are higher up.

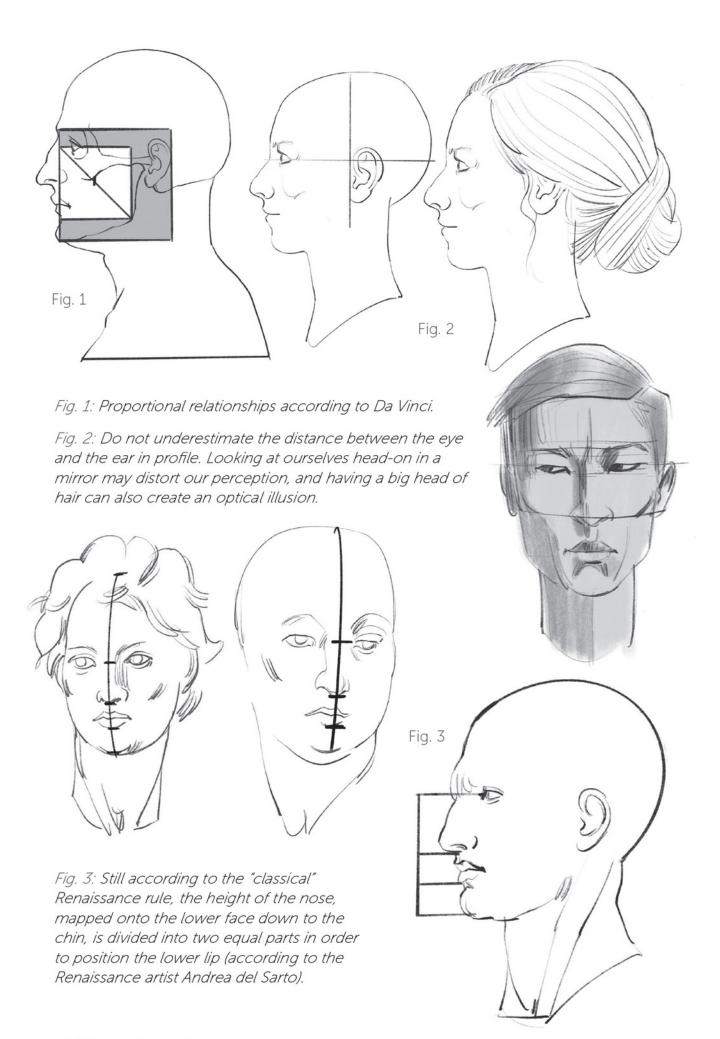
Fig. 7: Here, by contrast, a smaller jaw brings the eyes down below the halfway reference point.



face - **Proportions** | 13







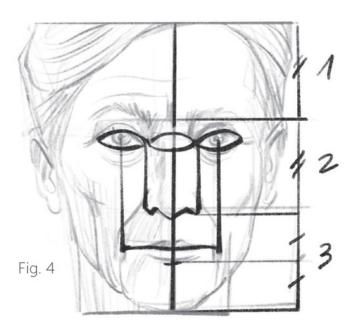
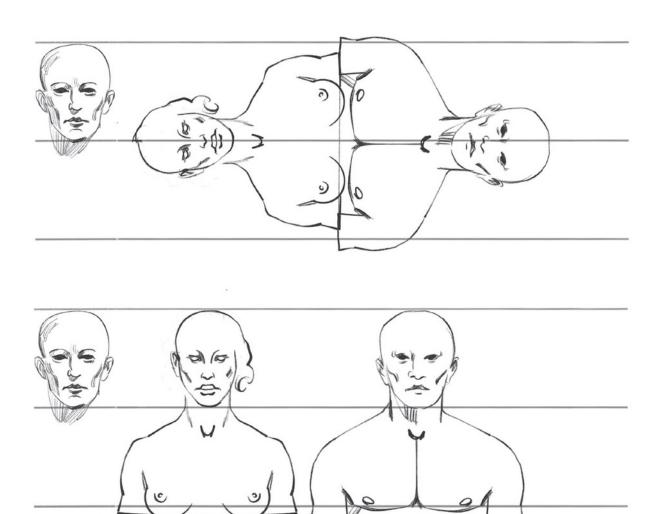


Fig. 4: The width of an eye can be fitted between the two eyes. The width of the nose can coincide with this proportion, whereas the corners of the lips are here lined up directly below the middle of the eyes. These are only mnemonic tips—the variations are endless, and asymmetry rules in the details!









The head serves as a unit of measurement in many proportional canons (in this case, according to the anatomist Paul Richer). I will emphasize here the proportional relationships that can be useful to you if you are considering drawing a bust. Roughly speaking, the width of the shoulders corresponds to two head heights on an adult.



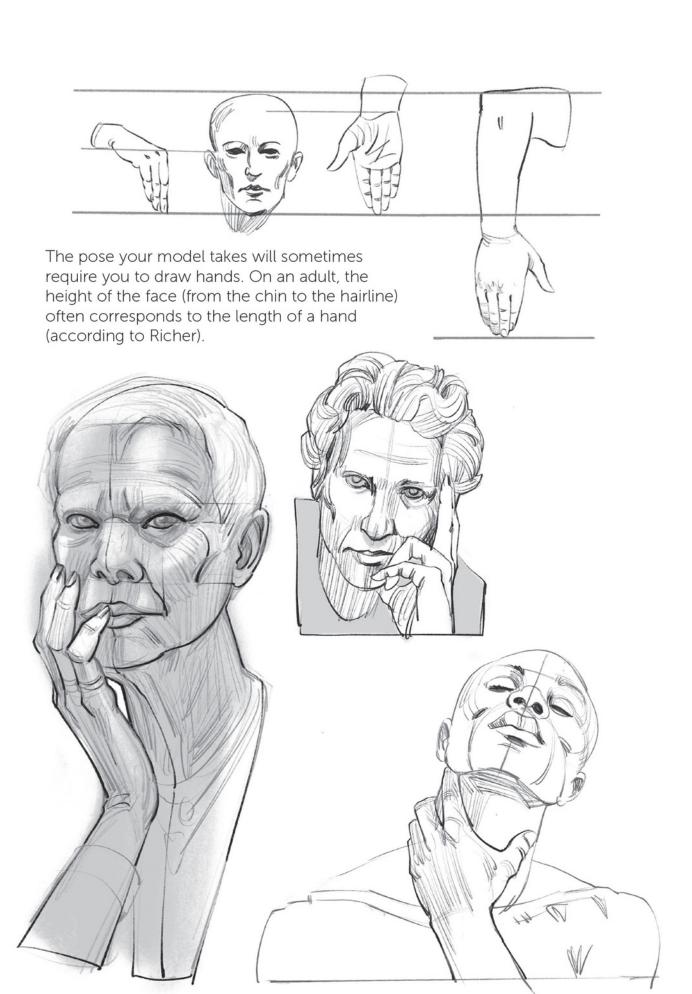
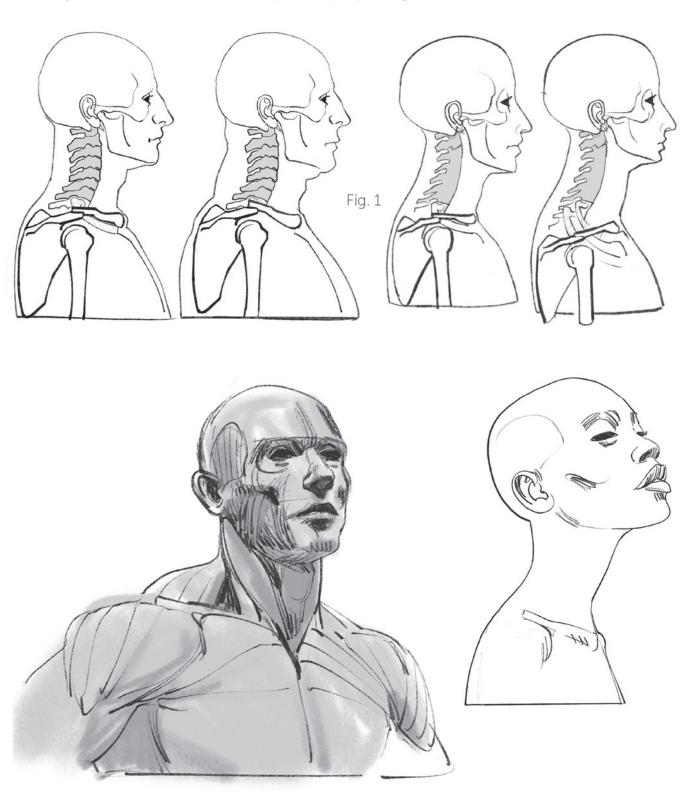
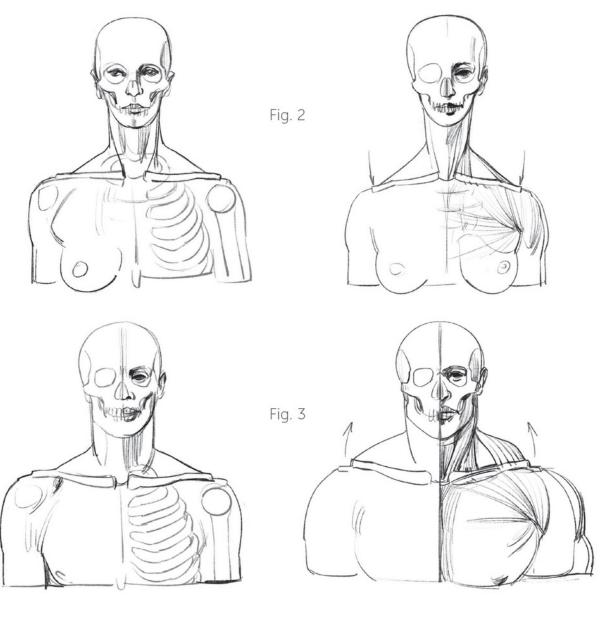


Fig. 1: The cervical portion of the spine (shaded area) usually measures about 13 cm on an adult (according to Mathias Duval), but the proportions of the neck can look very different. In these four drawings, the neck is the same height; however, the narrower a neck is, the longer it will appear. Add to these illusionistic effects, which are the result of fleshy masses (fat and/or muscular), the different sizes of the jaw as well as the effects of posture, especially how the shoulders are carried.





Figs. 2 and 3: The cervical vertebrae are all, again, the same height in all of these different drawings: I imagine the joint under the skull, behind the jawbones (Fig. 1). The neck appears longer if we combine a small jaw with a slender musculature and drooping shoulders; conversely, it appears shorter when combined with a strong jaw, a powerful musculature, and raised shoulders.

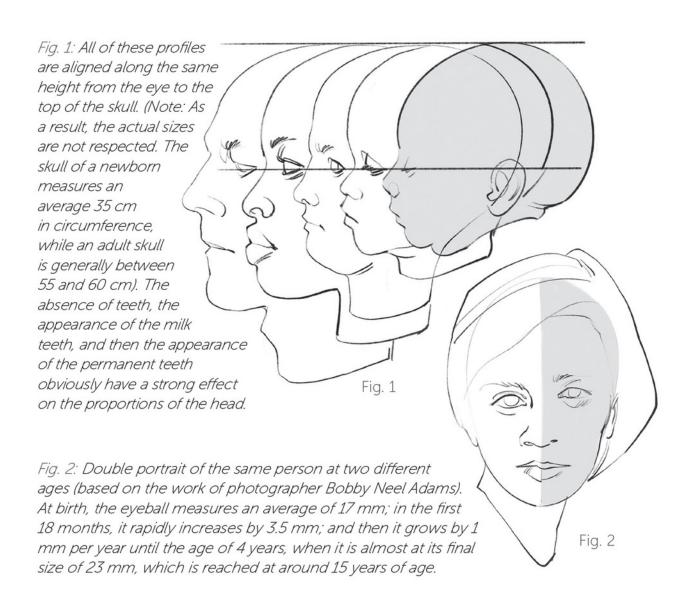
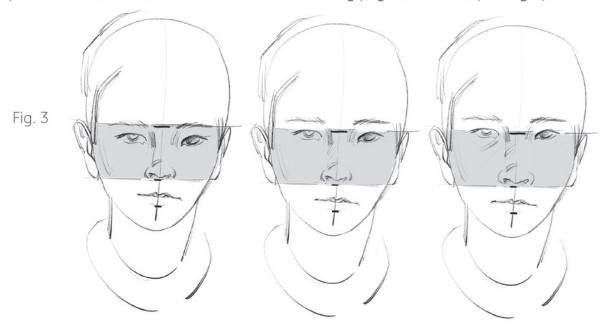
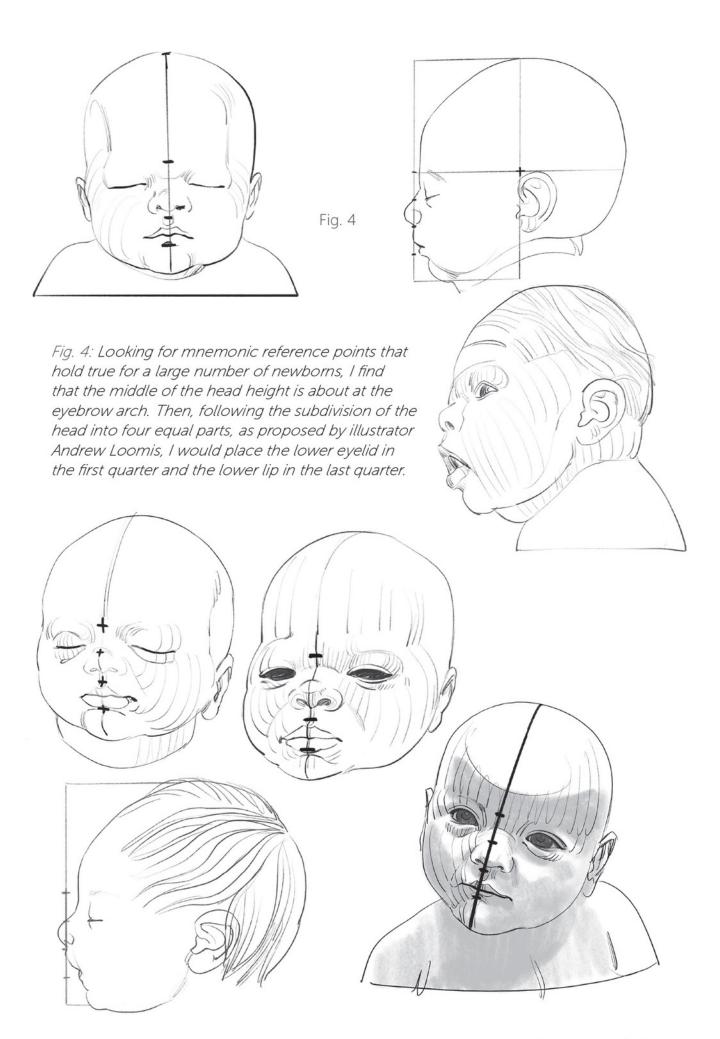
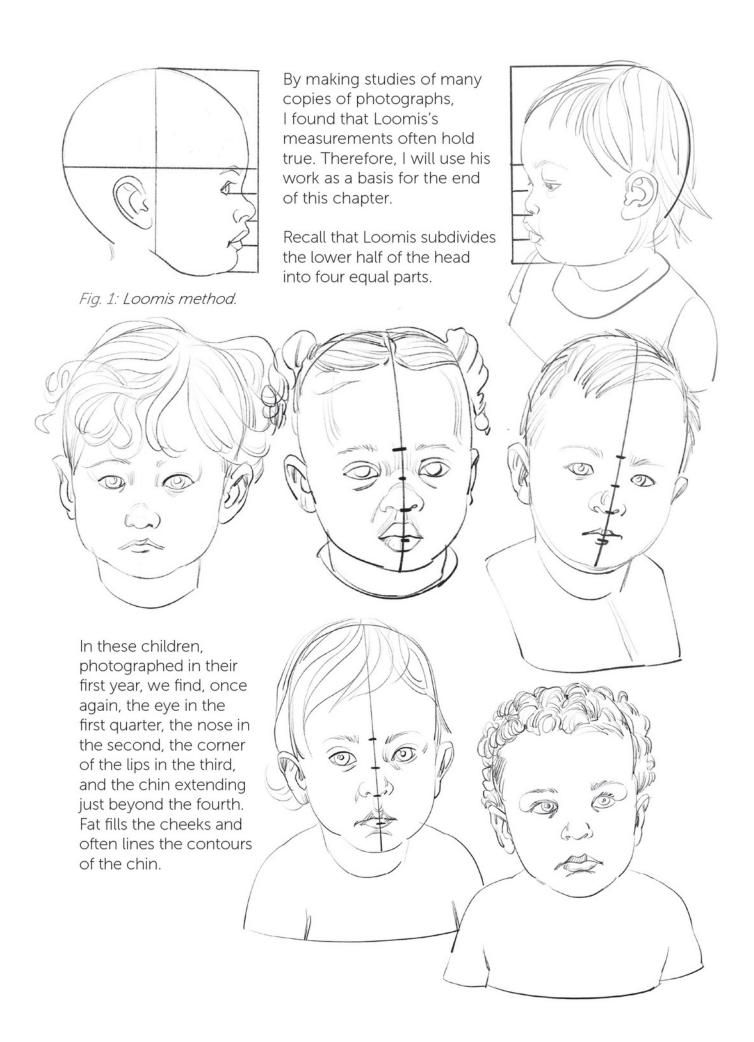


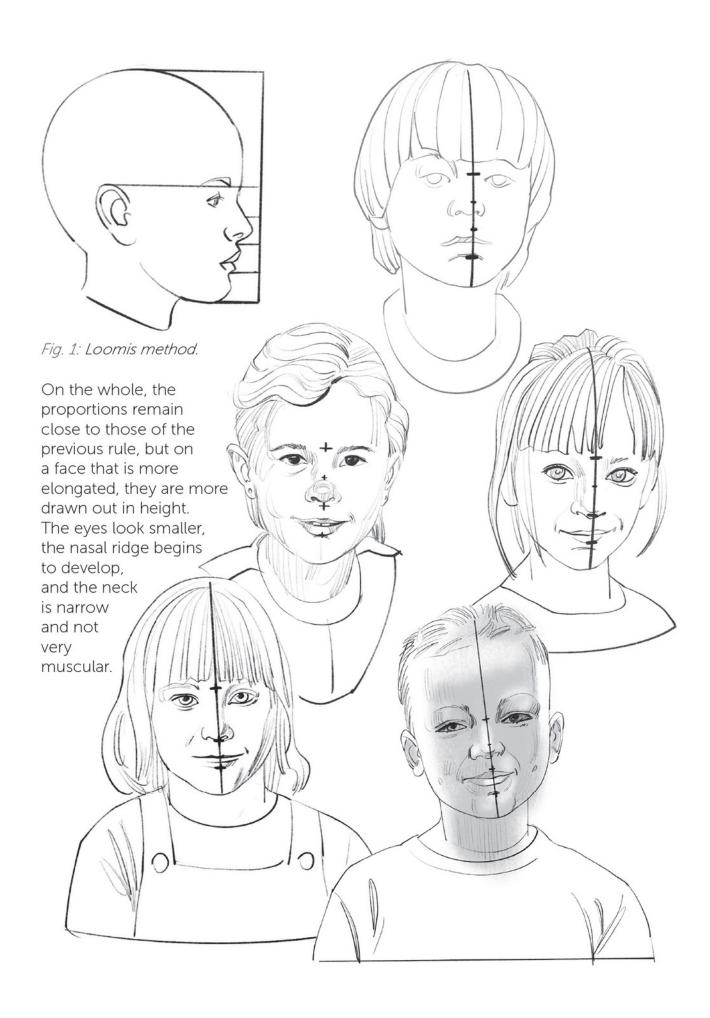
Fig. 3: On the same basic sketch, the eyes are raised and somewhat reduced in size. This same person now seems to be represented at several different ages. This drawing tip will be borne out in the studies on the following pages, based on photographs.

