# Drawing Characters and Likenesses

## Module 2 | Slides & Live Drawings

# Capturing "real" people and things

Helps you tell a story

Connect via shared references

Make your doodle "read" fast

Allows you to comment on situations

The basis of sight-gag humor

Can be VERY simple and still effective



"THIS PLACE COULD MAKE A FORTUNE IF YOU WENT CONDO."

# GOOD NEWS:
# You do <u>NOT</u> Have to be a portrait artist!

# NOTE: Caricature is a <u>Specific</u> Genre of Cartooning

Exaggerated likeness

Not just an "ugly portrait"

Popular in politics & the arts

Often used as commentary

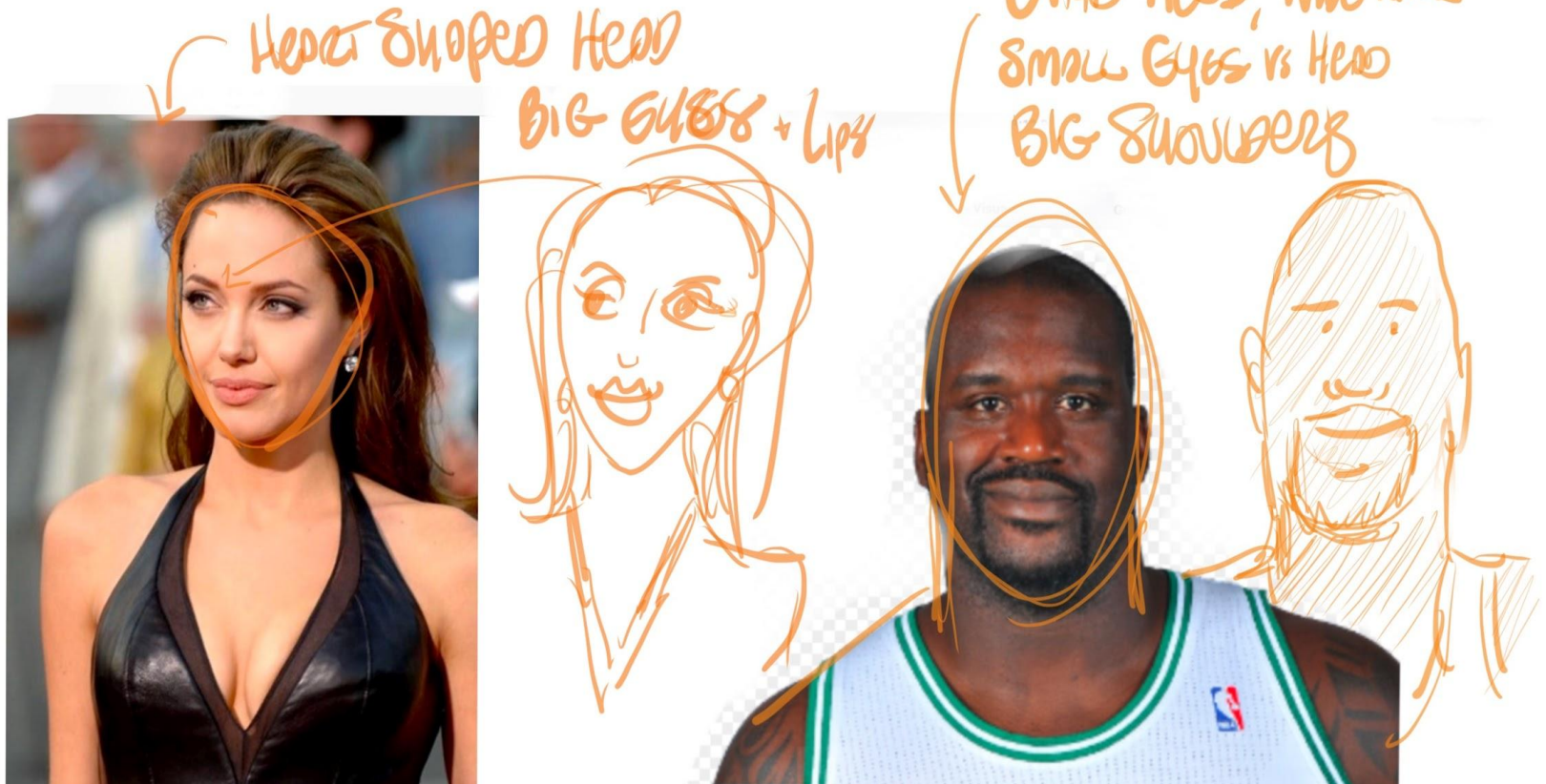A unique art form and a carefully honed skill

