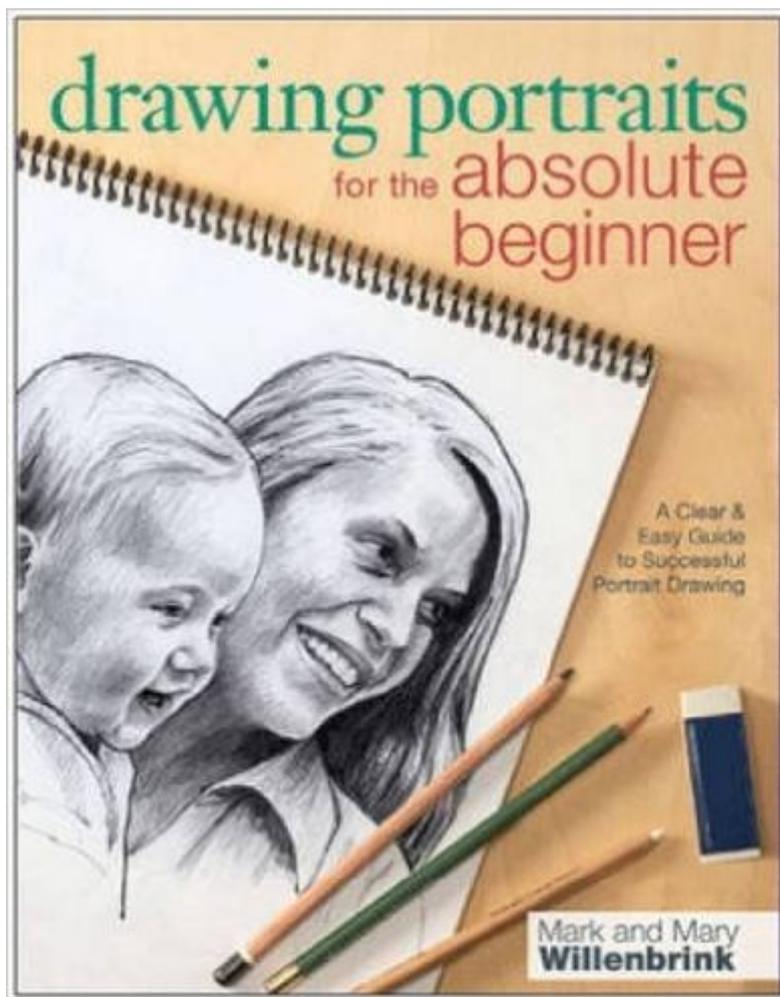


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# Drawing Portraits For The Absolute Beginner: A Clear & Easy Guide To Successful Portrait Drawing (Art For The Absolute Beginner)



## Synopsis

Open this book as an absolute beginner, and come away as a proud portrait artist! Mark and Mary Willenbrink's Absolute Beginner books have helped thousands of novices tap into their inner artists. In this book, Mark and Mary help the beginning artist take on portraits, showing that absolutely anyone can draw faces. Their encouraging, easy-to-follow instruction style makes learning fun—you'll be amazed by how quickly you achieve impressive results. You may be a beginner now, but not for long! Drawing Portraits for the Absolute Beginner covers everything from warming up with sketches, and capturing facial expressions, to framing your finished work. Page by page, you'll build the skills and confidence you need to draw lifelike portraits of your friends and family. What's Inside: A simple two-stage approach to drawing portraits: sketch a likeness, then build up values to bring it to life Step-by-step instruction for drawing eyes, noses, mouths, hairstyles, hands, glasses and other tricky elements 13 complete demonstrations featuring a range of ages and ethnicities Tips for evoking more personality in your portraits by using props, costumes and accessories

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm not a beginner, but I sometimes read such books because I'm always looking for tips and techniques that can help me work faster. I'm a street artist and do portraits at cafes, parks, and

fairs. There are two big problems with this book. First, there is very little art instruction. Typical instruction: "Next draw the mouth." But not much about how to draw one. Much better and more extensive instruction is available all over the web for free. The bigger problem is that the artist himself has spent too much time drawing a generic mouth, which he now applies to everyone. This is a trap we can all fall into when we practice drawing a generic feature over and over again. It's a thousand times easier to draw a picture of a pretty girl in your imagination than it is to draw a portrait of a real person sitting in front of you. Furthermore, the artist doesn't have good control of shading, tones, and value. He demonstrates drawing a portrait from a photograph of an Asian woman. His finished drawing looks like the "before" effort from a Lee Hammond student. It is flat, the mouth is completely different from the subject's, and the hair is just plain ugly. It looks like a young person with some natural talent but no training drew it. A man with a beard is also demonstrated. This effort is better, but again, the generic mouth jumps out at you. The mouth in the drawing is nothing like the mouth in the photograph. The artist has a degree in fine arts, but never learned to see.

The style of sketching I want to do is different from this style, wasn't sure if I wanted to keep it but I think I'm gonna try some of the illustrations and see how I can do with it. There are so many methods/styles of sketching. Really you have to find what works for you.. .

Not only does this book enable absolute beginners to try their hands at portrait drawings, it also allows others with more experience to gain confidence and grow in their skills. The instructions are clear and the step-by-step approach makes it easy to understand. I will be looking at other books by these authors/artists.

I won't say it doesn't have its flaws. There were things that I could see could be better. But this book is BY FAR one of the better books available on for newbie portrait artists. It also instructs on different rendering techniques, instead of the (sadly, it seems) "standard" blending stump, that is often not done very well. Yes, you should move on from this book eventually. But if you're a beginner and you want to be taught methods that won't leave you with some horrible bad habits later on, this is a much better book than many of the alternatives. I've been a portrait artist for years, I work from life, I sell my work. Many drawing books available on right now are downright depressing, they are that bad. But this book is a breath of fresh air.

I bought this book for my 11 year old son.. Very clear and easy to follow. It was a very good buy.

Wonderful details and easy directives for the beginner who is wanting to draw portraits. I was able to find a picture and draw it after using the book. I definitely recommend this book to the beginner.

Very clear and well done. I especially like the exercises which build confidence.

Very easy to follow the instructions to improve the artist.

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