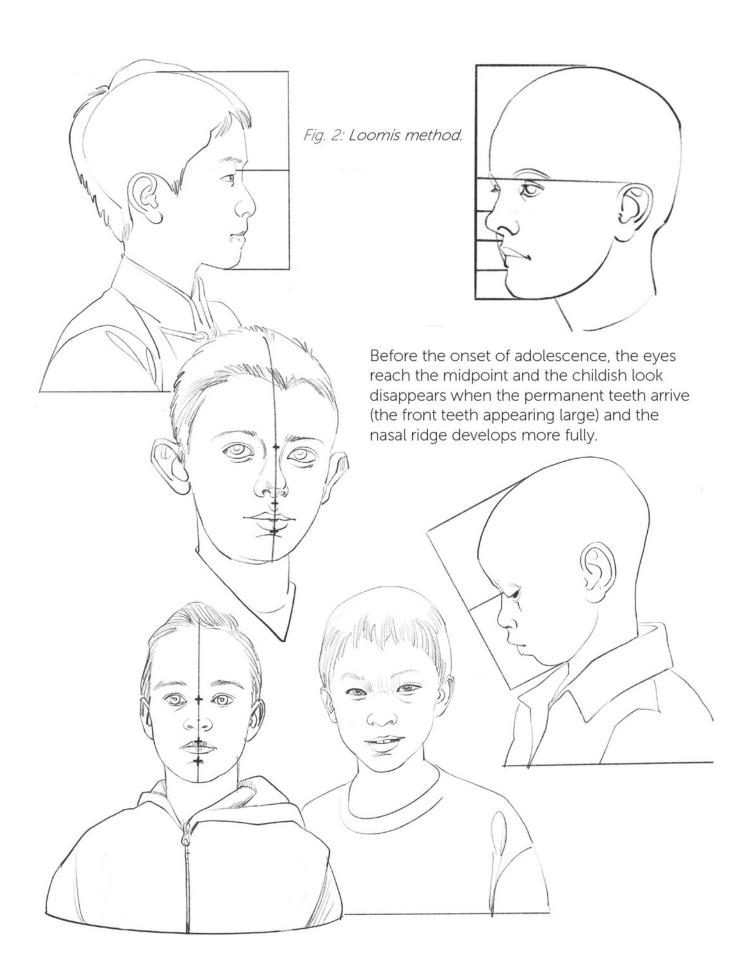


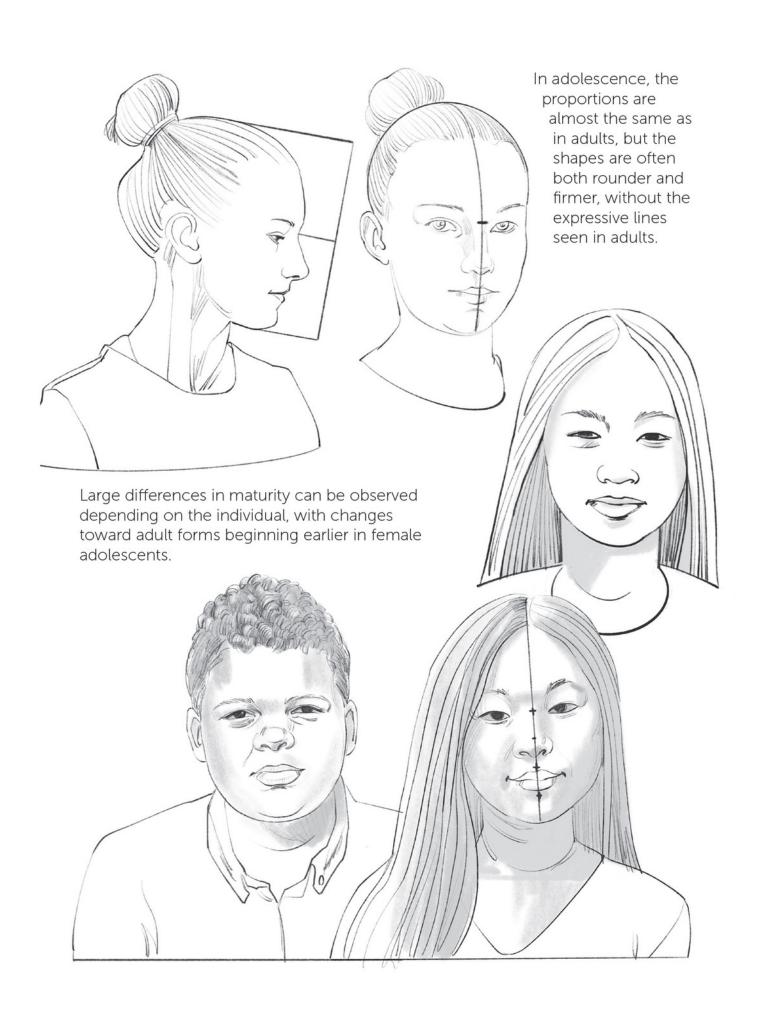


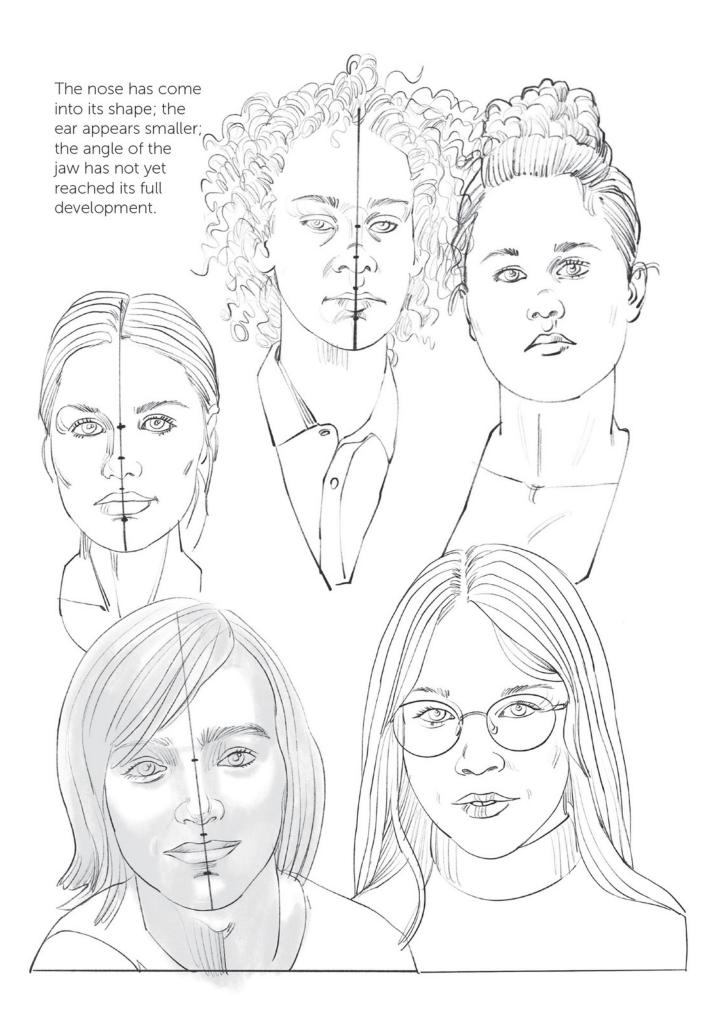


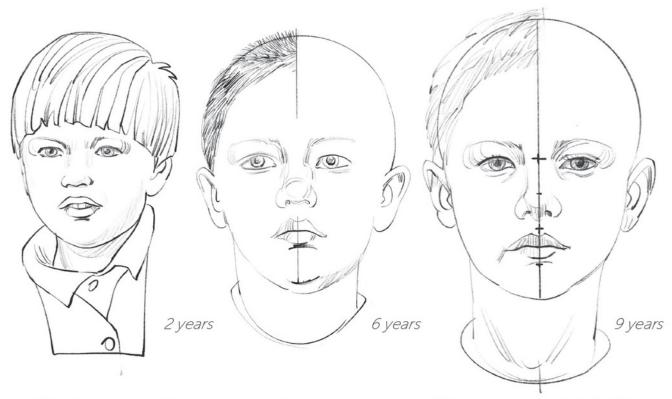
For the next three years, while the jaw grows (lowering the halfway point of the head height), the eye, the nose, and the mouth appear to move upward. Thus, the eye is now in the middle of the first quarter and the bottom of the lower lip is in the third. The nose continues to be small and rounded, and the nasal ridge is not yet developed. Fig. 2: Loomis method.





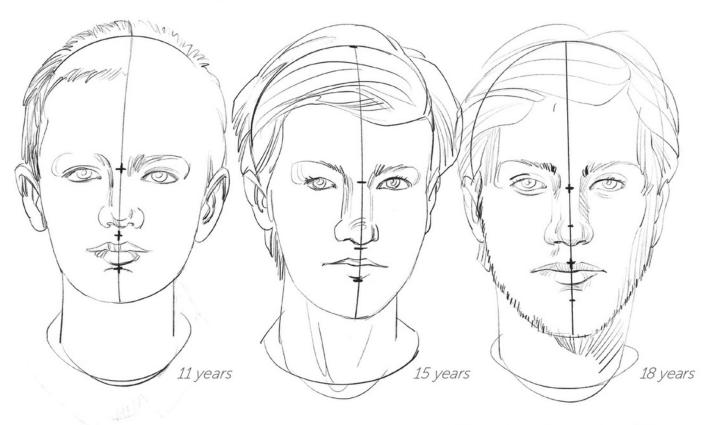


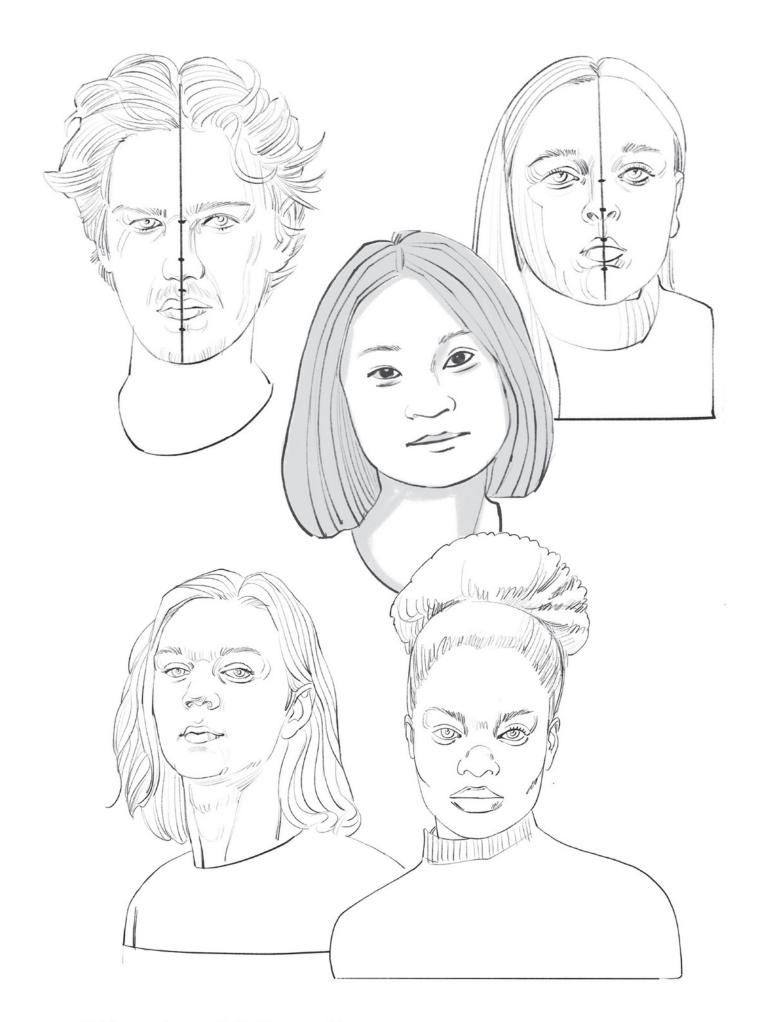


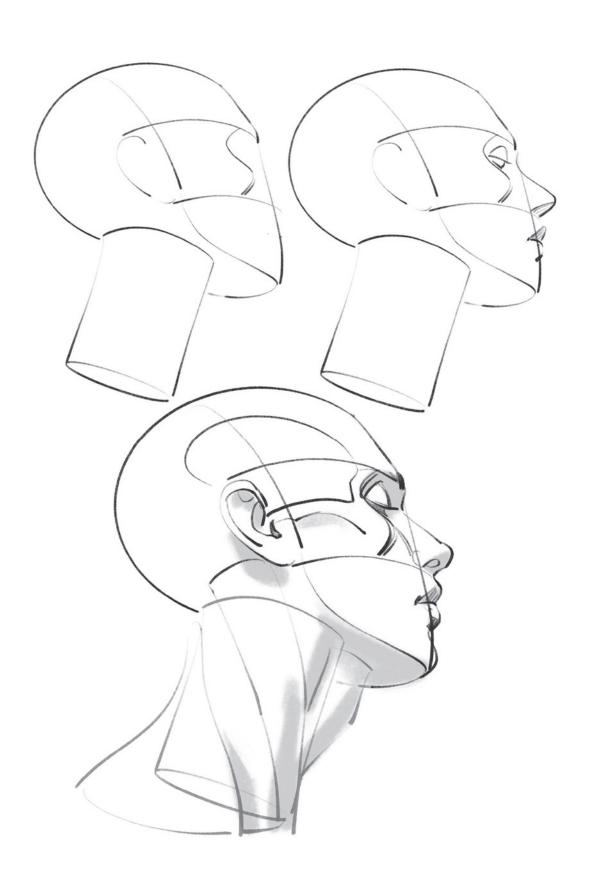


This final plate, which represents the same person at different ages (2, 6, 9, 11, 15, and 18 years old), is intended as a summary. We can see here the curves of early childhood, the elongation of the face over the years, and the development of the jaw that comes with maturity.

Above, we saw that the childlike characteristics most often used in animated movies, comics, and graphic novels (particularly in manga) can be verified from photos: a rounder head, relatively larger eyes, a rounded tip of the nose, and a less obvious nasal ridge.







Basic Shapes

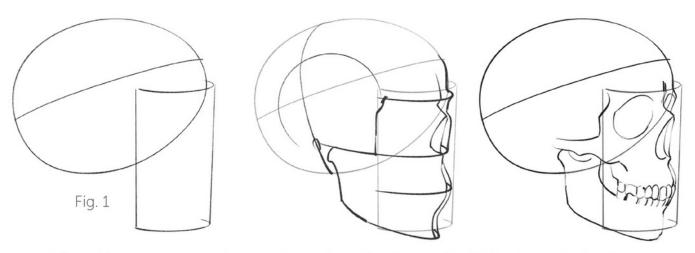
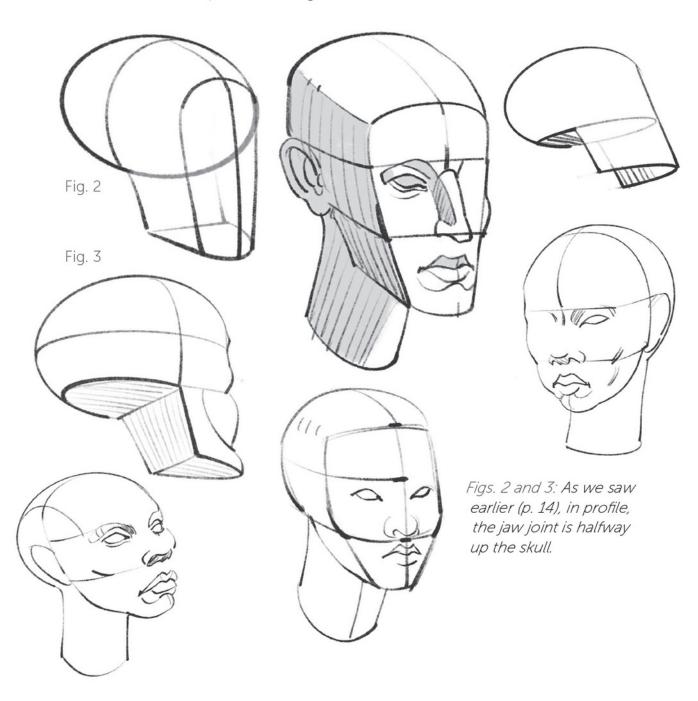
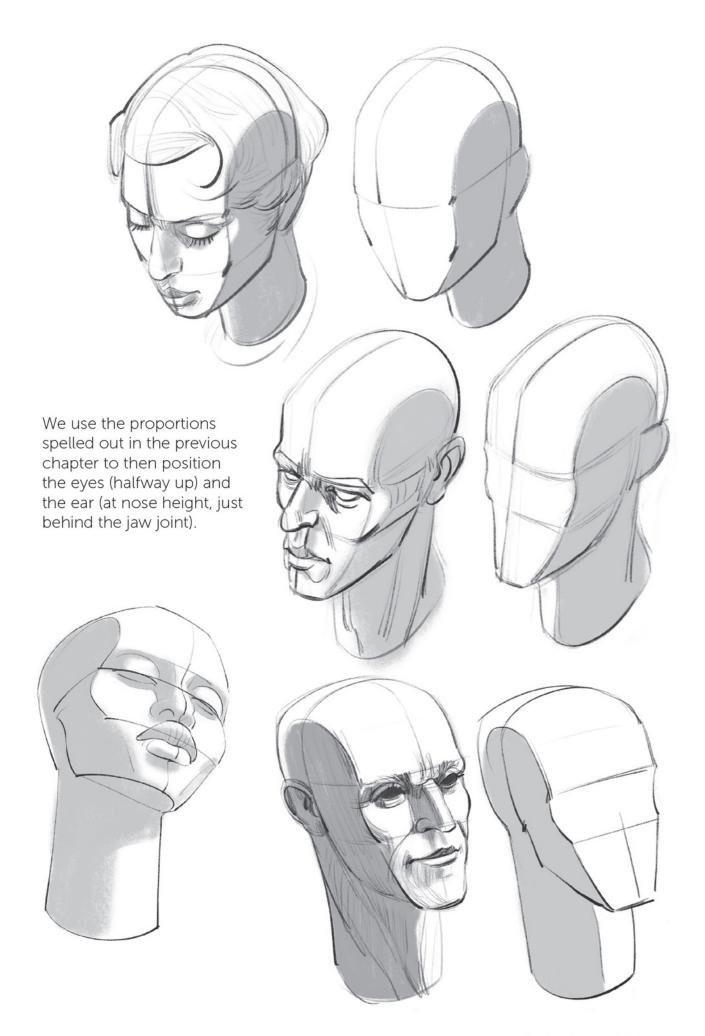
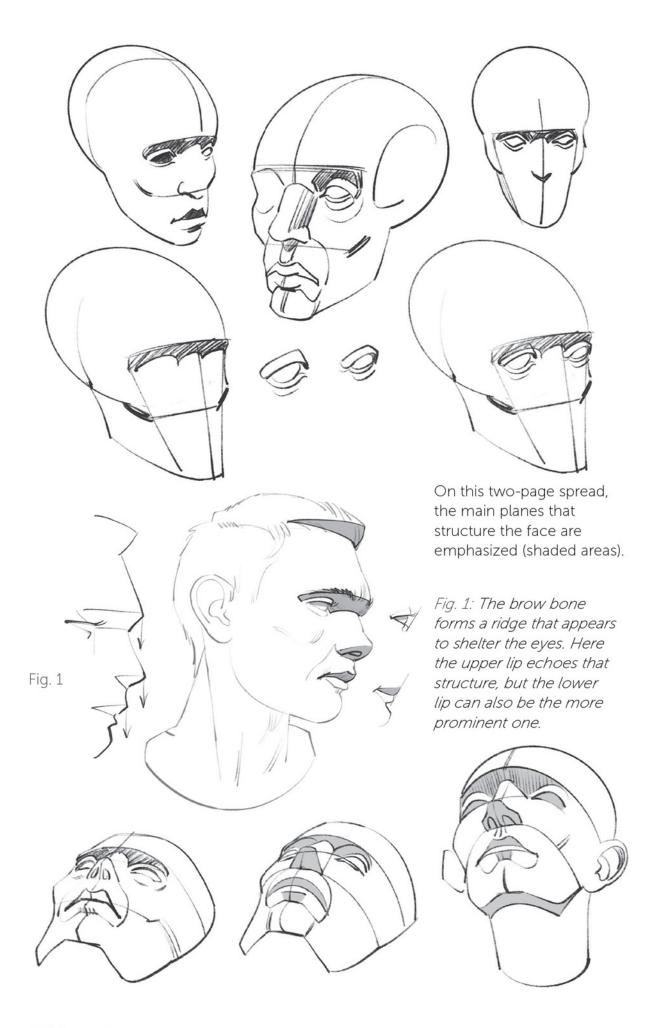