More detailed than doodling or cartooning

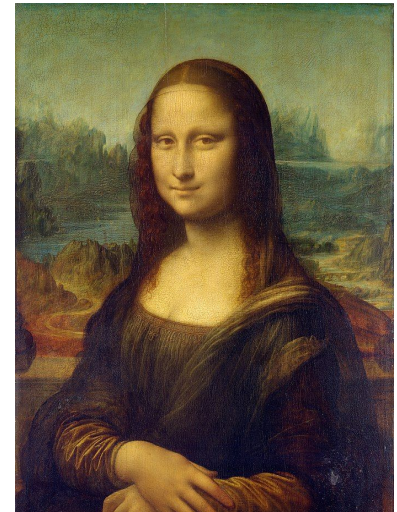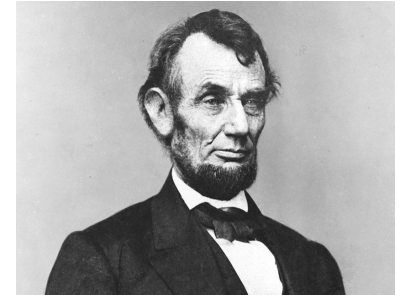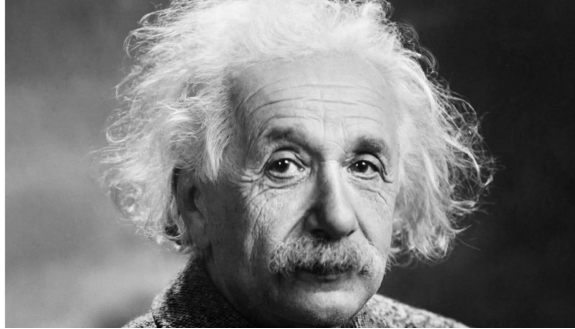# Doodling or Cartooning Likenesses is a bit different

Focus on: Capturing more than exaggerating | Pick out the defining features

Speed and economy: How few lines do you need?

# When in doubt: Google Images!

# A few Little hints Make it "read"



Trump: Hair, eyebrows, tie, small eyes
Kim: glasses, body shape, clothes, haircut

"Then you just hit 'tweet,' and the whole world goes crazy."
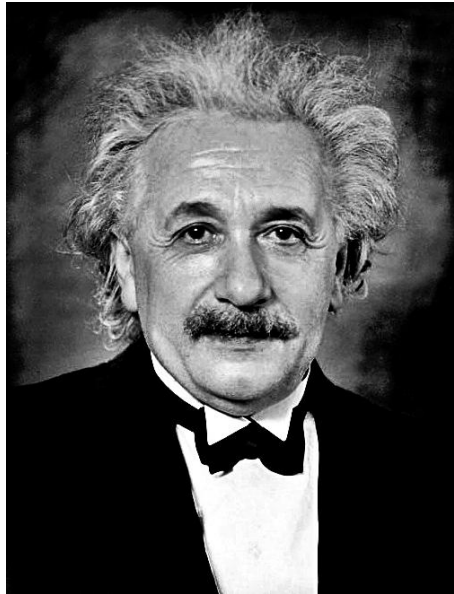
# Use <u>Elements</u> as Clues to Identity

Crazy hair + mustache + bow tie

= EINSTEIN

(This took just seconds to scribble. Note how it's NOT a great or "accurate" portrait, but you STILL know who it is...

