

Tactile Self Portrait

This is a self-portrait you will NOT need a mirror for!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A drawing implement! - This tool can be a pencil, a colored pencil, a brush and ink, a crayon, etc... anything that will make a mark on a piece of paper.

A surface! - any piece of paper in whatever size you have.

SOME LEARNING GOALS:

- Being aware of our sense of touch! There is information at the tip of your fingers — literally! As an artist, you can take that information and translate it into marks on paper.
- Having a sense of our bodies! What does our nose feel like versus how it looks? What does the curve of our cheek feel like?
- Drawing as an event! Drawing is not just recording what you see, but it is performative and you gain something from the experience of drawing itself. Drawing is not just about making a “good” looking picture.

You can make this drawing anywhere!

Set up your drawing surface in a comfortable place where you don't have to hold it. A table works best or a piece of paper on a hard surface.

Prepare your drawing implement in one hand and have it ready to draw near the center area of your paper.

With your other hand, feel around your face. I like to close my eyes for this because then i'm only thinking about what my fingers are touching on my face. Think about the curves and textures and the fuzzy hairs and smoothness of your lips or your eyelids.

Pick a part of your face you want to start, for example, your nose. Where ever you are on your nose, drawing that point and then move your finger across your nose and as you do that, draw the curve you are feeling. With your finger tips, trace your two nostrils and the bridge of your nose and continue on throughout your face. Record the curves and textures you are feeling.

GO SLOW! Draw what you are feeling underneath your fingers. You are translating information! You are interpreting what you are feeling!

BONUS CHALLENGE: CLOSE YOUR EYES! Don't look at your drawing that is happening. Navigate your drawing implement on your paper through feeling. It sometimes helps if you don't lift your drawing tool from the paper. You'll have lines on your drawing that aren't on your face, but you're recording what you're mapping. Let the record happen. Let the drawing happen!