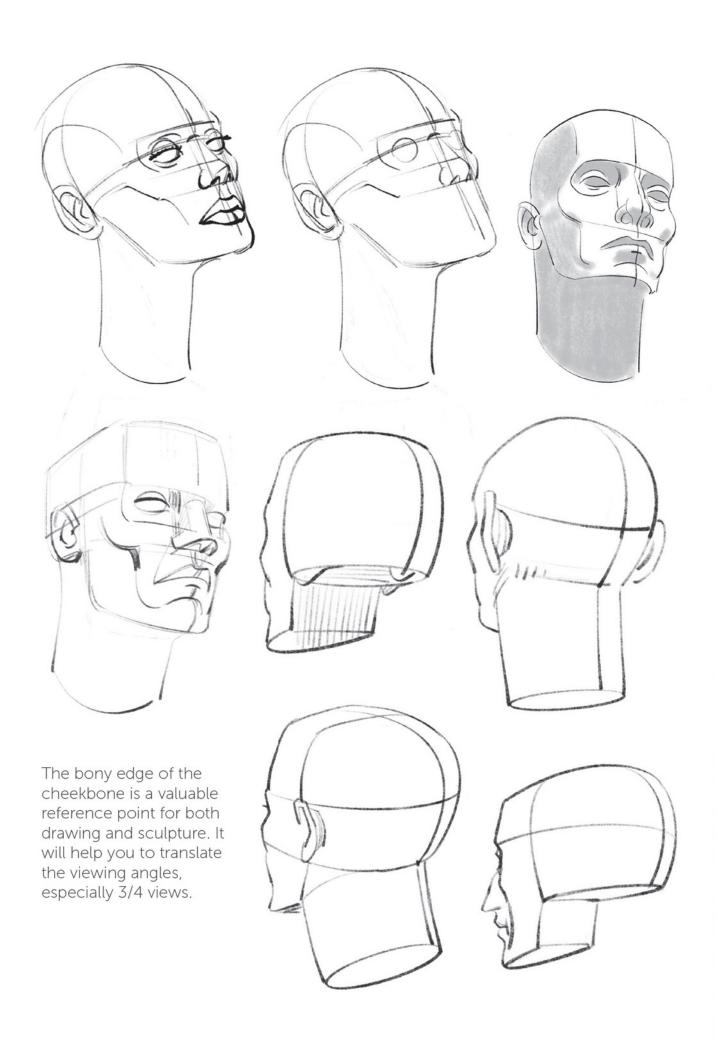
Fig. 1: Here we can see the egg shape (ovoid) of the skull, with its tip on the forehead, and the face in the shape of a roofing tile, so as not to flatten the facial elements.

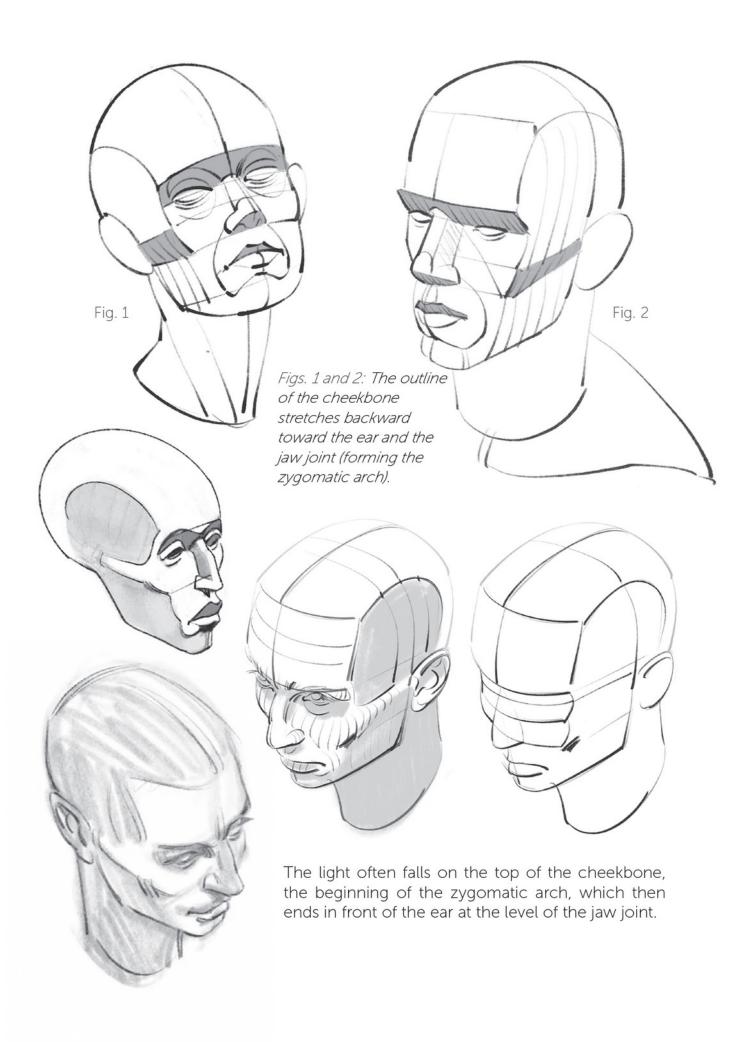




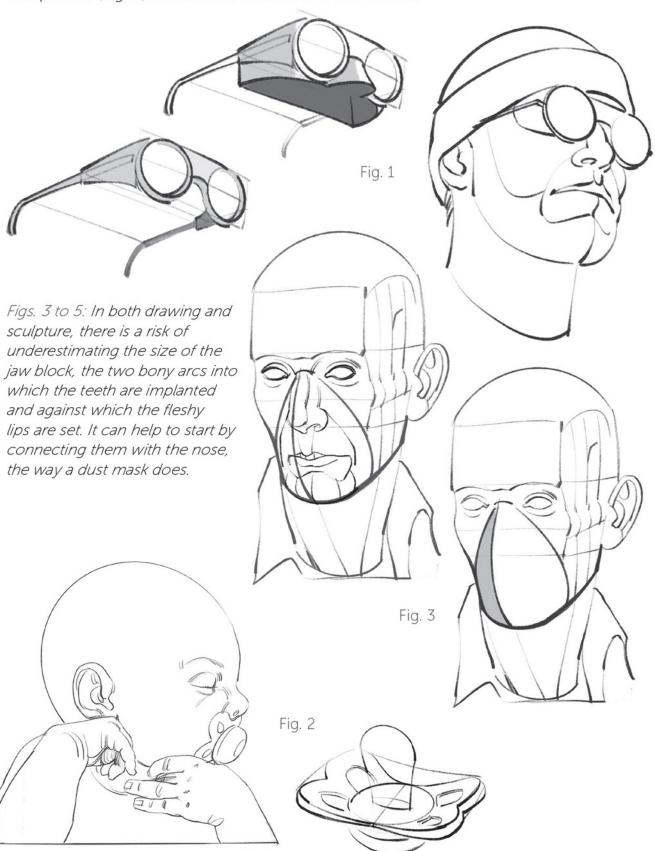


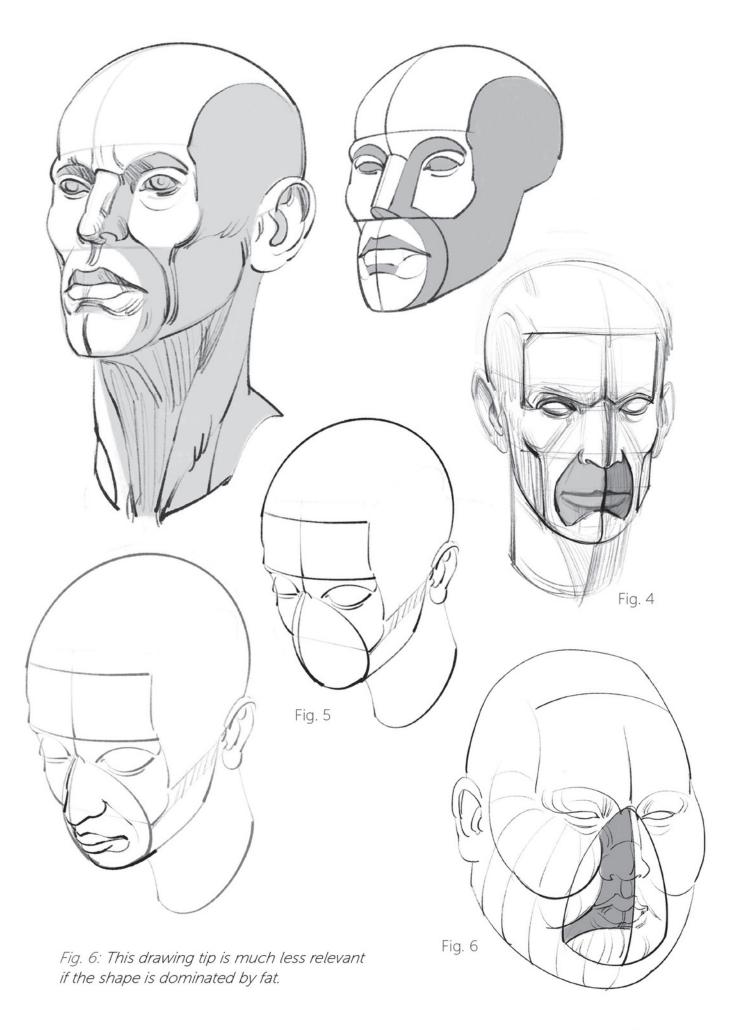




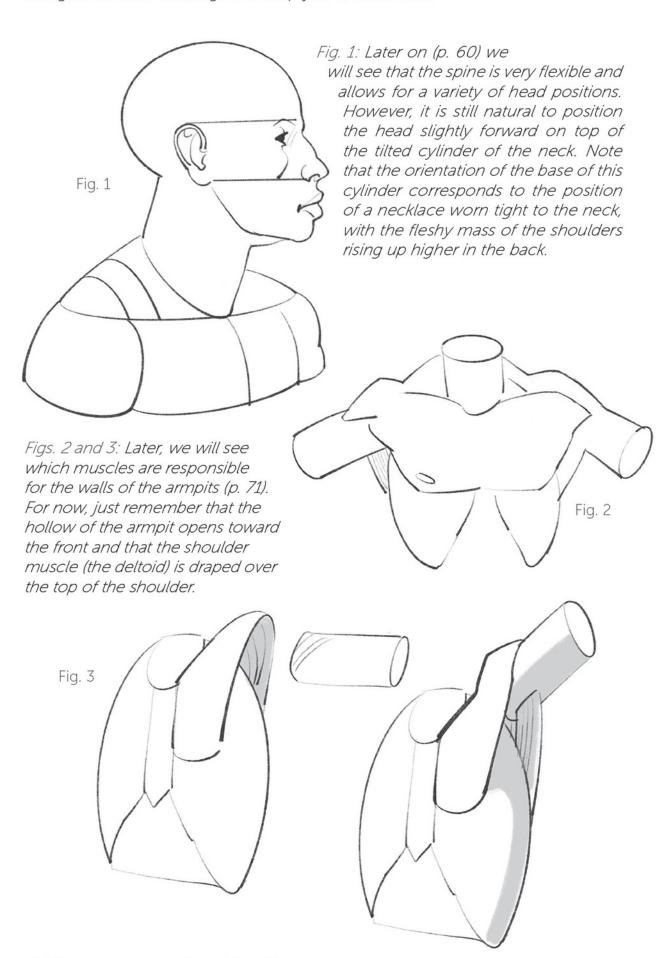


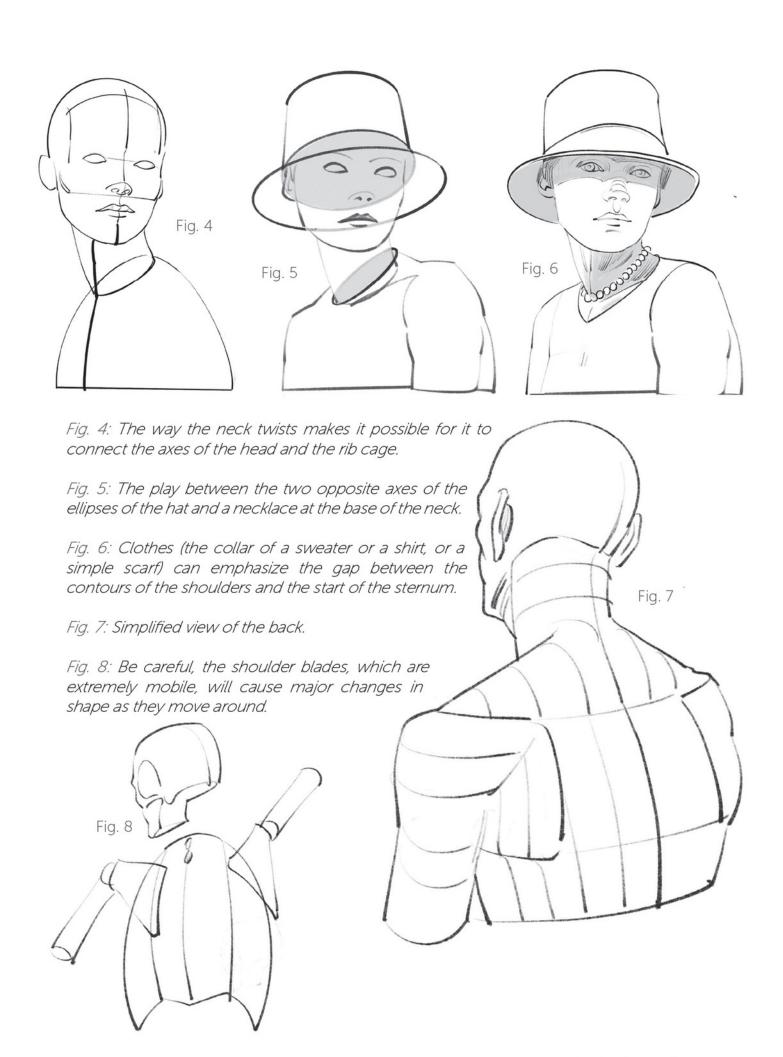
Certain accessories, like the ones chosen on this page, can make the shapes of the body more clearly visible. The elasticity of a cap (Fig. 1) molds itself to and emphasizes the roundness of the head; the geometry of a pair of glasses (Fig. 1) reveals the curved shapes of the face by its contrast; and the ergonomic shape of a pacifier (Fig. 2) molds itself to the arc of the mouth.





The goal of these drawings is to help you create a bust.







Skeleton and Bone Reference Points

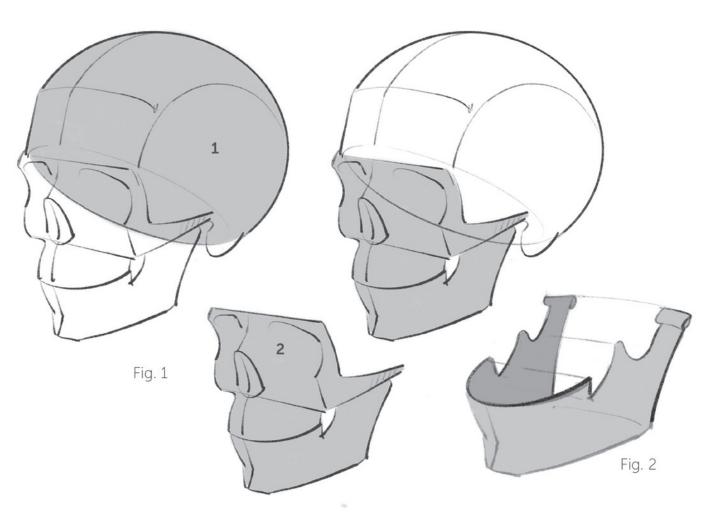
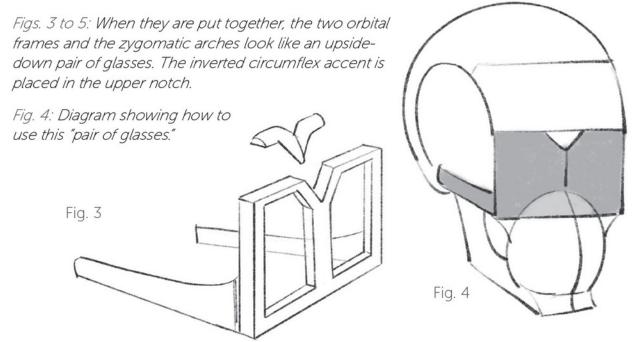
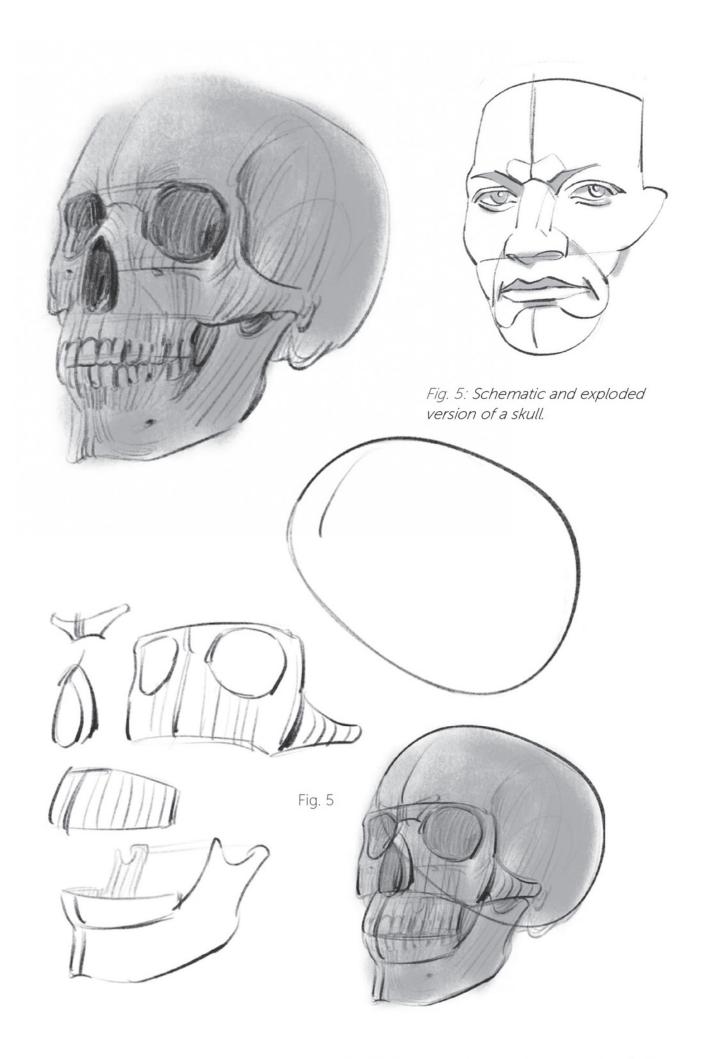


Fig. 1: Cutting the skull into three elements. The cranial box, a true ovoid exoskeleton, envelops and protects the brain (1). The facial bones are wedged underneath the forehead, and the orbital and nasal cavities overhang the two bony arcs that support the teeth (2).