To help even *more*, I could have added a thought balloon with $E=Mc^2$ )

# Use Elements as Clues to Identity

This works with famous story characters too, whose literal likeness is unknown.

Naked woman + apple + snake = Eve

The background imagery is not even necessary; I just added it to give depth.



"WELL, OF COURSE IT'S ORGANIC!"

# Some Common Characters...

Can you spot their defining or "trademark" elements?



COP    CHEF/BAKER    DOCTOR    QUEEN/PRINCESS    "FATHER TIME"    PIRATE

SUPERHERO    CLOWN    SANTA    MERMAID    MOSES    JESUS

# Some MORE Common Characters...

( I used a slightly thicker, darker pen for these)

BASEBALL PLAYER

JOCKEY

FOOTBALL PLAYER

BALLERINA

OPERA SINGER

SKATEBOARDER

HANDYMAN

ASTRONAUT

ARTIST

WIZARD

WAITER

EXPLORER

# Google Images is Great for <u>Any</u> Visual Reference !
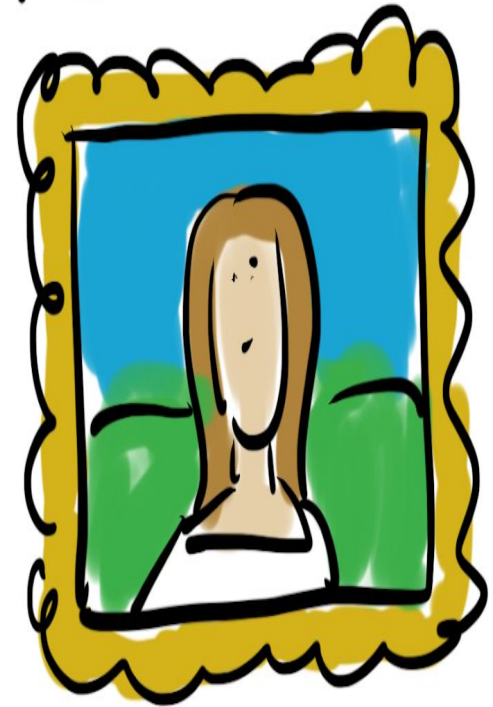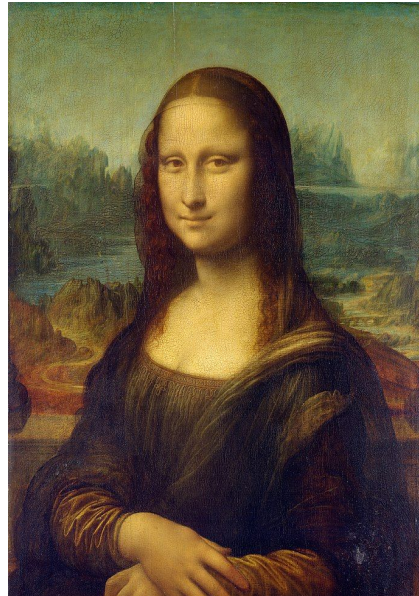
People

Animals

Objects

Places/settings

Famous paintings

Monuments

AND... because you are NOT using photos, you can legally copy or trace to your heart's content!

# Place familiar characters in funny Situations

When your likenesses "read" as who or what they are, you can put them *anywhere... the more incongruous the better!*

