

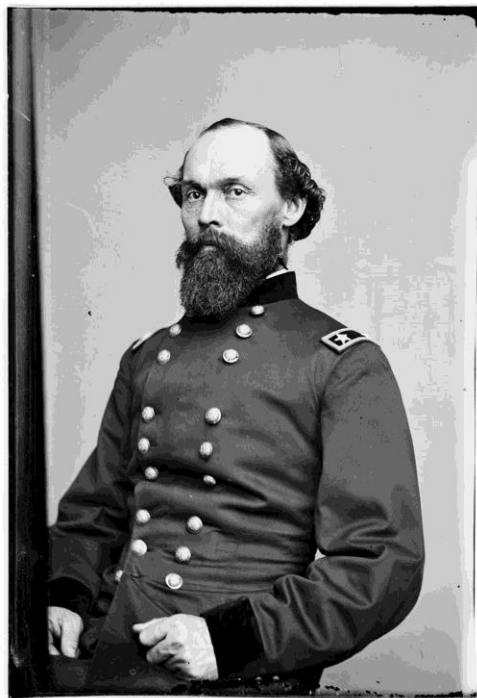
Myths of Time: The Wild West!

Lesson 7: Hold on to Your Hats!

The Real Faces of the Old West

As we've traveled through this time we've met people and learned the colorful history of the Old West was a lot more colorful than we might have thought! Let's draw on a little of that history and create portraits of cowboys, settlers, and Indians of the Old West that we may have met or may meet as we travel through the past.

For inspiration have students look at books such as those by Edward Sheriff Curtis. *At the turn of the century, Curtis set out to photograph and document the tribal traditions of North American Indians--an enterprise that became a 25-year obsession.*

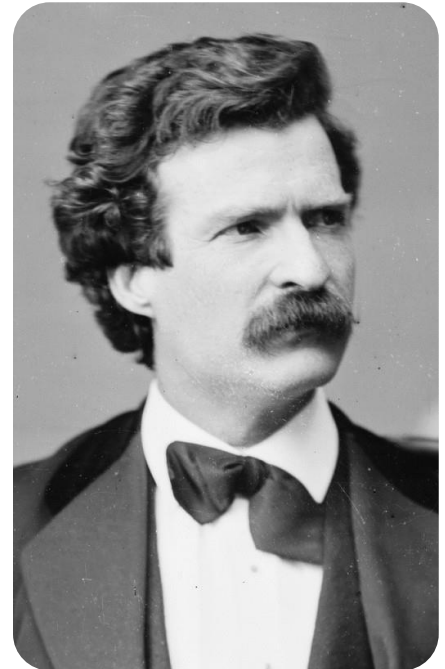


WHY DIDN'T PEOPLE SMILE IN PORTRAITS?

Today you can hardly find a 'selfie' that doesn't have a grin why weren't people grinning in portraits from 'back when?' It's long been thought that long thought that

photographic technology had imposed that constraint: It's harder to hold a smile than a grimace or smirk, and early film simply took longer to expose than people could hold an expression. Smile in a portrait and you'd wind up with a beautiful blur.

But an article by Nicholas Jeeves, recently published in the Public Domain Review, suggests that, when folks frowned, they did so for reasons as economic, social and historical as they were technological. Mark Twain (the humorist!) certainly thought so, "A photograph is a most important document, and there is nothing more damning to go down to posterity than a silly, foolish smile caught and fixed forever." Portraits represented an ideal. Portraits had permanence. You did not want to commit a permanent *faux pas*. You didn't want to forever be considered a silly person.





Look back at painted portraiture -- the tradition photography inherited -- and you'll rarely see a grinning subject. It's easy to mock such portraits these days when in nearly every picture there's a grin -- but they were seen as crucial, tied to mortality, a method of preserving a person's visage (appearance) and affect long after they lived. A photo, a portrait, was important, it was rare, it was forever.

MATERIALS:

- Rulers
- Markers
- Pencils
- Chalk Pastels
- Acrylic Paint
- Brushes
- Multi-media art paper
- Modge Podge
- Portrait Books

Have students follow portrait guidelines for the proportions of the face.