Fig. 2: The lower jaw (mandible), the only mobile bone on the skull, is taken out of this set.





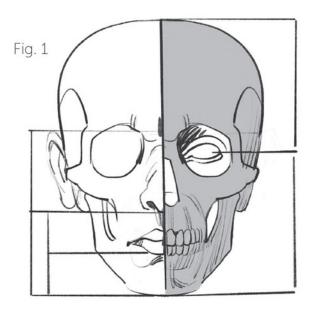
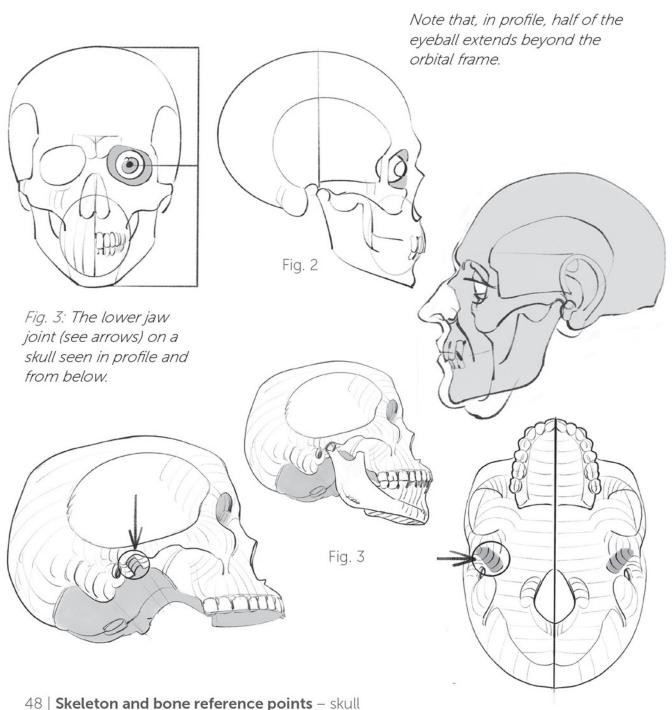
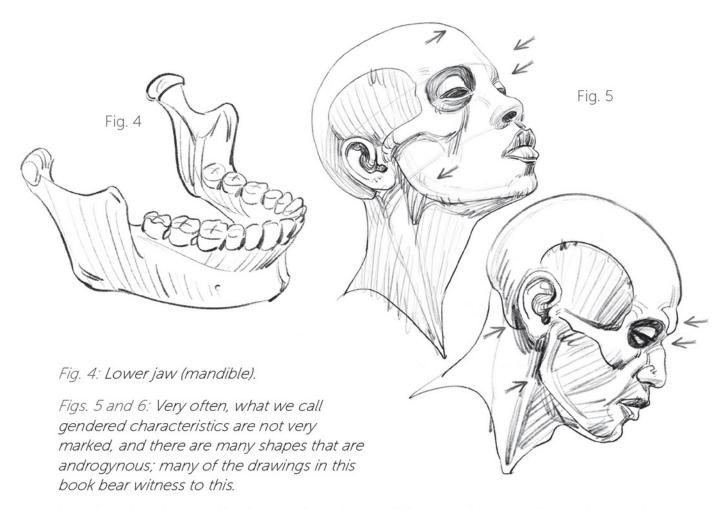


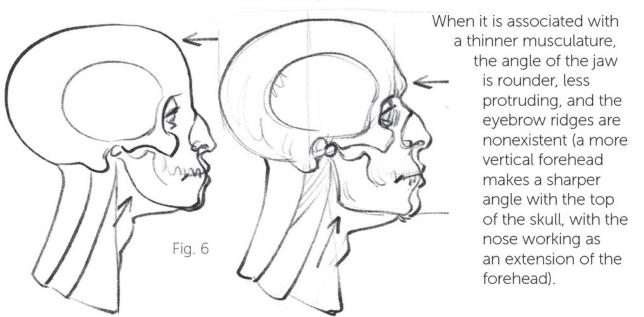
Fig. 1: The proportions that we looked at in the first chapter will help us to position the various construction points for the skull. Placing the eyes at the halfway point of the height of the skull will allow us to draw the frame of the orbits; the nose will coincide with the naval cavity, and the lips will theoretically meet halfway up in front of the upper incisors.

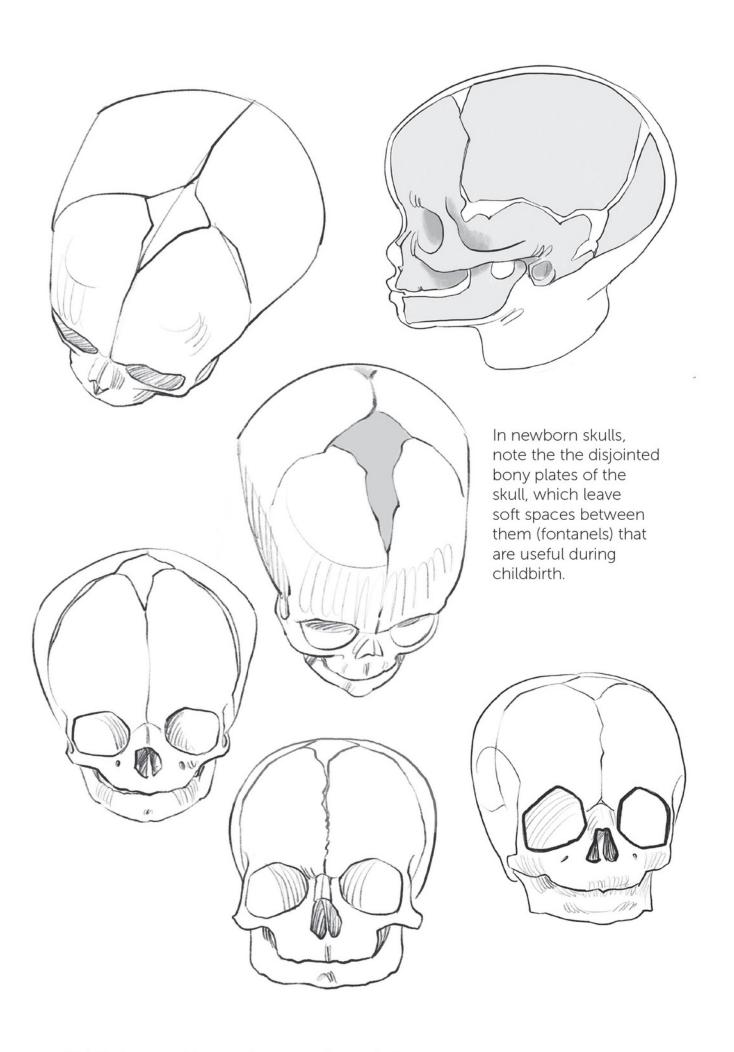
Fig. 2: On the profile, the lower jaw joint is halfway back, and the ear is positioned on top of the ear hole at the height of the nose.

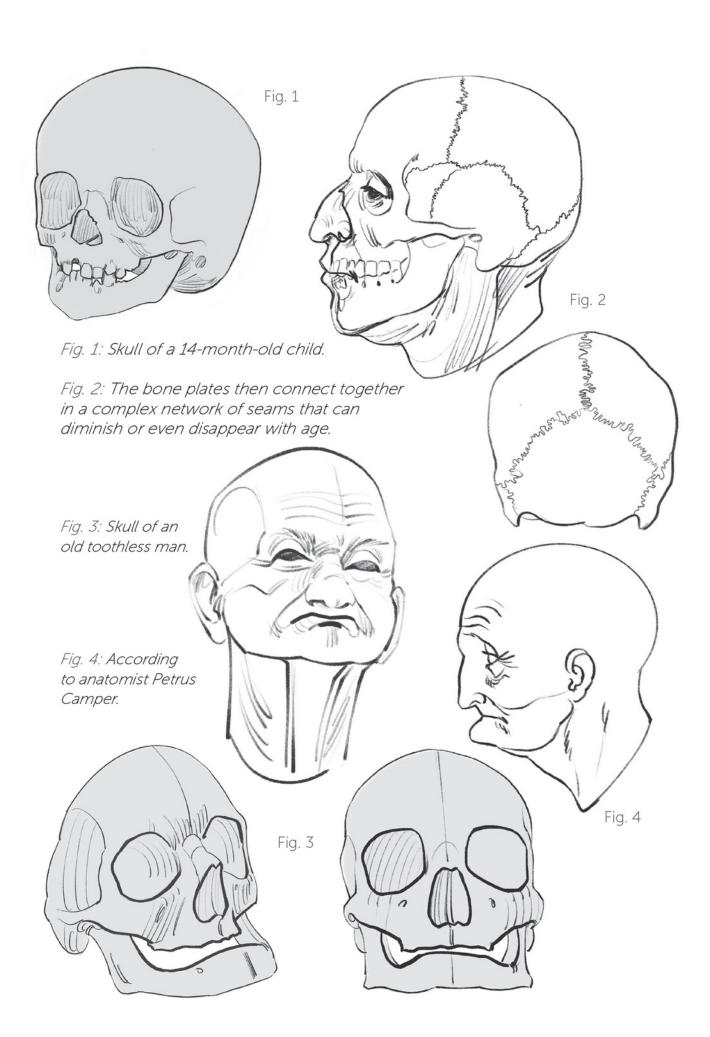




Despite what is stated in the caption above, differences in strength and in muscle mass do have repercussions for the skeleton, which has to adapt to them. A female skeleton is lighter and finer, and the muscle insertions are softer. A male skeleton, conversely, is more robust, with more defined muscle insertions. This difference in strength can be found on the skull, especially at the level of the jaw and the chewing muscles (see p. 66). The consequences are a larger mandible, and specifically its squarer angle; eyebrow ridges that contain the pressure (making the forehead more receding, but the root of the nose more clearly marked as a result); and a thicker mastoid eminence (see p. 68).







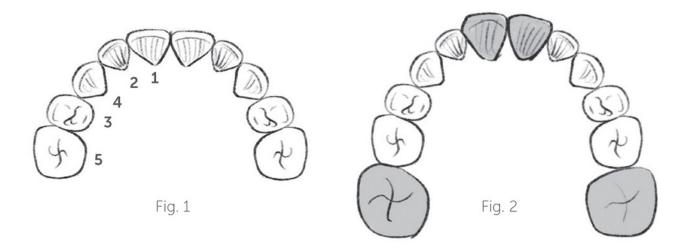
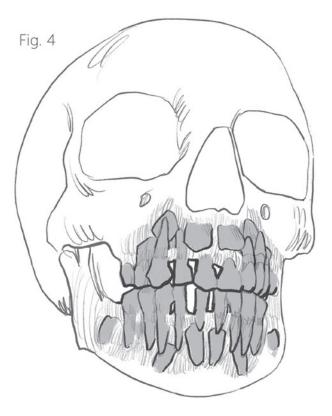


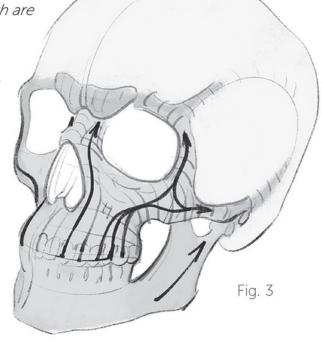
Fig. 1: Order of appearance of the milk teeth (the lower incisors often grow in before the upper incisors).

Fig. 2: Mixed dentition (the permanent teeth are shown as shaded).

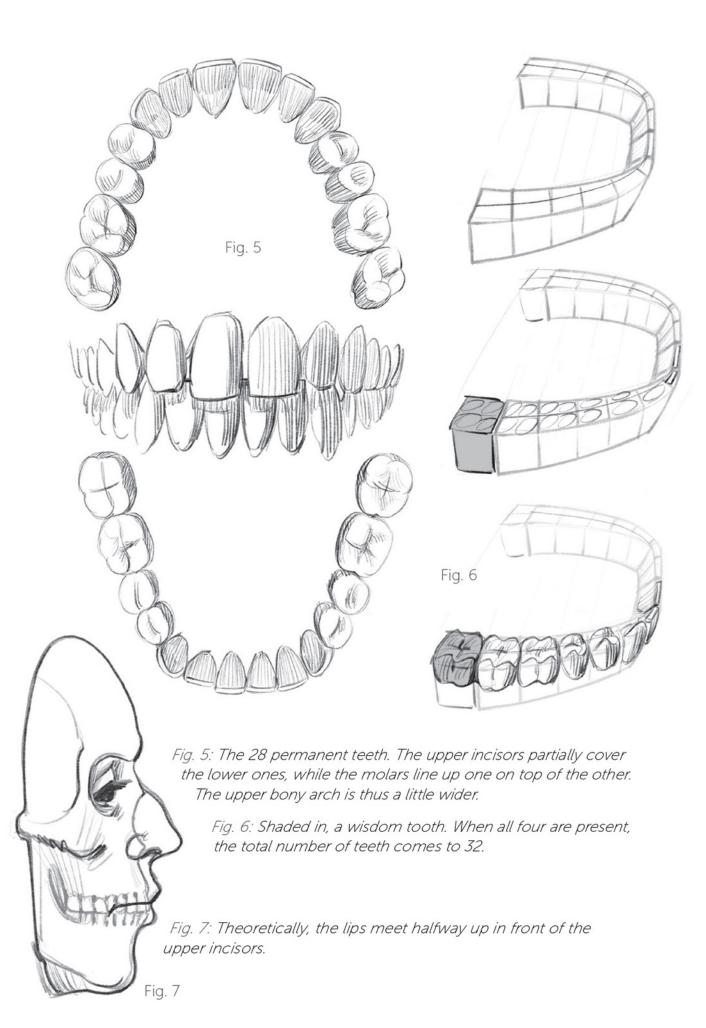
Fig. 3: The pressures of the jaws require bony pillars that can thicken (as well as the "brake" provided by the eyebrow ridges) at the expense of the orbital and nasal cavities. (Compare with Fig. 6, p. 49.)

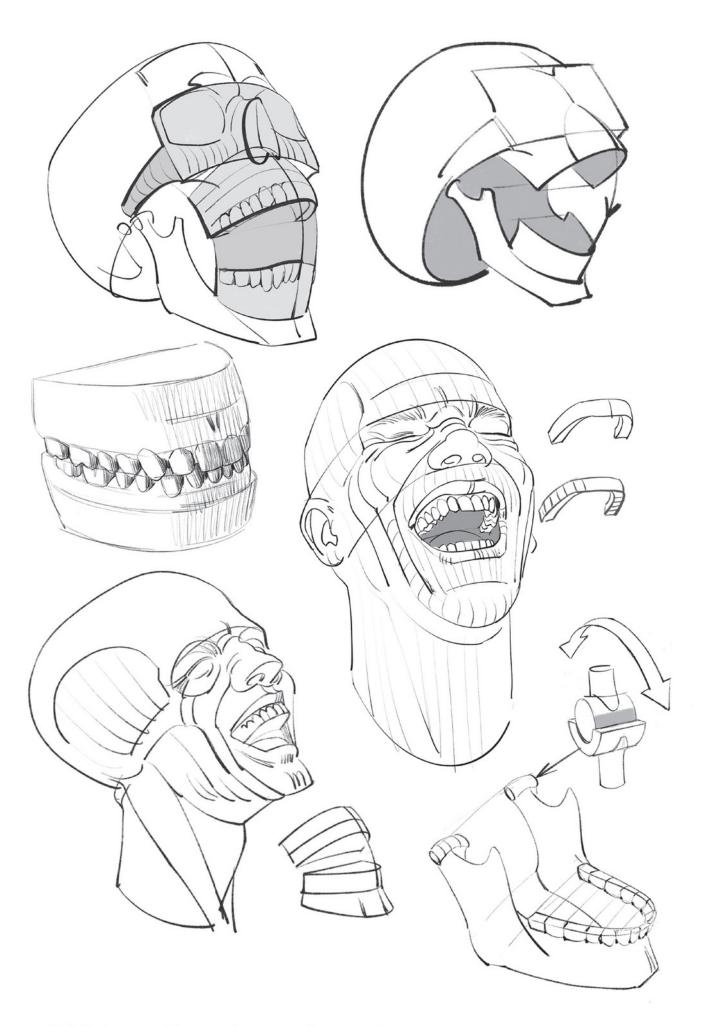
Fig. 4: The teeth form inside the jawbones.



