Drawing Realistic Mouths: Lip Planes, Highlights, and Shadow Placement

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Draw a mouth with upper-left light. The mouth width is 6 cm. The upper lip height is 1.2 cm and the seam thickness is 0.2 cm. Place five planes, one highlight on the upper-left column, one on the lower lip, and shadows under the lower lip and at the right corner. Use a five-step value scale.

Answer: Midline and centerline cross at the mouth center. Corners are 3 cm left and right of center. The seam is a shallow curve. Upper lip: two columns, left slightly higher; upper-lip height is 1.2 cm measured from the top of the upper lip to the bottom of the seam. Lower lip: central bulge with side planes; visible height about 0.6 cm (half of 1.2 cm) measured from the bottom of the seam to the bottom of the lower lip, with the 0.2 cm seam counted separately. Five planes labeled. Value scale 1 to 5. Upper-left highlight at 1; lower-lip highlight slightly left of center at 1; shadow under lower lip at 4 with center at 5; right-corner shadow at 3; seam at 4 with thicker corners. Check: five planes counted; lower lip shorter than upper lip; highlights on light-facing planes only.