*New Yorker Caption contest #631*

*"You can either complain about airline food or do something about it."*

*"Ideally, you want the dough to rise to about thirty-five thousand feet."*
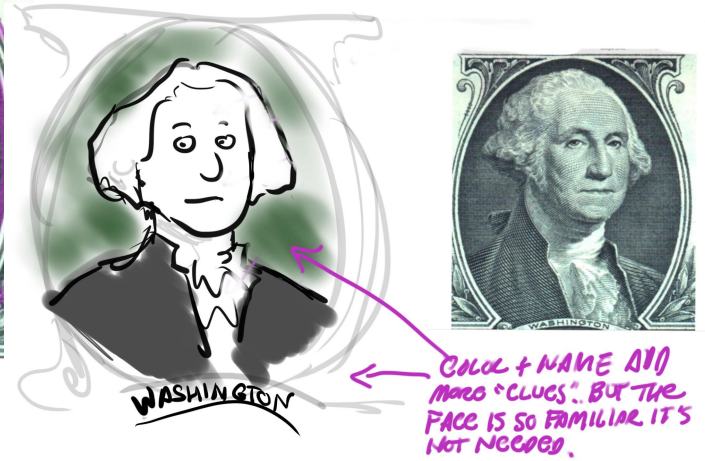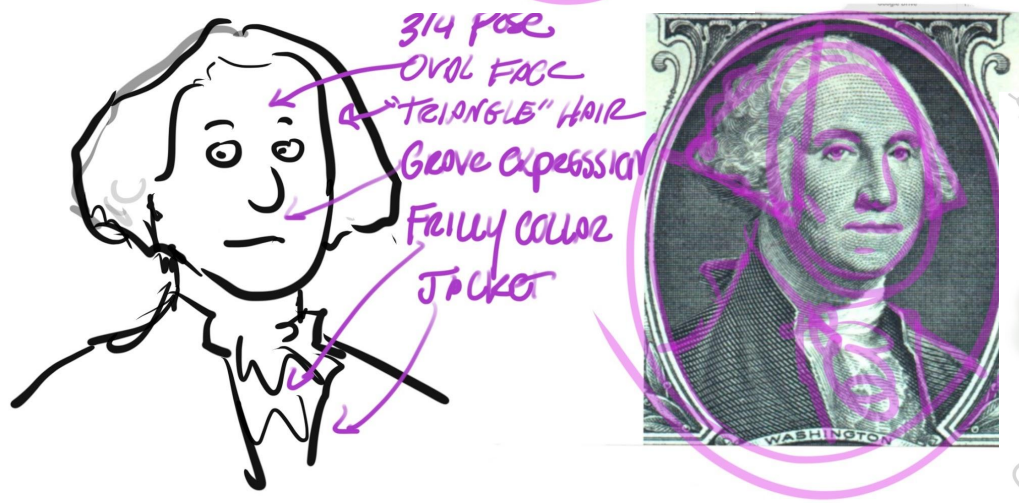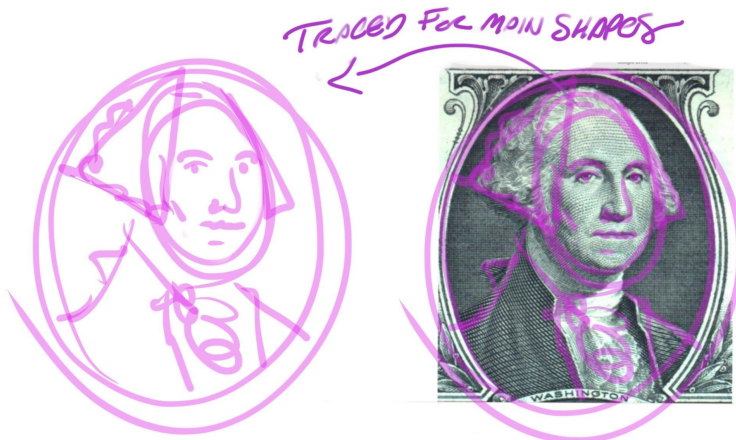
*"I call it New York-to-Chicago style."*

# LET'S DOODLE!

# Class 2 live Sketchbook

## How to capture likenesses and telegraph identity and roles

DO: Look for the MOST distinctive features of face, hair, dress and/or any contextual accessories or clues in the background. Hint: You only need a few!

DON'T: Draw every minute detail! This makes a cartoon busy and overworked, and adds nothing that telegraphs who it is. The reference picture shows lots of curls, ruffles, etc. Either leave these little things out entirely or suggest them with a dot (eyes), a line or a squiggle.