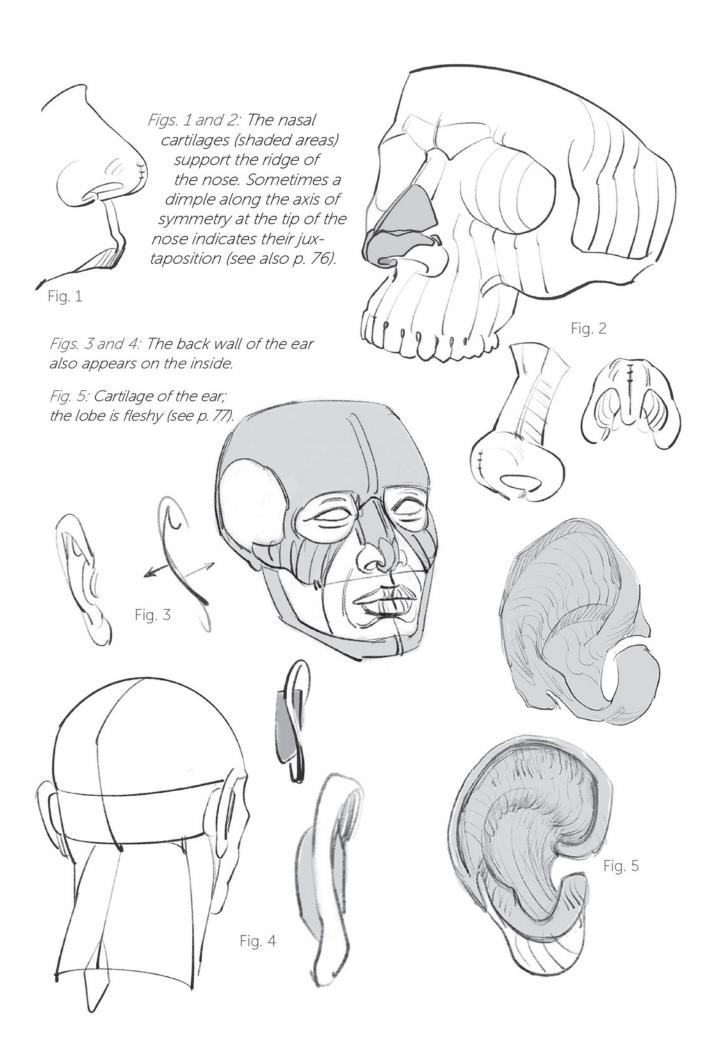


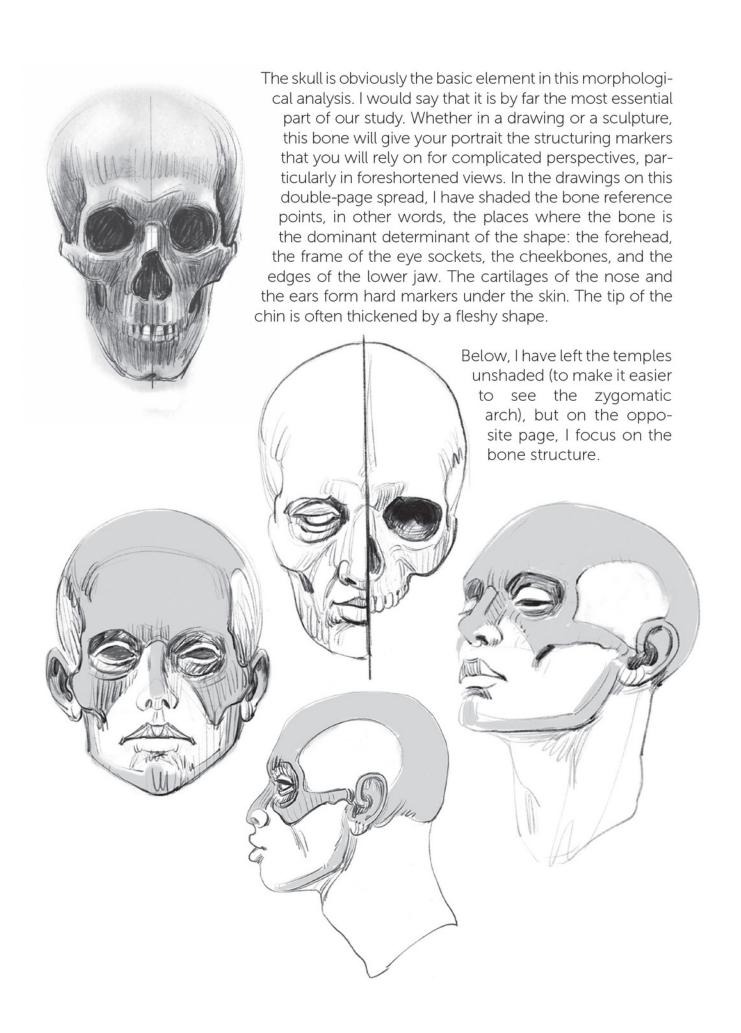
The first teeth usually appear at between 4 and 7 months of age (some children already have one or two teeth at birth). For most children, all of the milk teeth will be in place before the age of 3. The permanent teeth appear starting at age 5 or 6, with the last ones coming in at around 12 years old. The last four molars, also called "wisdom teeth," usually grow in at between 18 and 20 years old (Fig. 6), but they erupt randomly.

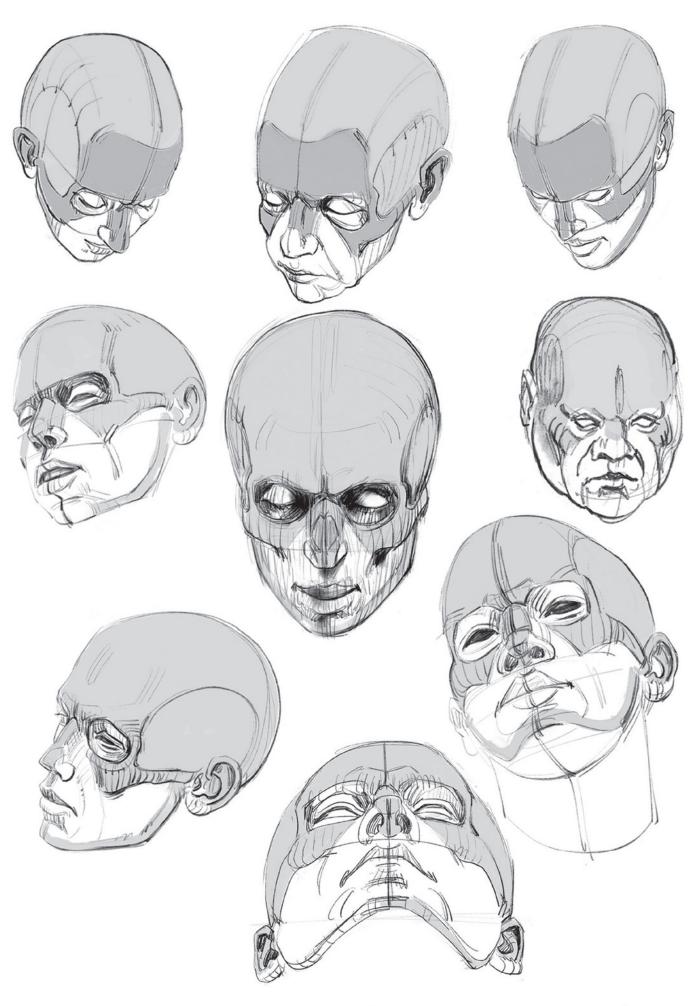




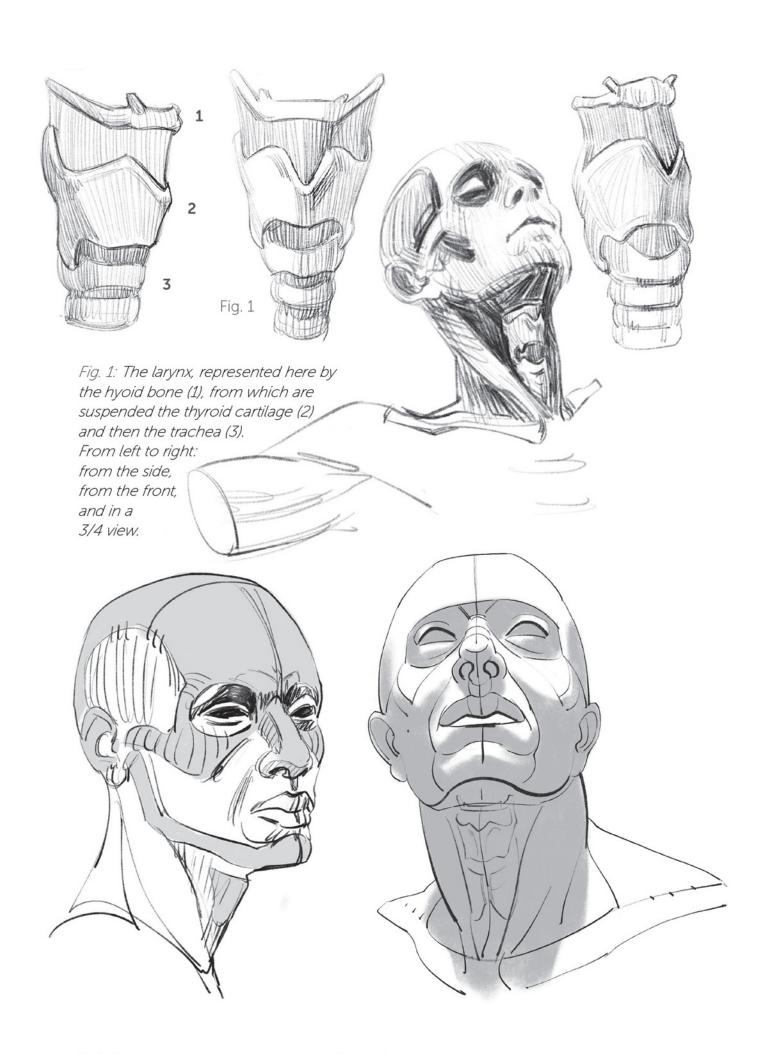
54 | Skeleton and bone reference points – teeth

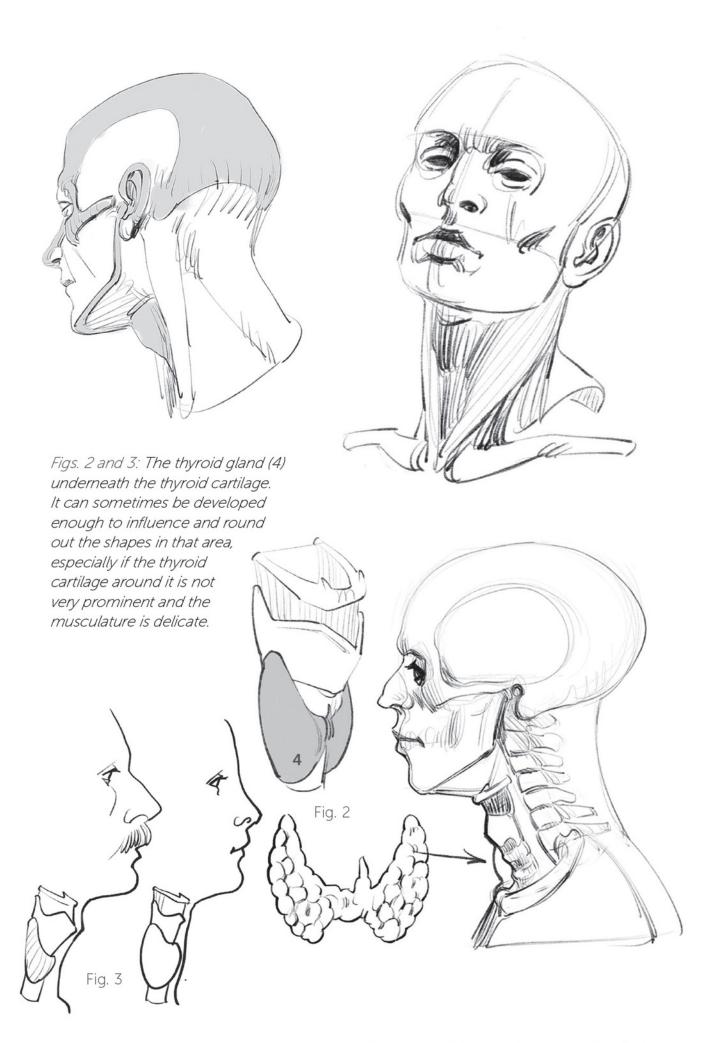


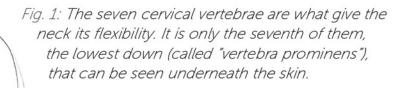




bone reference points – **Skeleton and bone reference points** | 57







The first two vertebrae are remarkable: The first one, the atlas bone, articulates with the skull and allows movements of flexion and extension (when we nod "yes," we are letting our skull slide along this vertebra), while movements of rotation take place on the second vertebra, the axis vertebra (we shake our heads "no" by turning the skull and the atlas bone on this second vertebra).

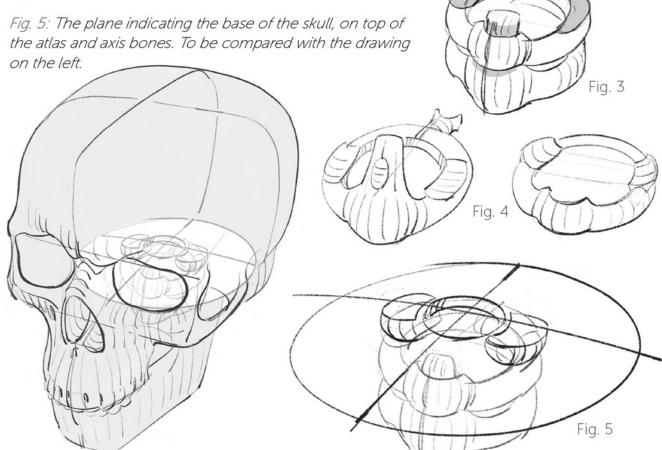
Fig. 2

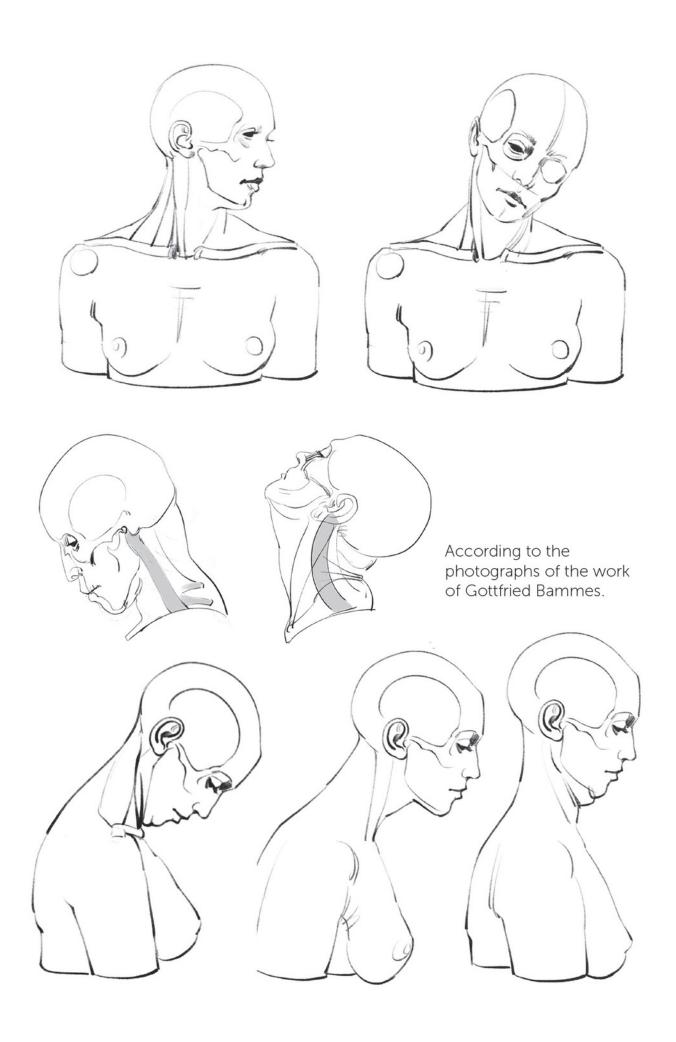


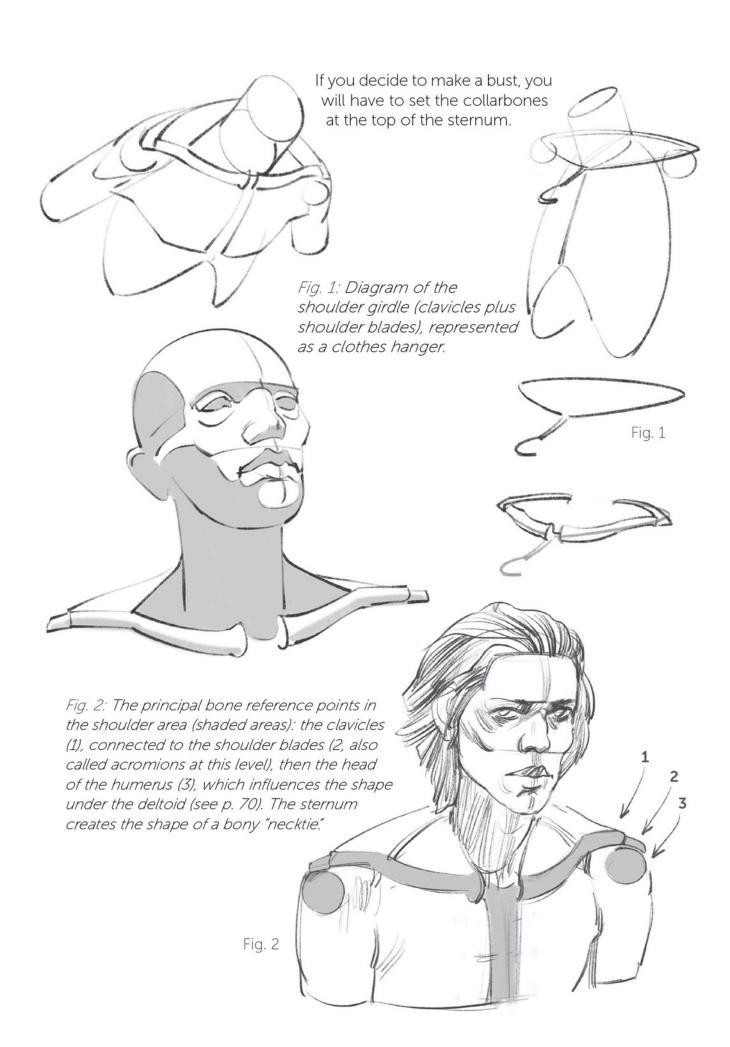
Fig. 1

Fig. 3: Front view of the atlas bone on top of the axis vertebra (the shaded areas are the surfaces that connect with the skull).









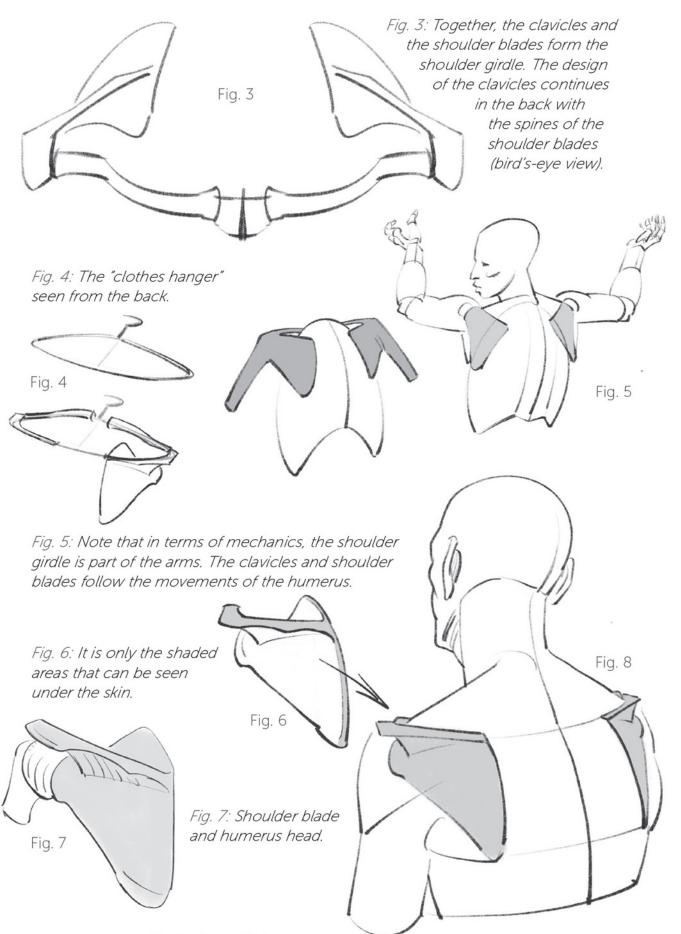
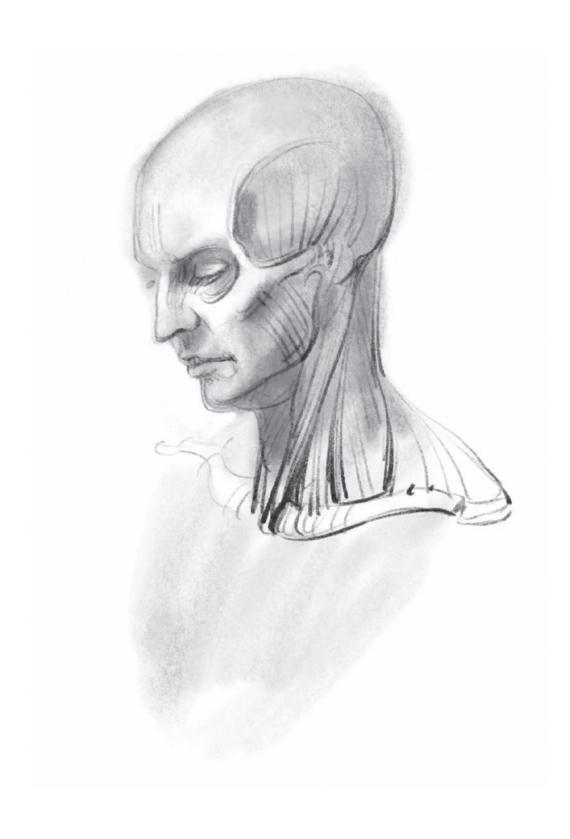


Fig. 8: On a 3/4 bust, one shoulder blade looks like it's lying flat while the other is receding.