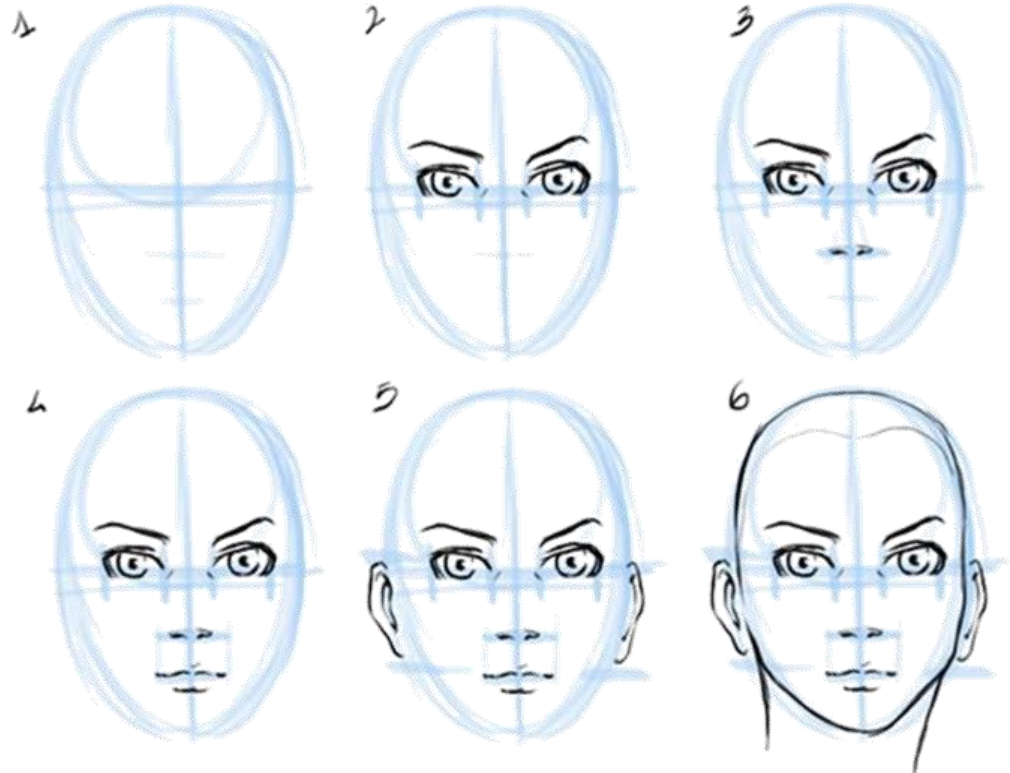
Draw an oval for the basic shape of the face.

Draw the EYES about halfway between the hairline and chin.

The bottom of the NOSE is about halfway between the chin and eyes.

The MOUTH is about halfway between the nose and mouth.

EARS sit between the eyes and nose. *Have students take a pencil and line it up under each of their own features to see this for themselves.*



More: It is helpful to know that the width of a face is generally five eyes or a little less. The distance between the eyes is equal to one eye.





If students stick to these basic placements of the major features, the face will look balanced no matter what face shape they draw.

Have students think about if they want to make a child, an adult or an older person.

Give students the choice to draw with pencil or marker. And then color them with chalk pastels.

Option: Use black, brown, red, or yellow (or a mixture of several) tempera paint for the hair.

MAKING A PORTRAIT APPEAR OLDER:

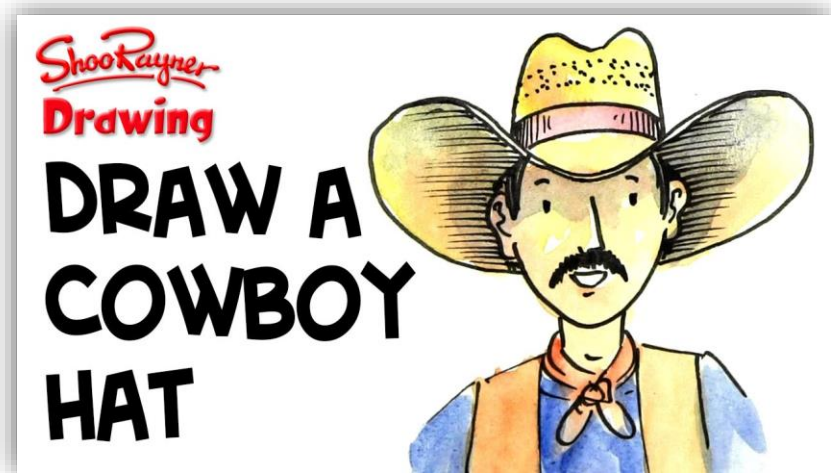


Adding wrinkles are definitely the main thing to make a face appear older. The main areas would be the forehead, corners of the eyes and the surrounding area of the mouth. By drawing only wrinkles, but keeping the face shape the same as you initially had it, will simply give the portrait a more mature aspect. If you wish to make a portrait look older, the face shape changes and the bone structure underneath the skin becomes more visible.



The features in a face that change most prominently throughout the years are the jaw, nose, ears and mouth.