TRACED FOR MAIN SHAPES

3/4 POSE
OVAL FACE
"TRIANGLE" HAIR
GRAVE EXPRESSION
FRILLY COLLAR
JACKET

WASHINGTON

COLOR & NAME ADD MORE "CLUES". BUT THE FACE IS SO FAMILIAR IT'S NOT NEEDED.

# Class 2 live Sketchbook
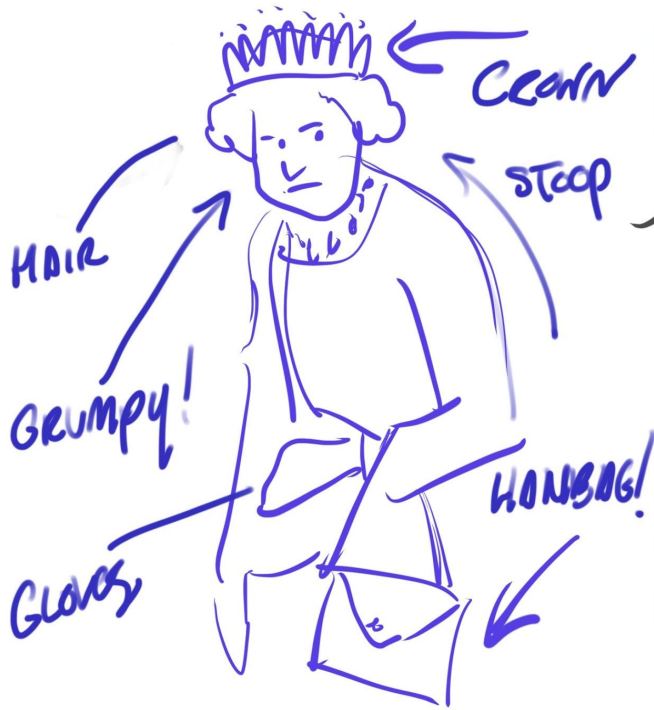


When someone has "trademark" clothes or accessories that signal who they are, it's a huge 'readability' boost even if your likeness isn't perfect. Without the crown, the gloves and the handbag, it's just a grumpy old lady.

# Class 2 live Sketchbook

I don't think this is as good as the traced sketch... but I "cheated" by adding color (and so can you :-)

# Class 2 live Sketchbook

Shape of head, smile is the most prominent feature, clues include logo, cap, club

# *Class 2 live Sketchbook*

Sometimes, when the face is not instantly recognizable in a cartoon, color is necessary to make a likeness "read" as the person you mean. Even a spot of color can help (such as Trump's red tie, Steve Jobs' black turtleneck, Marilyn Monroe's red lipstick.



DOODLE WITHOUT TRACING

THIS ONE NEEDS COLOR TO HELP IT "READ"

CROWD

SKINTONE

SIGNATURE RED SHIRT

GREEN MEANS "GOLF"

# Class 2 live Sketchbook

When someone is very well-known or in the news, even a less accurate likeness will telegraph identity because people will "fill in the blanks" in their own minds. Just make sure to help them by highlighting the most prominent, "trademark" features.



HAIR, EYEBROWS, SMALL EYES

SUIT TIE

This was a rough tracing.

This was a freehand doodle

HAIR, EYEBROWS, SMALL EYES

SUIT TIE

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**Here I added color, which helps** →



COLOR ADDS ANOTHER LEVEL OF READABILITY



**Check out these other cartoon drawings of the same subject. All completely different styles, yet all recognizable.**

Your Assignment:
Doodle a Famous Person,
A Well- known character,
Or A Type of Person,
and post it to the Facebook group...
WITHOUT Telling us WHO/What it is!

Note: any topics covered in the live training that you do NOT see here in this handout are being handled in a separate video module. Look for any software and resources mentioned in the "tools" pdf, which is being updated on a continual basis!