Musculature

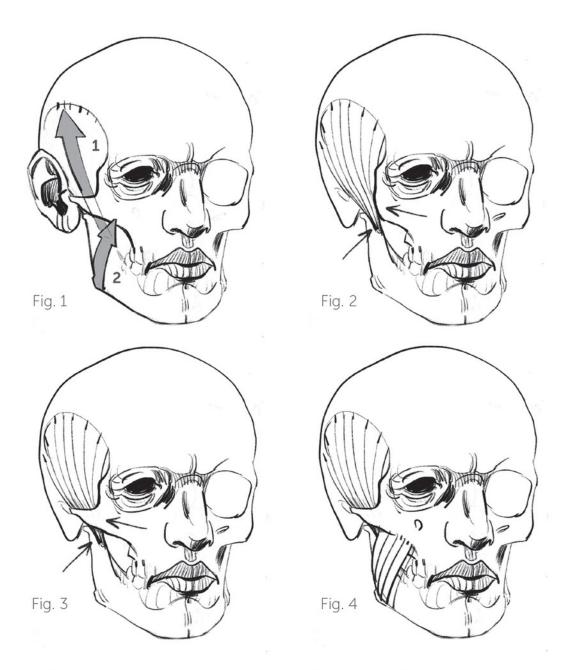
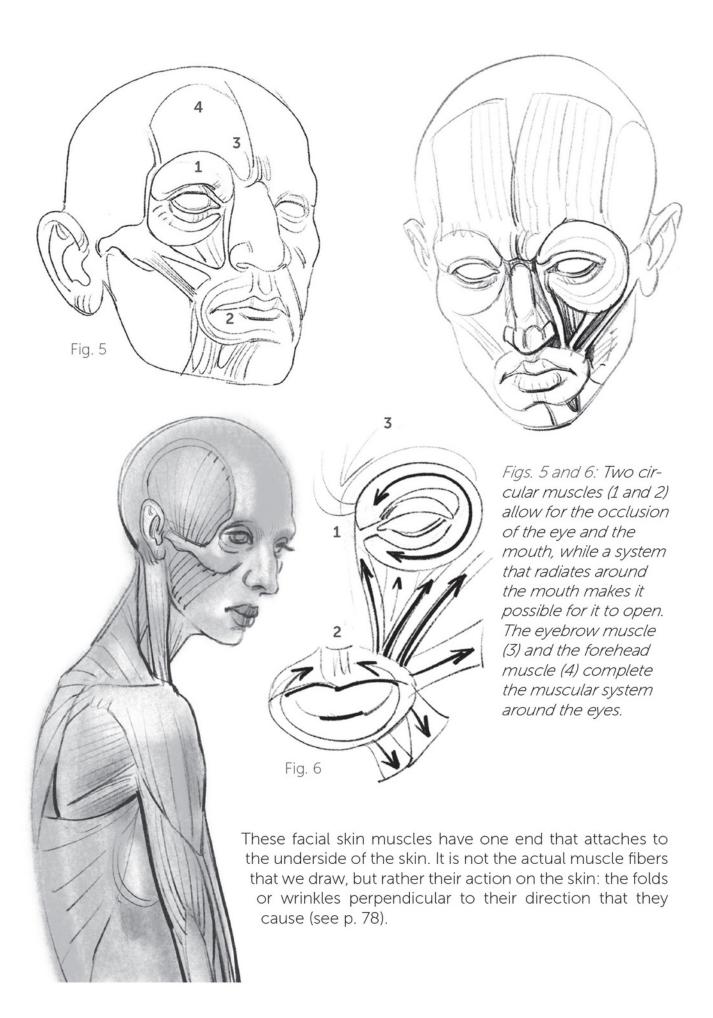
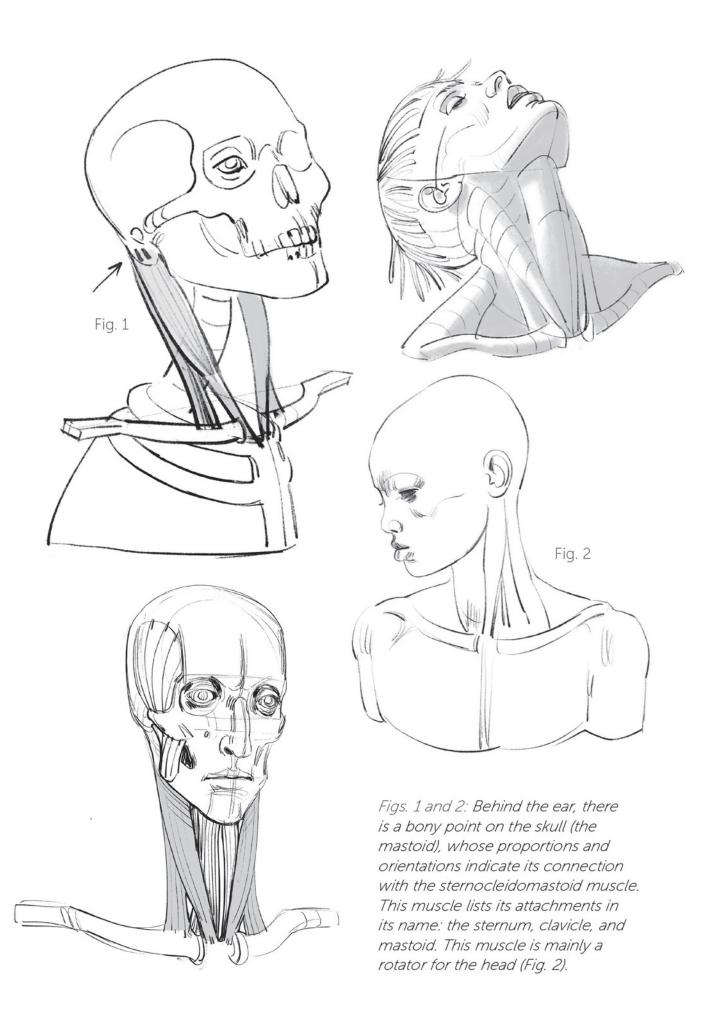


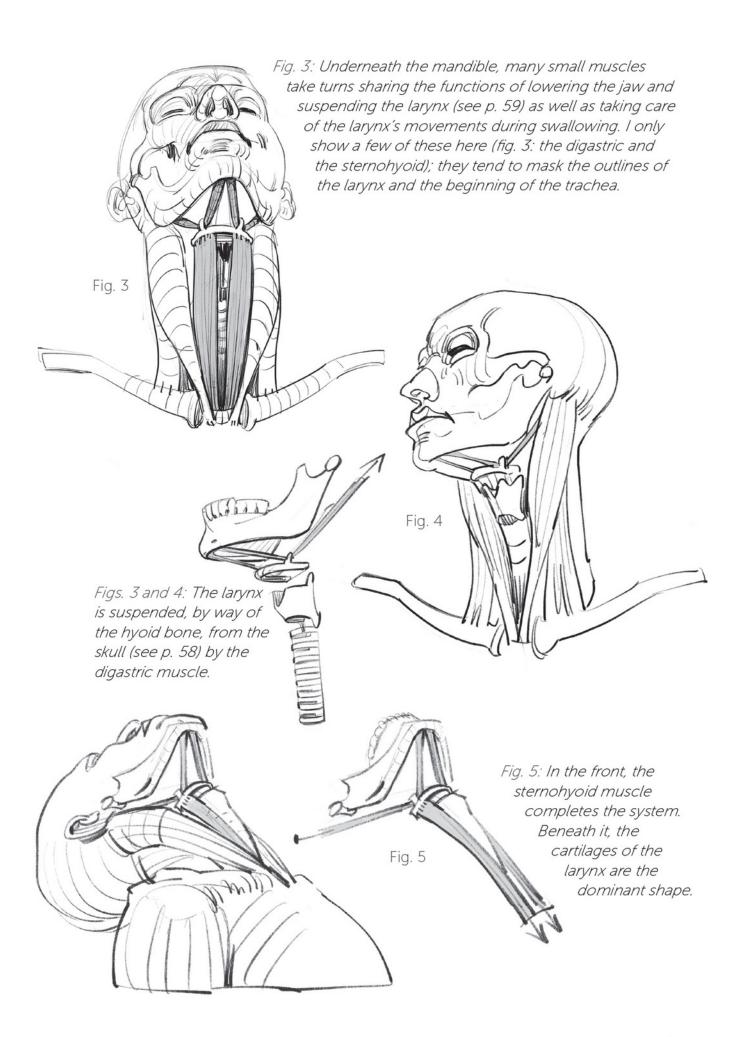
Fig. 1: On the head, the only visible muscles, due to their thickness, are the two masticatory muscles—the temporalis (1) and the masseter (2)—inserted into the only mobile bone in the skull, which is the lower jaw (or mandible).

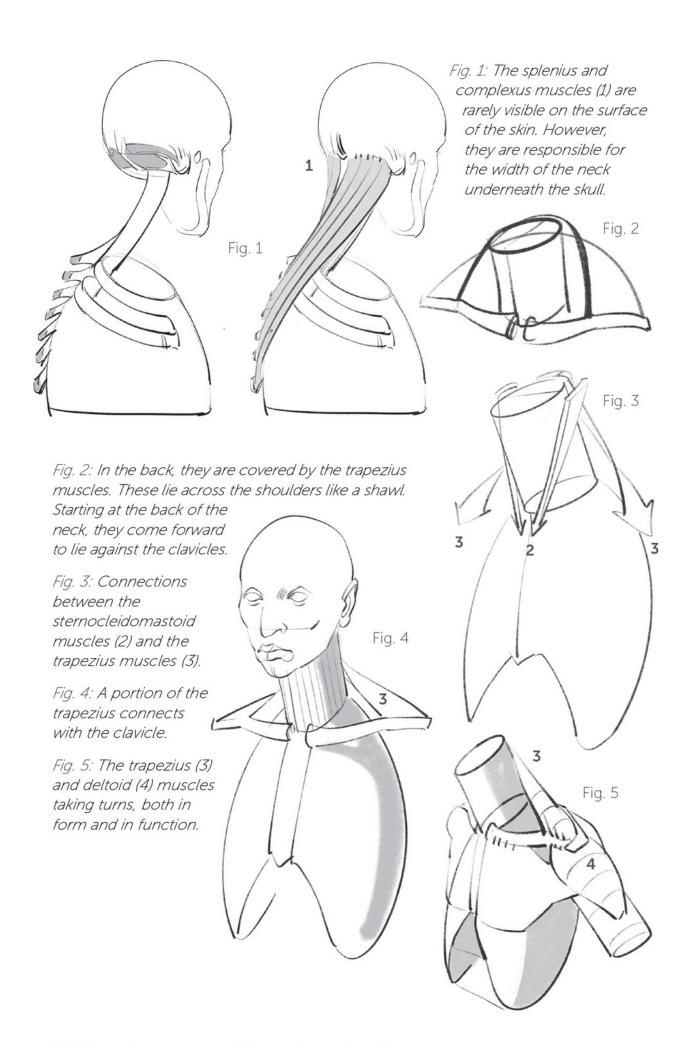
- Fig. 2: The temporalis muscle, with the zygomatic arch sectioned to show the muscle's insertion into the mandible.
- Fig. 3: The temporalis muscle, whose end slides under the bony bridge of the zygomatic arch.
- Fig. 4: The masseter muscle, whose force is in close correlation with the angle formed by the mandible (see p. 49).

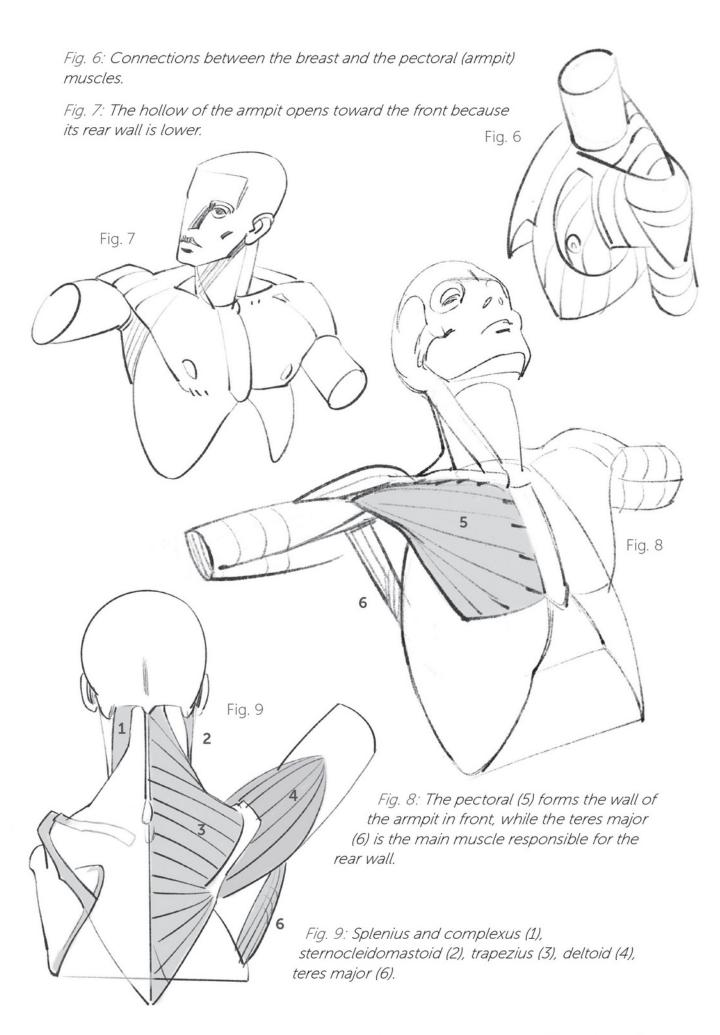
The zygomatic arch thus forms a bridge that allows for the two muscles to be superimposed on top of each other.

