How to Draw a Nose from the Side

By Darlene Nguyen - July 3, 2013

Many people find drawing noses difficult, especially from the side. Creating basic shapes as a guideline will make the process of drawing noses a lot less difficult.

Tools (You can find all my recommended tools here):

- Mechanical Pencil with 0.5 mm 4B Ain Lead
- Kneaded Eraser
- Blending Stump (learn how to use a blending stump here)
- Smooth Bristol Paper
STEP 1:

To draw the profile of a nose, you want to start out with 2 round circles which are spaced generously apart. (Imagine there is a third circle in between the 2). For the next step, I’ve drawn a triangle to give you guidance on how to draw the bridge/slope of the nose.

**Click here** to learn *where* to place these circles on a face!
STEP 2:

Draw a curved slope up and around the left circle to form the tip and bridge and a curve below it to form the philtrum or cupid’s bow. The cupid’s bow should not go too far to the left or right. Draw it somewhere in between the 2 circles.
STEP 3:

Make a looped shape for the nostril. It should not be too long or too big. Again, try to draw between the 2 circles.
STEP 4:

You can erase the circles at this point and start shading. As you can see, the shading technique employed in this tutorial is circular. That will help achieve a more realistic skin texture. In my shading tutorial, I cover a few more shading techniques as well as give tips on how to shade smoothly. Click here to go to my shading tutorial.
STEP 5:

Make sure you leave some areas highlighted.
Final Step:

Here, I have darkened some areas as well as went over the highlights with the end of a kneaded rubber eraser. The outlines have also been erased slightly. I used the blending stump, to blend around the highlights to make the skin look less harsh.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial on how to draw a nose from the side! If you have any questions or requests, let me know in the comments below!

So, what’s next? Click here to learn where to place a nose on the face!

More nose tutorials:

- Noses from the front
- Noses from the 3/4 view