

# Watercolour Portrait

**By Rowan**

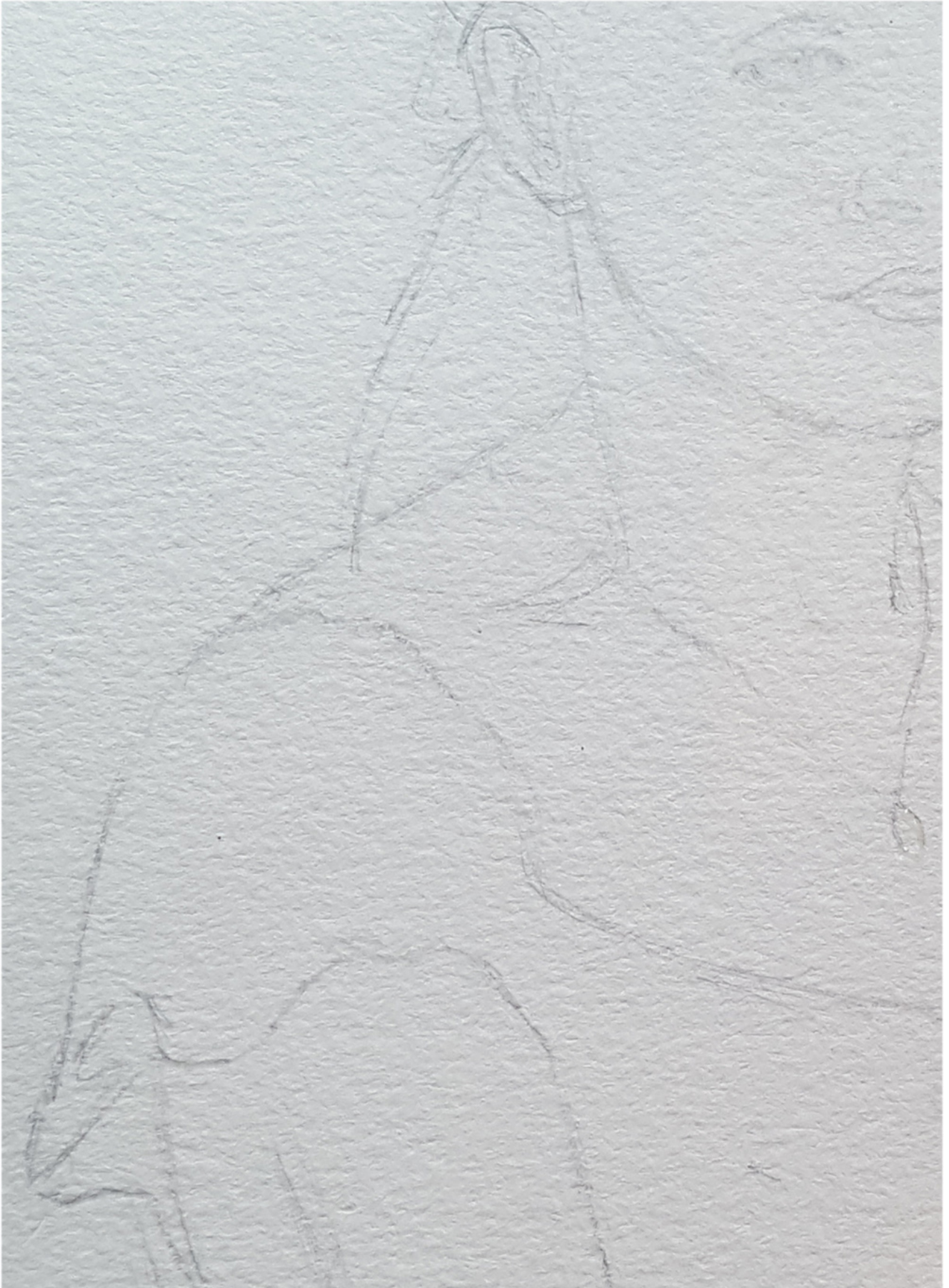
The interview below shares how the artist, aged 12, works to build a watercolour painting of her friend.



*How do you start out? What are you looking for when you make your pencil sketch?*

"I start with the bigger rough shapes to block out the basic proportions, and then I revisit the smaller elements, and depending on how important it is to me to get a good likeness, I look really closely at the shapes which make up those features to give the person I am drawing their personality."