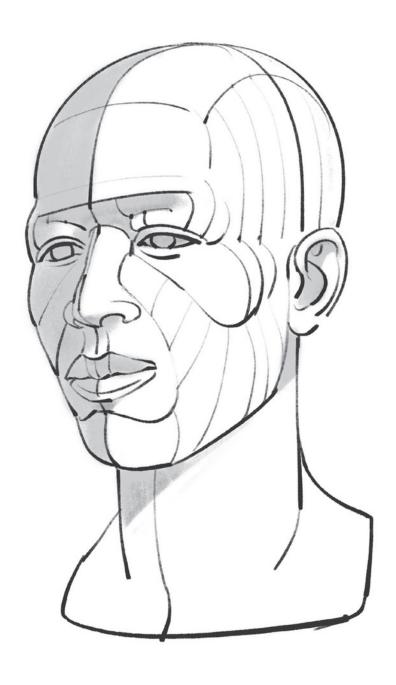




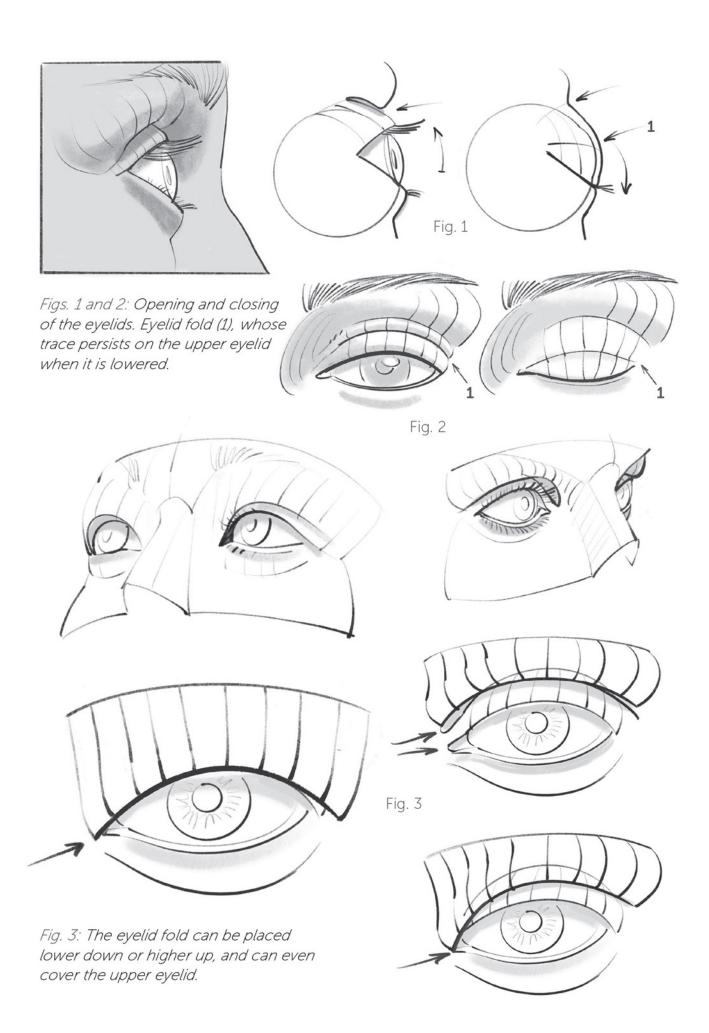








Fat and Skin Folds



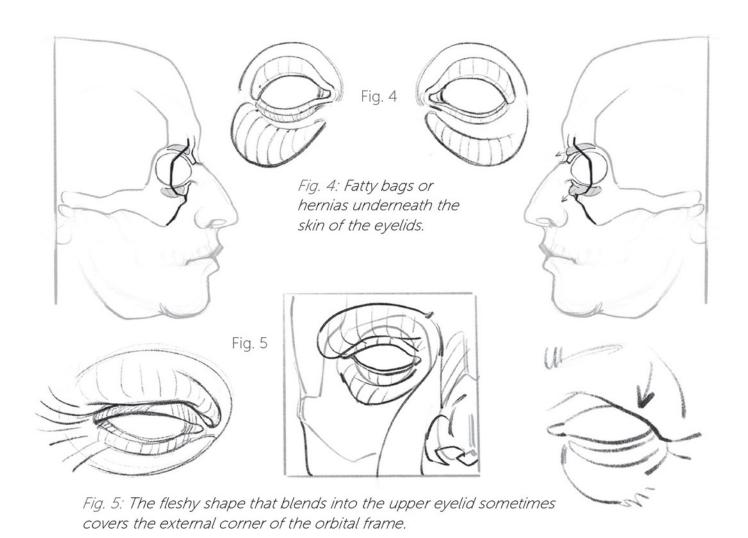
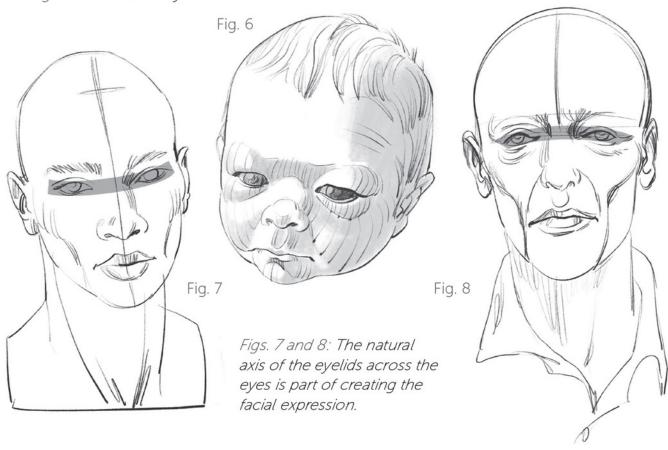
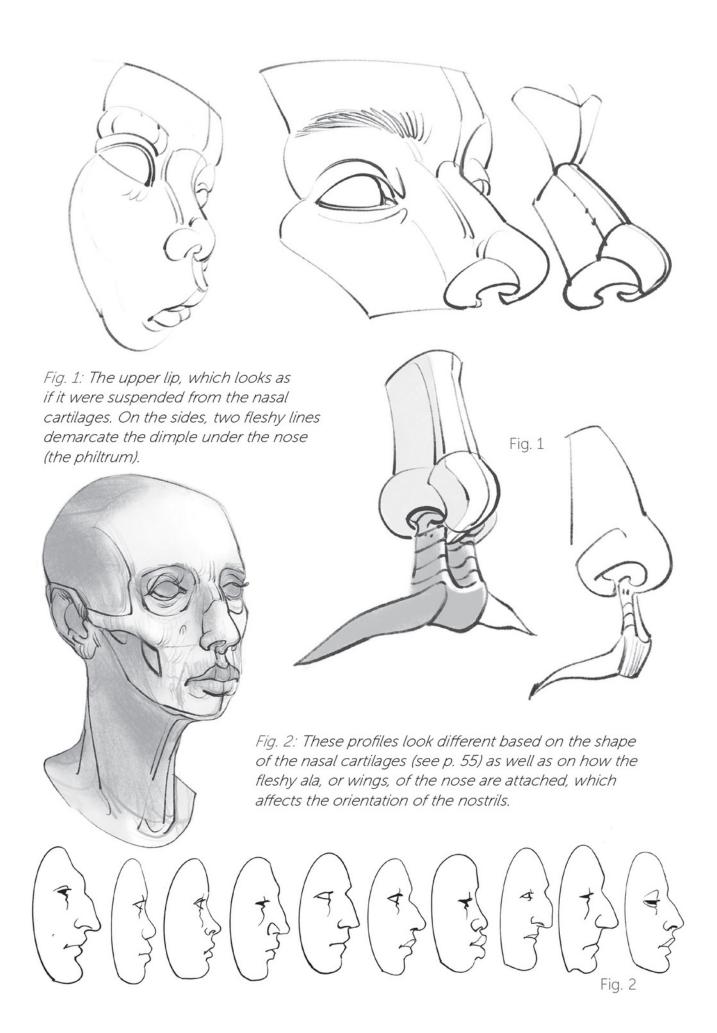
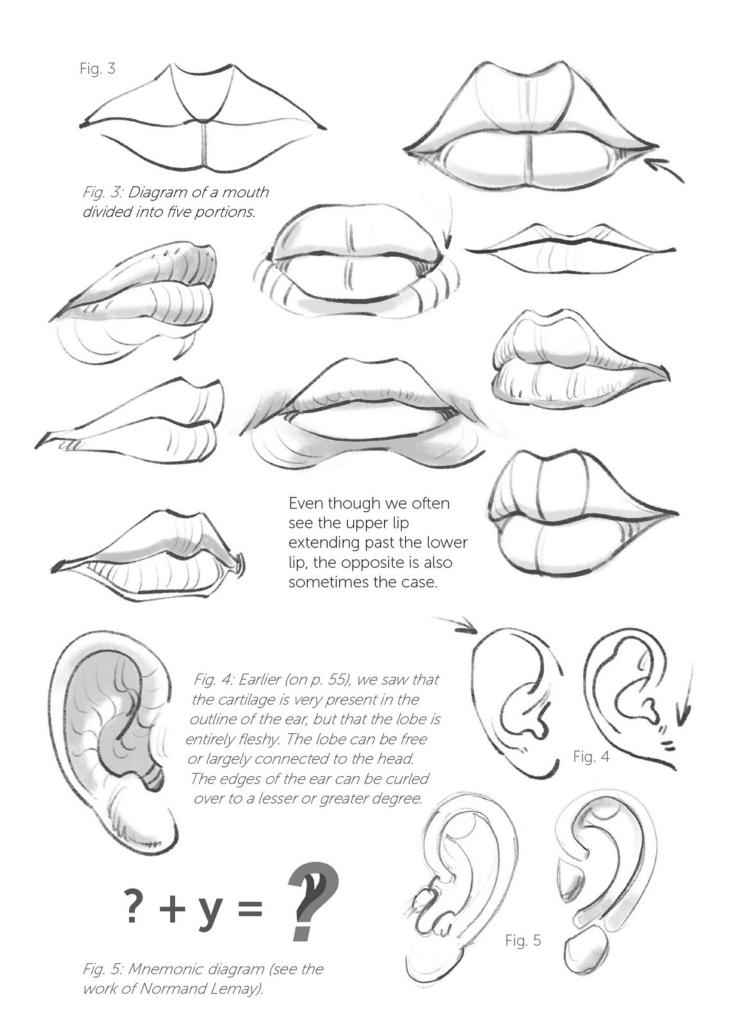


Fig. 6: The swollen eyelids of a newborn.

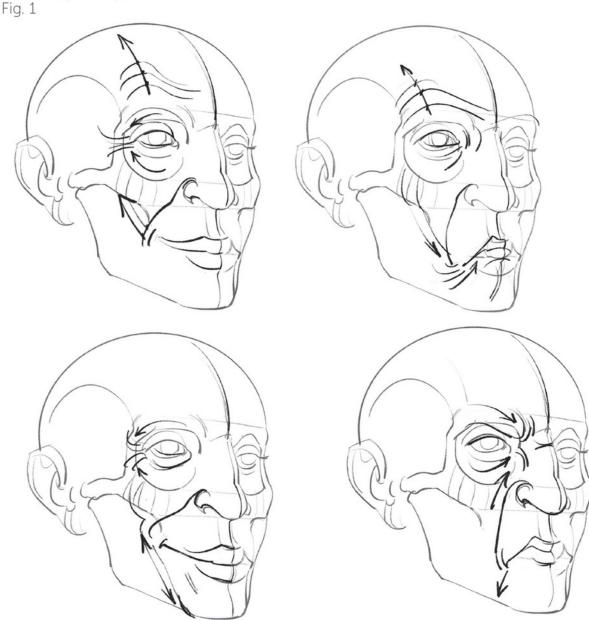








Wrinkles appear as a result of the repeated action of the facial skin muscles (Fig. 1; see also p. 67). These muscles line the skin, are inserted into it, and extend down to the bone. Their action has the basic mechanical goal of varying the natural openings of the face, around the eyes and mouth, and participating in language and the expression of our emotions. The contractions of these muscles produce the folds and wrinkles of the face, perpendicular to the direction of the muscular fibers. Aside from the masseter and temporalis muscles (see p. 66), which are powerful masticators, it is therefore not the muscles of the face that we draw, but their effect on the skin: namely, the folds and wrinkles



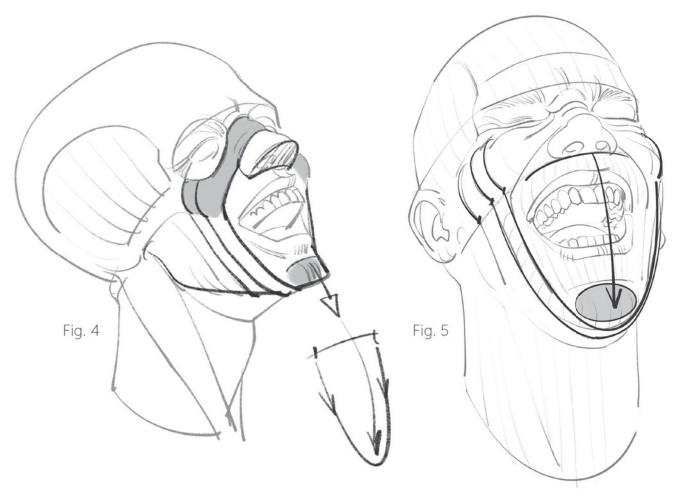
Figs. 2 and 3: For example, one of the muscles that radiates around the mouth attaches to the corner of the lips and then rises to be inserted onto the zygomatic arch. Thus, when it contracts, it makes

the edge of the lips move upward, creating a perpendicular fold (and sometimes a dimple), which distorts the cheek and drags down the lower eyelid.





Figs. 4 and 5: Here, the lowering of the jaw causes the skin to behave like an elastic band attached to the cheekbones and held down by the chin (see also p. 54).

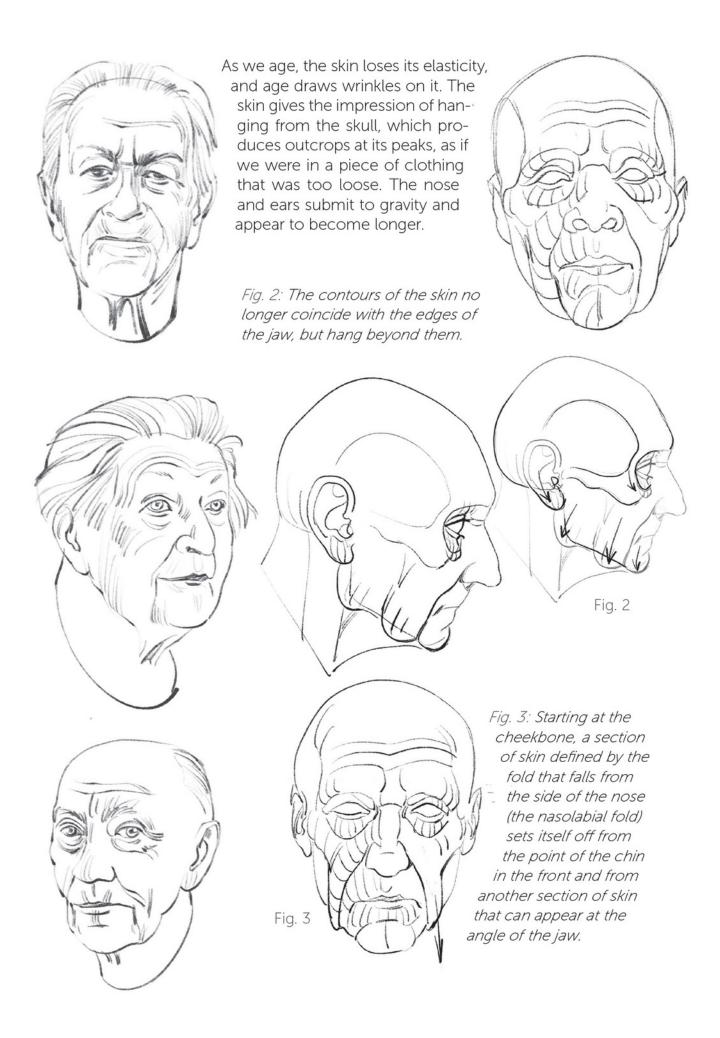


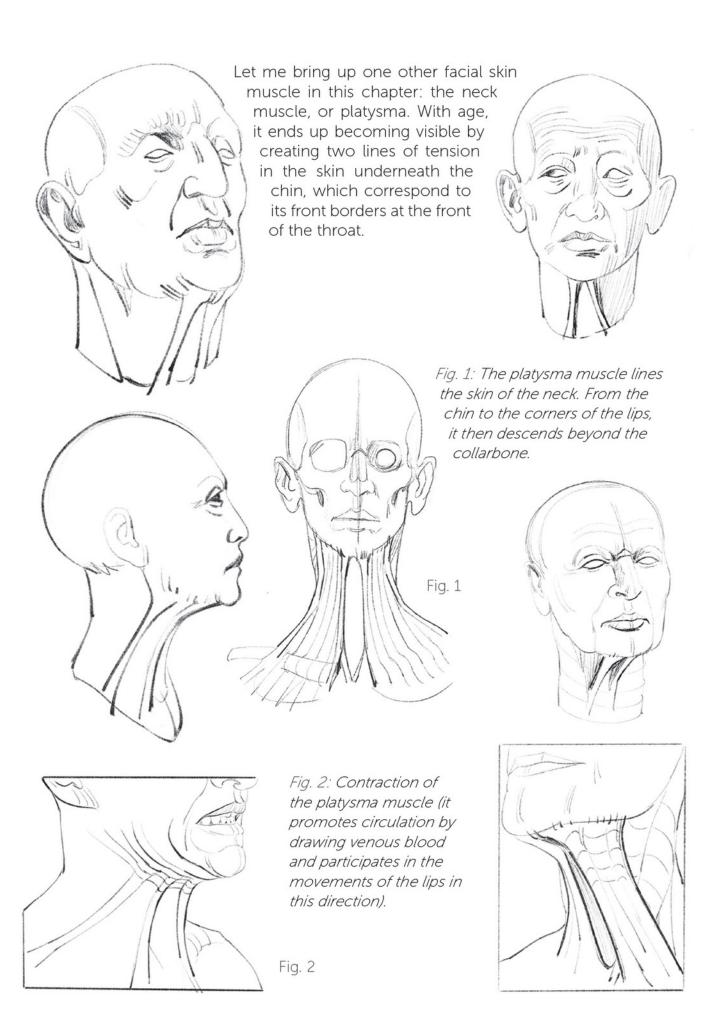
The center of this two-page spread shows three people, each at two different ages, with the two ages across from each other. Fig. 1

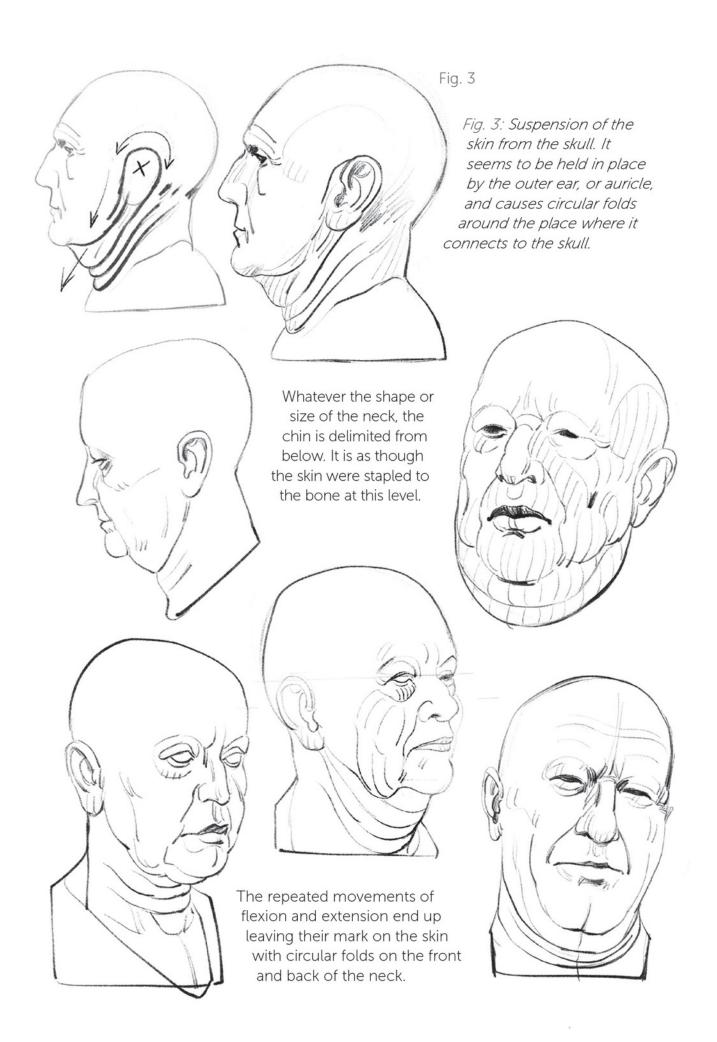
The skin is an elastic envelope, lined with a fatty layer that adheres very closely to its internal surface. The skin obviously plays a very important role, but it never completely masks the principal bone reference points, even in cases of extra weight or obesity. The skull imposes its shape.

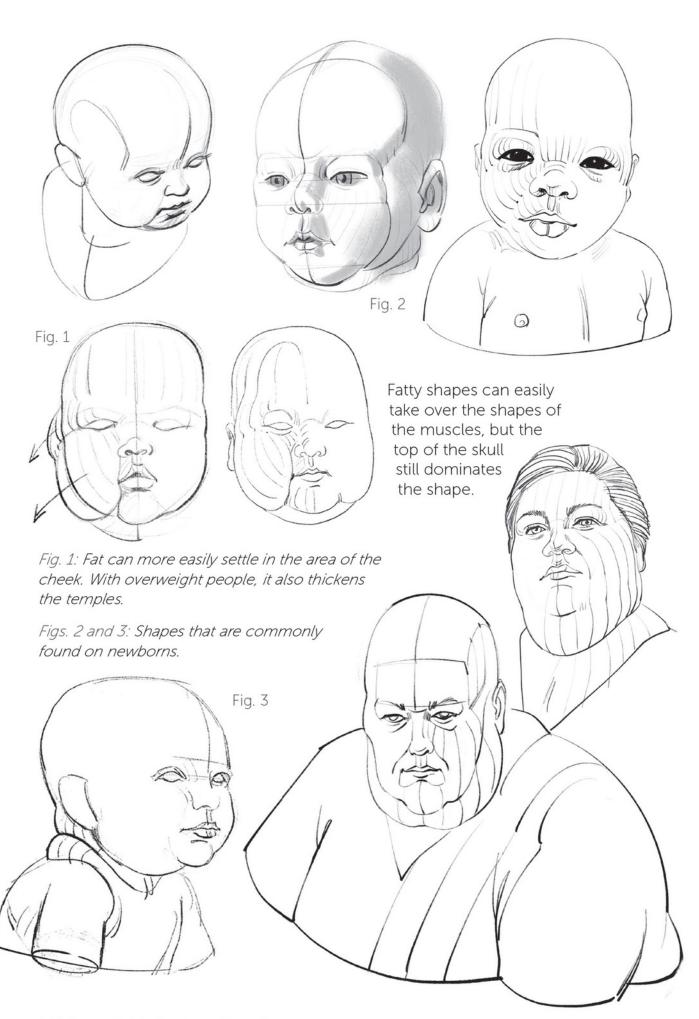
Fig. 1: The outcrops of the bone reference points are visible at their peaks. The cranial box, orbital frames, zygomatic arches (or cheekbones), and jaw angles structure the face.



