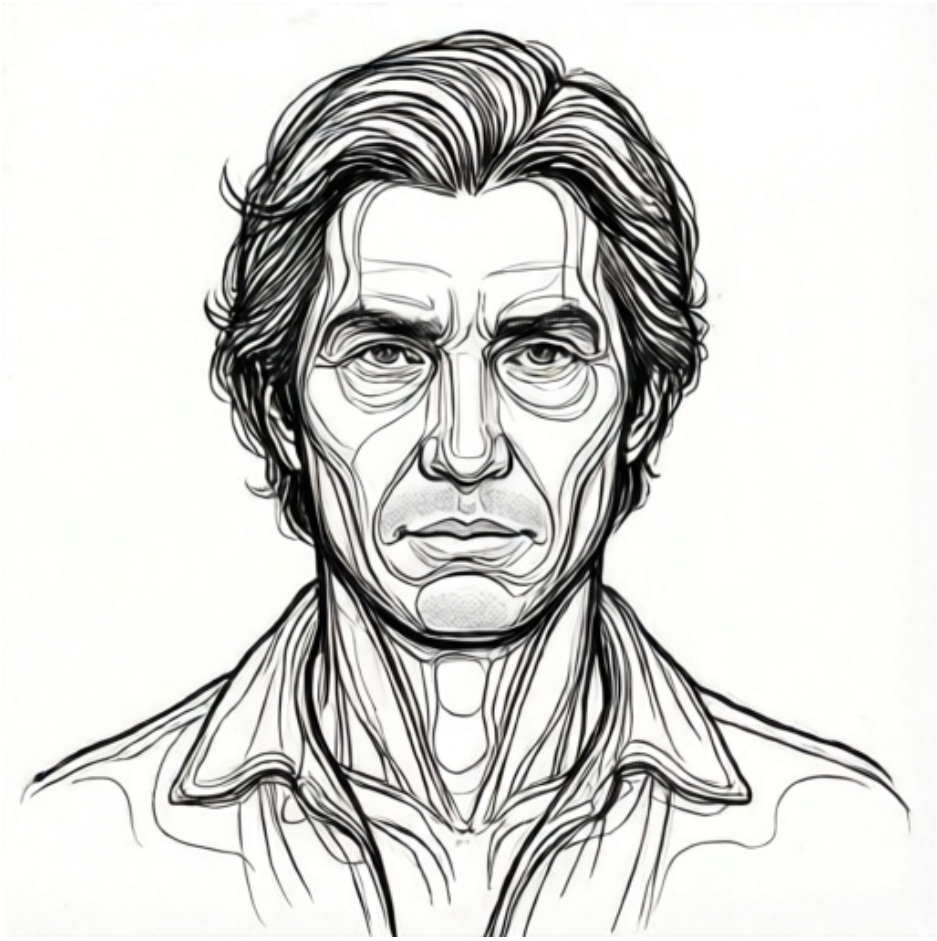
Cross-Contour Line Drawing for Portraits: Mapping Facial Surface Form

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.

Cross-Contour Line Drawing for Portraits: Mapping Facial Surface Form

Worked example / complete source key

A reference portrait shows a rounded left cheek, a projecting nose, and a forehead that slopes back slightly. Using the convention that lines run left to right and curve downward at the sides, describe where you would place cross-contour lines on the left cheek and how you would space them.

Answer: On the left cheek, draw lines that start near the nose side, run across the cheekbone, and curve downward toward the jaw. Space them moderately apart near the center of the cheek where the surface faces the viewer, and closer together near the outer edge where the cheek turns away toward the ear. Keep the lines crossing the surface rather than outlining the cheek. At the top of the cheek, let lines bend slightly upward to meet the forehead zone, and at the bottom, let them curve toward the jaw. This spacing and direction make the cheek read as rounded without shading.