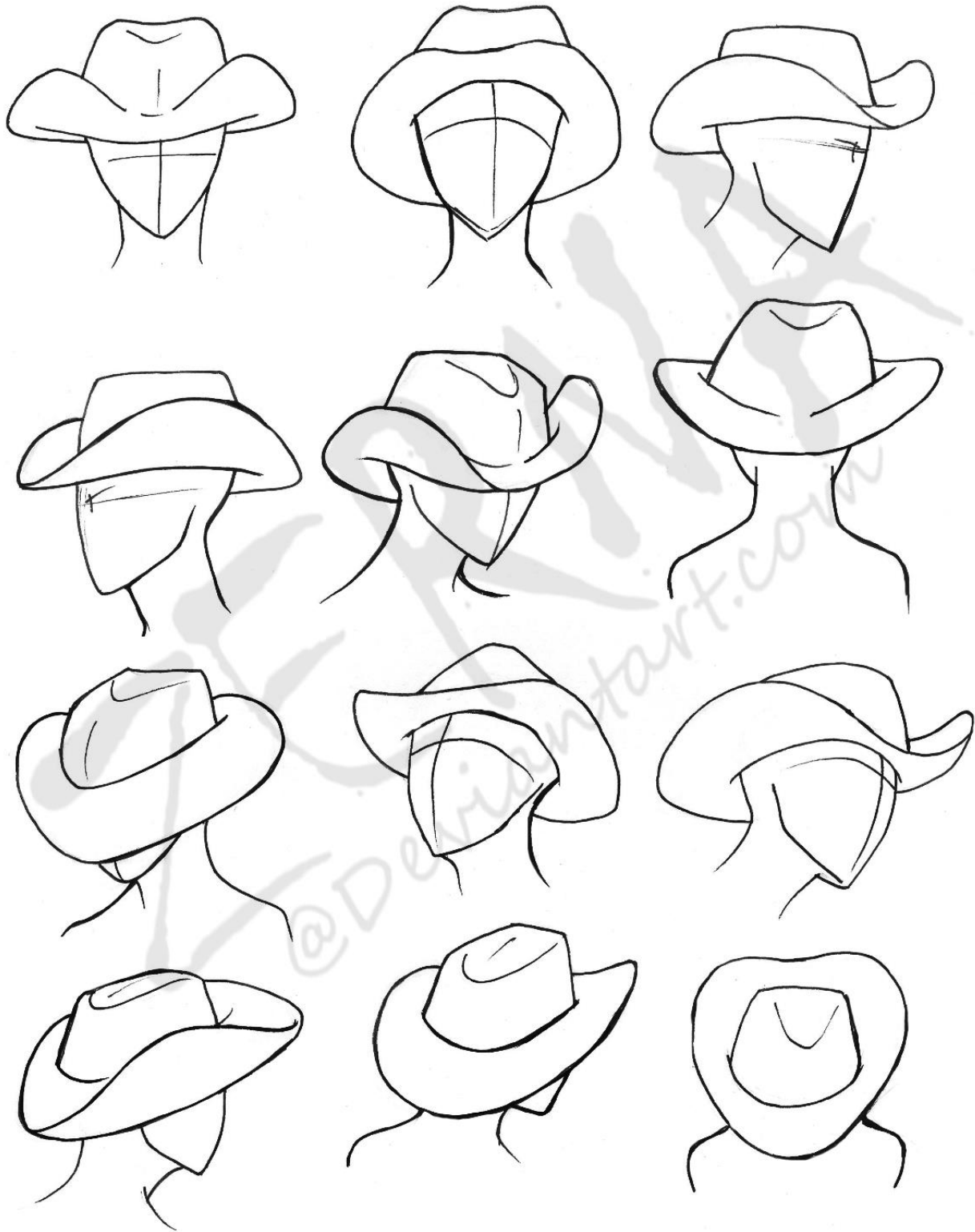


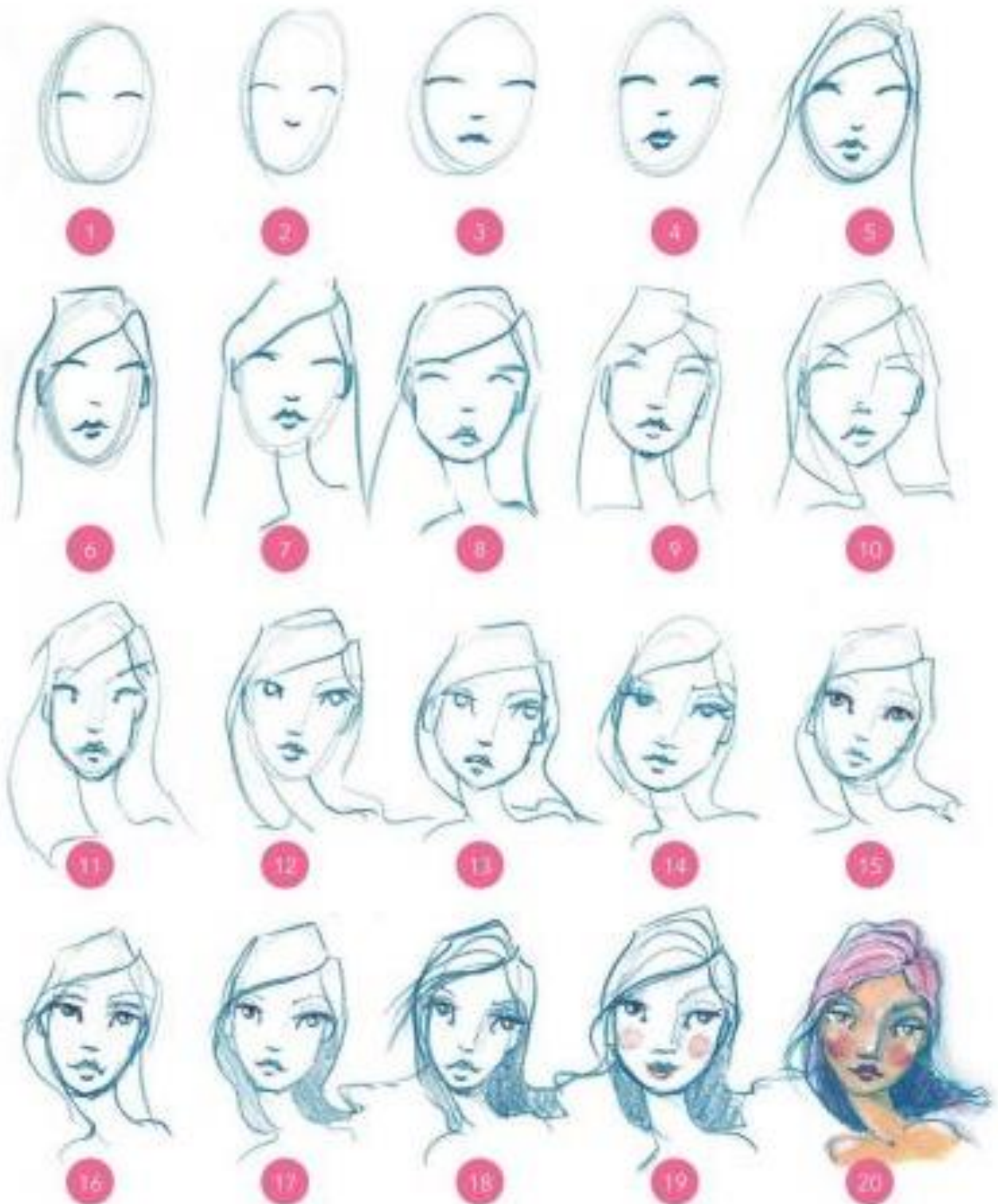


Several guide sheets are included on the next two pages and a detailed drawing tutorial is available [here](#).