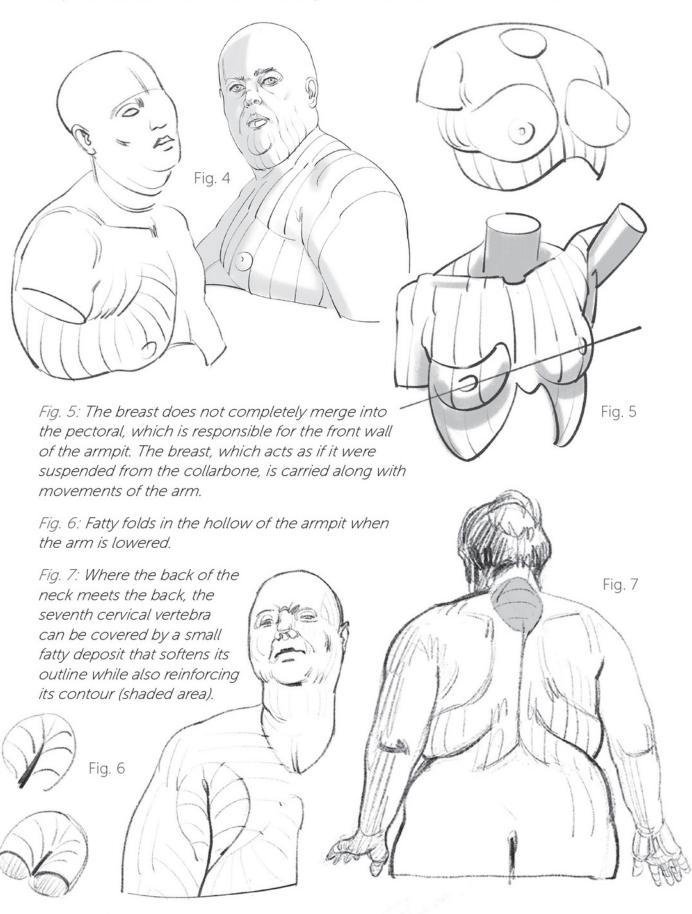








Figs. 4 and 7: On the upper torso, fat creates a shape that connects the breast and/or the pectoral muscle at the front to the tip of the shoulder blade at the back.





Hair, Beard, and Body Hair

The eyebrows protect the eyes and deflect the drops of sweat and rain, and the dust that can get mixed in with them, toward the sides of the face.

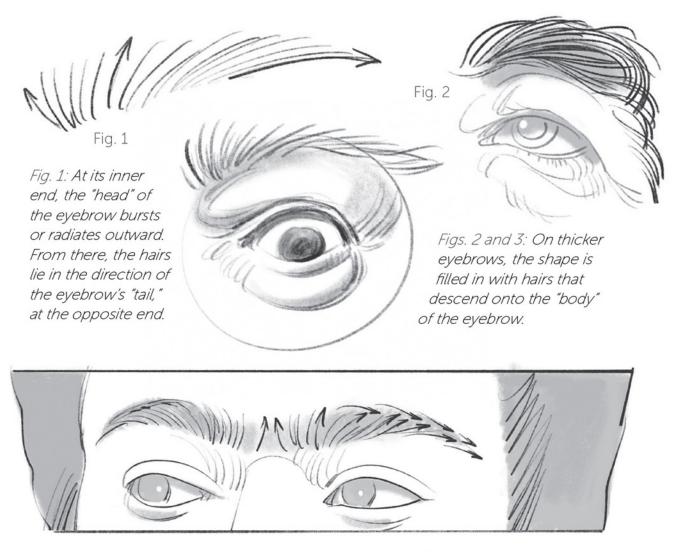
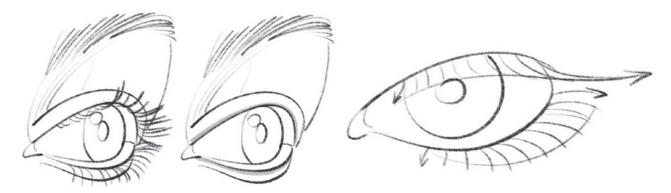
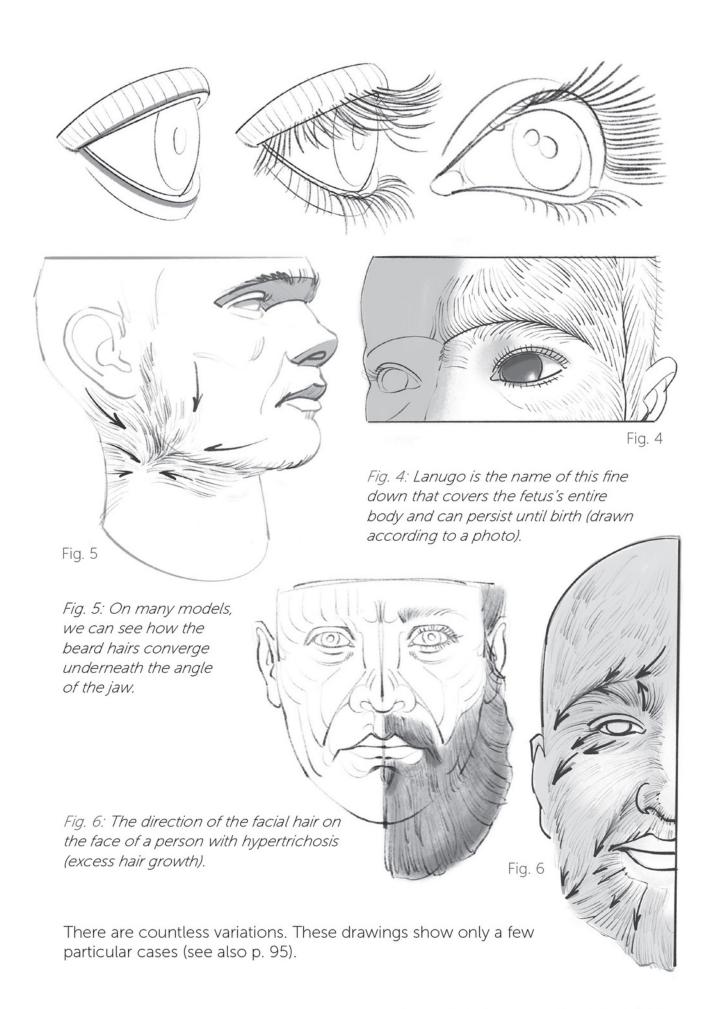


Fig. 3: The eyebrows can converge along the axis of the face at the root of the nose.

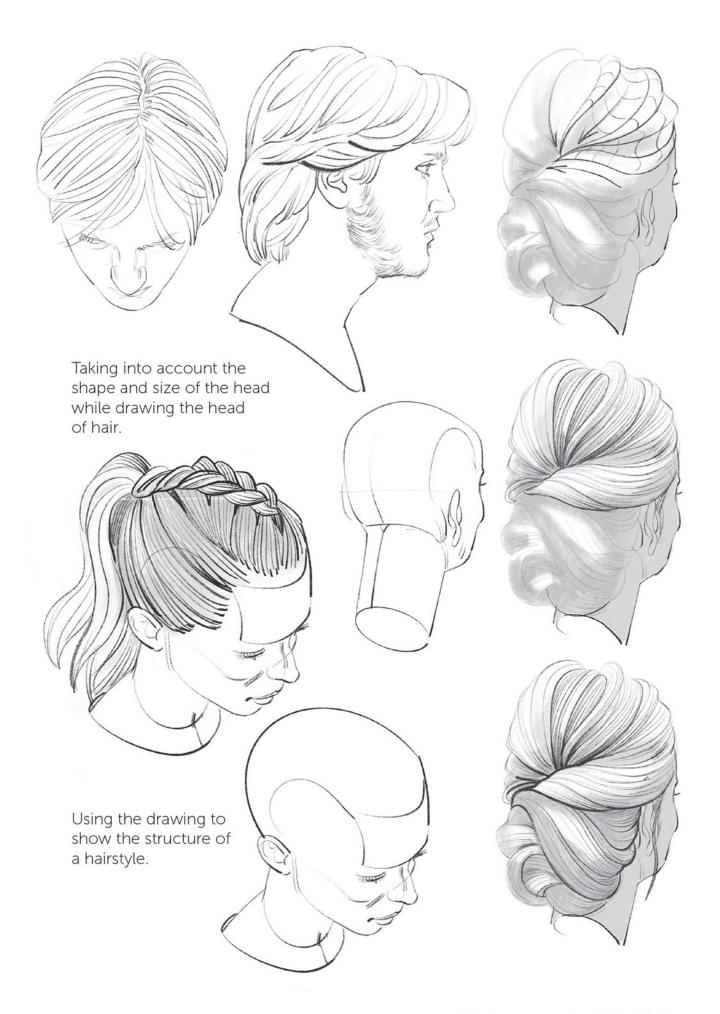


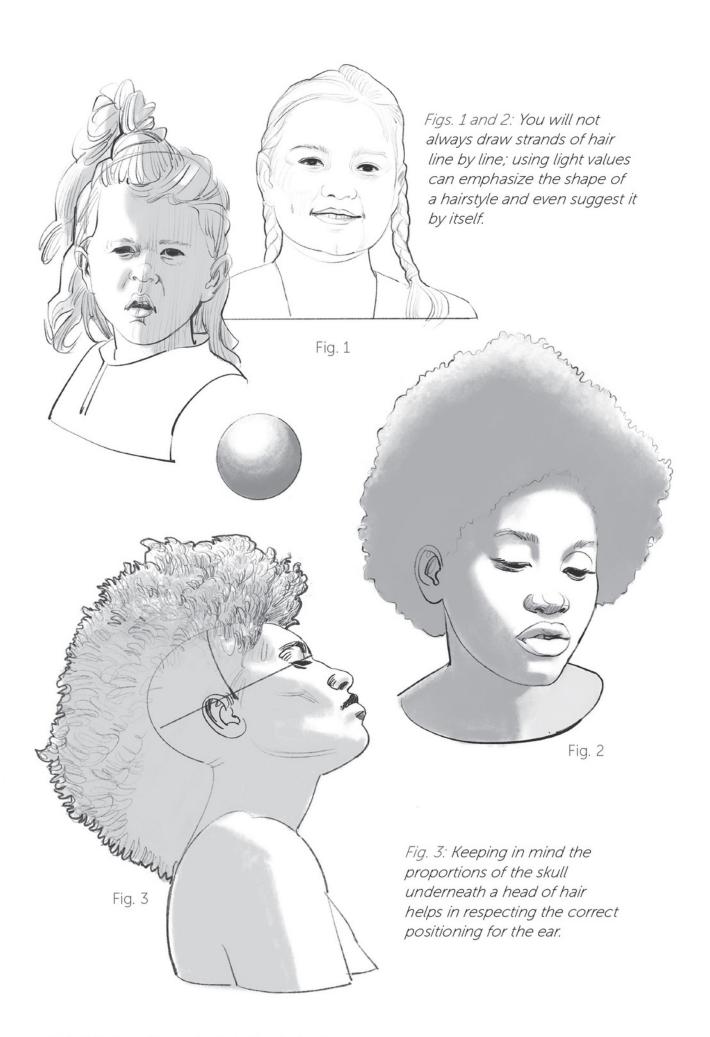
The eyelashes cast a protective shadow over the eyes and function like a sensitive filter. They allow the reflexive movements of the eyelids, which close if an airborne particle, an insect, or anything else threatens our eyes.

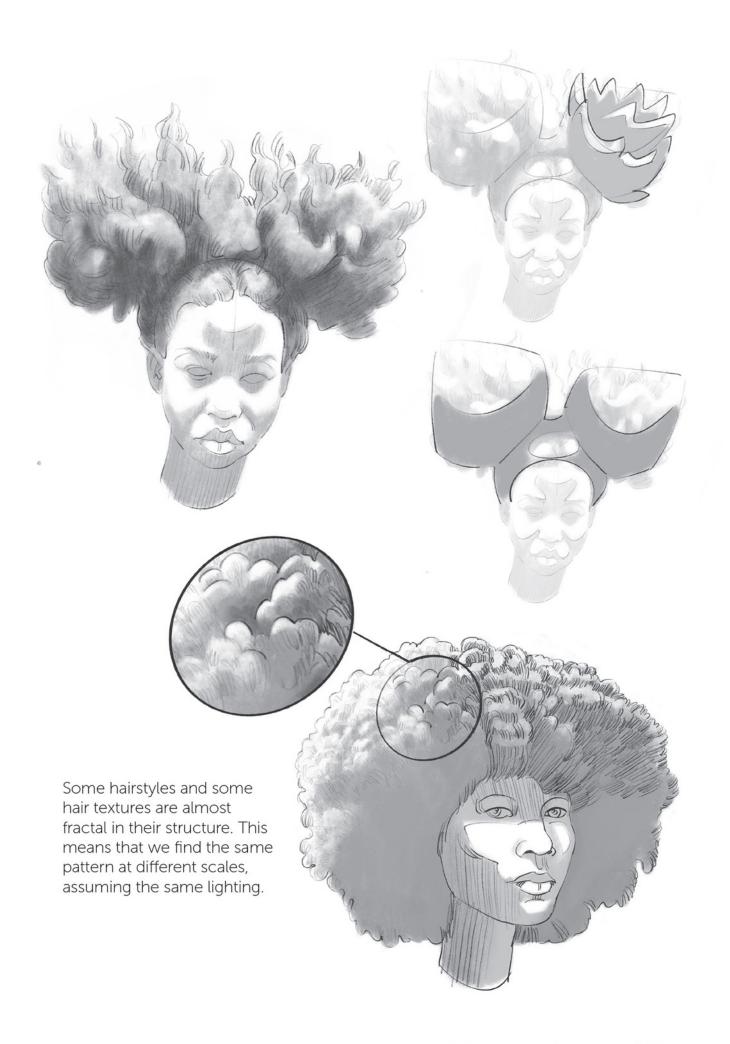


In the remainder of this chapter, I will use light value (the degree of light and shadow) more systematically in order to make my point more clearly. The "morpho" approach is not to get carried away with details by drawing the texture before the structure—in other words, the individual hairs before the head of hair. The tips that I offer here are of great use to me personally in drawing trees and other plants that form clusters that appear indistinct at first glance. In each case (a head of hair, a tree), it is a matter of keeping in mind the overall roundness (all of the hairs are positioned on a skull), and then discerning subsets within this overall silhouette (subsets like tufts and strands in the case of hair, or bunches of leaves for each branch in the case of a tree).







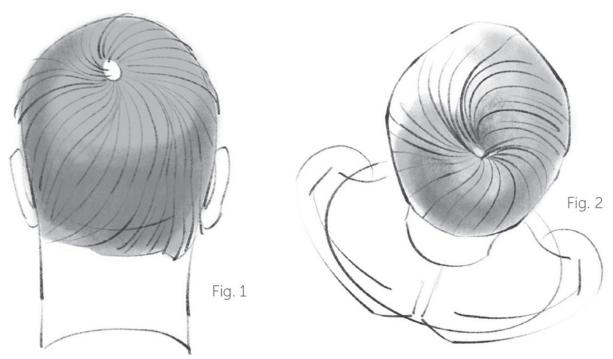


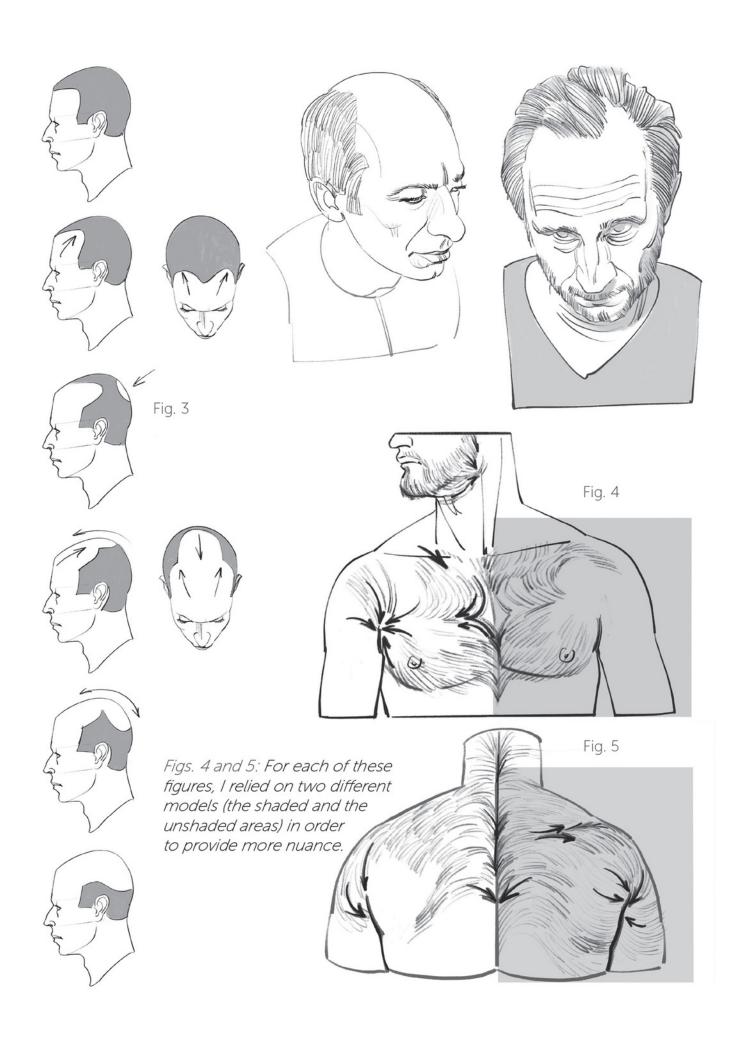


Figs. 1 and 2: Natural "vortex" implantation of the hair at the back of the head.

Fig. 3: Hair loss often occurs in patterns known to cosmetic surgery. Hair loss starting at the center of the hair whorl at the back of the head is a classic form of baldness.

Figures 4 and 5, shown at right, cannot be taken as canonical; there are an infinite number of possible patterns (see the Resources page). They do, however, illustrate the idea, which I continue to find productive and stimulating, that "everything has a shape" and that it can be relevant to observe and/or imagine hair, and the individual hairs, the way that Da Vinci studied fluids by drawing river eddies and whirlpools.





RESOURCES

On the subject of hirsuteness, Paul Richer, in *Nouvelle anatomie artistique* (*New artistic anatomy*), *volume 1*, cites the works of Henri Beaunis and Abel Bouchard. However, looking at the many photographs that can be found online of models who are either extremely hairy or suffer from hypertrichosis, I have not seen any true correspondence with the "maps" that these authors provide. Their works can be found on Gallica, the website of the Bibliothèque nationale (the French National Library): https://gallica.bnf.fr.

Bammes, Gottfried. *Der nackte Mensch. Hand- und Lehrbuch der Anatomie für Künstler.* Dresden: Verlag der Kunst, 1982.

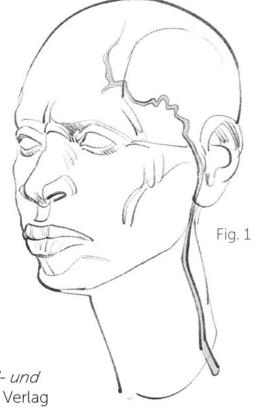


Fig. 1: The temporal vein.

Goddé-Jolly, Denise, and Jean-Louis Dufier. *Ophtalmologie pédiatrique*. Masson, 1992.

Loomis, Andrew. Drawing the Head and Hands. New York: Viking Press, 1956.

Nouveaux éléments d'anatomie descriptive et d'embryologie Paris: J.B. Baillière & fils, 1868.

Richer, Paul. Canon des proportions du corps humain. Paris: C. Delagrave, 1893.

Richer, Paul. *Nouvelle anatomie artistique du corps humain*, volume 1. 1906; republished 2013 by the Bibliothèque nationale française.

Richer, Paul. Nouvelle anatomie artistique du corps humain, volume 2. Plon, 1920.

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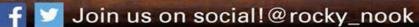
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