*How do you decide where to start painting? Can you talk about how you go from pencil line to watercolour mark?*

"If I'm not doing a complicated background I'll block it out so that I've got the negative space to work with. I use a putty rubber to soften the pencil line drawing and then block in the areas with layers of watercolour. When you start using watercolour I think you have to start seeing shapes of colour more than line."



*When you work you seem to concentrate on different areas at different times. Can you talk about how you look at the image as a whole as you work?*

"Well on another piece of paper I sometimes check if the colours I'm using work together, and I suppose I keep looking back at all the areas of the painting in terms of light / dark so I can balance the image out."





*Can you talk about how you decide which areas to keep looser, and which to give more detail.*

"I focus more detail on the areas where the viewers eye is going to look, like the face and things closest to the face and then fade out in detail around them."









*Tell us a bit about your process. The paper, the paint, the brush... the hairdryer... why do you dry between some areas and not between others?*

"I usually do a basic light coat or watercolour wash and then hair dryer that - I use the dryer to that as I start adding



details they don't run, but of course in other areas I want the watercolour to bleed so I don't dry those areas.

I used Windsor and Newton pan watercolours and a variety of watercolour brushes. I used Saunders Waterford paper and brown masking tape round the edge to give a nice clean line when you peel it off. The paper is 300g/m so doesn't need stretching."







*How important was it that this was a friend? Do you think the fact that you know her so well helped you paint her?*

"Yes I think it did. It was a surprise for her so I had to work from a reference photo, but I think the fact that I know her well really helped me get her personality across. As I was working I had her in my mind the whole time."





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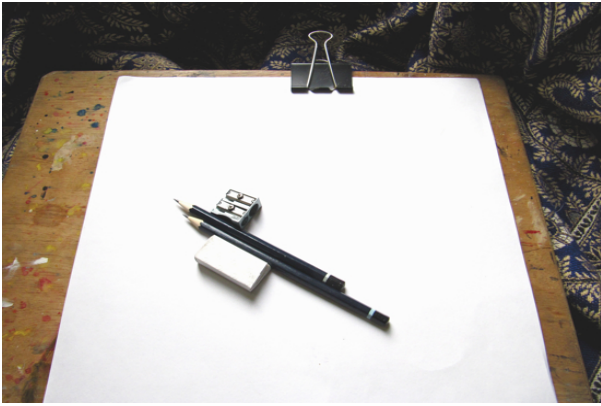
## Life Drawing: A Collection of Resources by Hester Berry

### How to Run a Life Drawing Class



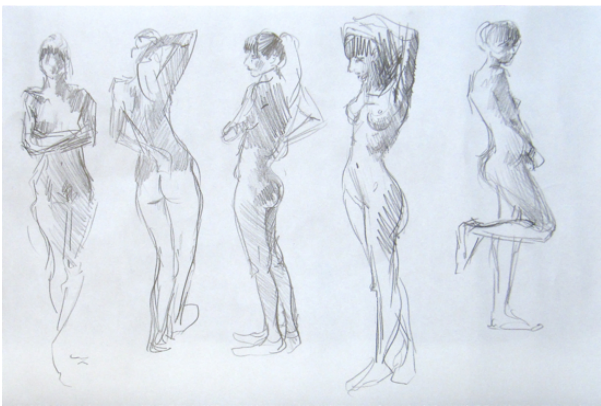
[\\_](#)Introducing Hester and providing an overview of how Hester sets up and facilitates a life class.

### An Introduction to Life Drawing



Getting started with life drawing and some simple warm-up exercises to help you become familiar with your drawing materials and the life model.

## Capturing gesture



Hester provides some helpful advice along with a series of short drawing exercises, that will enable you to identify the essentials of a pose and successfully record the movement and gesture of the life model.

## Drawing the head



Drawing faces can be daunting, but Hester explains how you can tackle them successfully using



simple and logical steps.

## **drawing hands and feet**



Hands and feet are tricky subjects and often get omitted because the forms seem too complicated to draw. Hester shares a secret shortcut to understanding and drawing these complex forms ...think mittens and socks!

## **Understanding Foreshortening**



When drawing the life model, it can be difficult to process your view of a 3D form into a 2D representation. Hester explains clearly and concisely how to successfully achieve a foreshortened figure to create the illusion of space in your drawings.

## **Using Tone**



[\\_Hester](#) explains how to use tone effectively to give your drawings more definition and an increased sense of volume and suggests ways of using tone when drawing short poses, that will build your confidence and skills.

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## **Introduction to Life Drawing with Hester Berry**

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