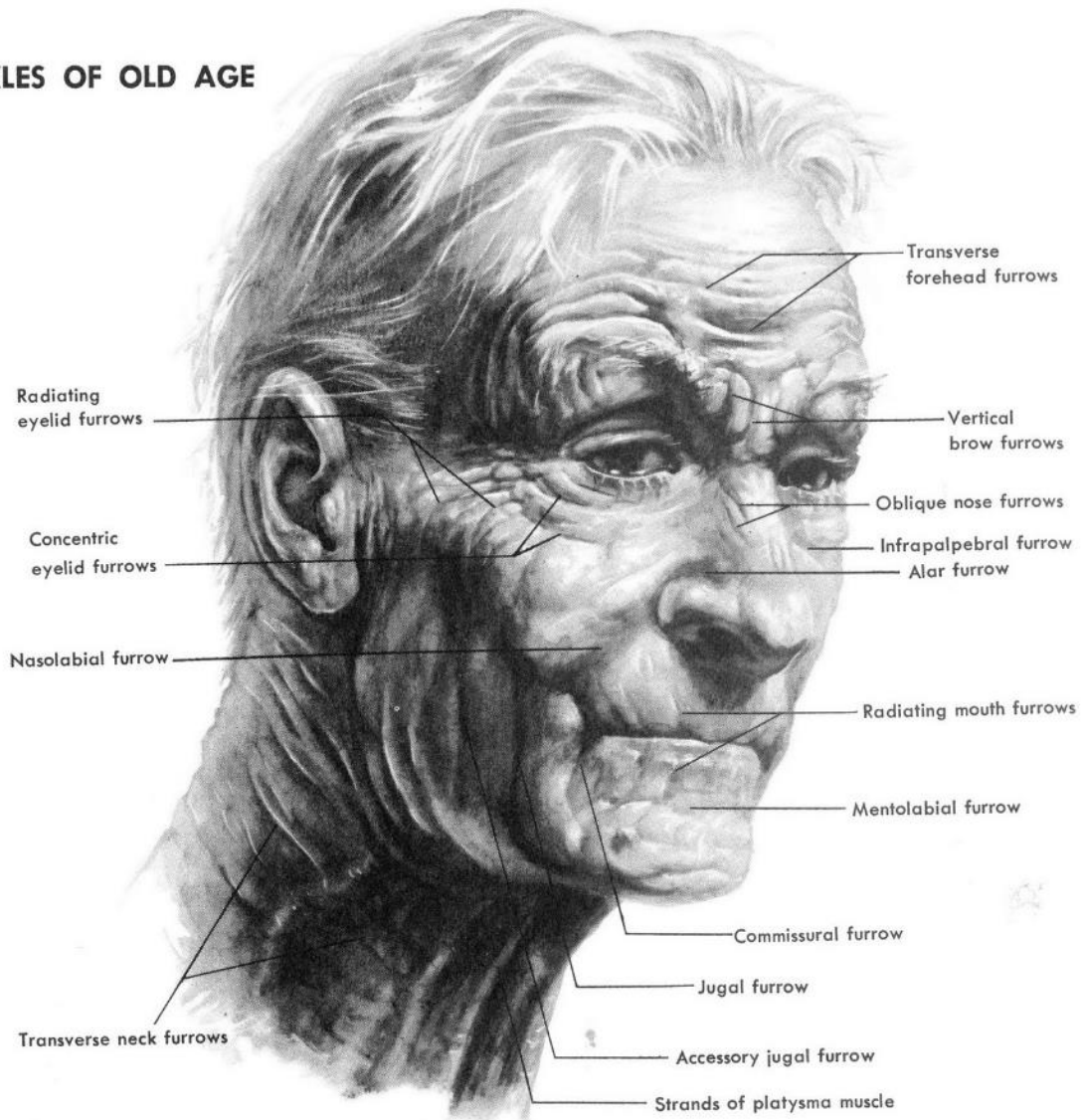
For Help with how to draw a 'Stetson' style cowboy hat check out the following [video](#) from Shoo Rayner.







WRINKLES OF OLD AGE



Wrinkles will help age a face, but skin position needs to be re-drawn as well if you want the portrait to look elderly.

