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Contour Line Self Portrait

Thomas A. Thayer Mr
CUNY City College

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Tom Thayer Intro to Drawing

CONTOUR LINE SELF PORTRAIT

We will do a three-hour drawing. It will be a self-portrait. You will be looking in a mirror and drawing yourself from life, not from a photograph. The mirror should be at a somewhat non-conventional angle. For instance you could be looking down into the mirror as in the example below, or looking up into the mirror. You could warm up by doing a sheet of hands and eyes if you want.

Think of the mark as one meandering line that bends and curves throughout space as it hugs the contours of the surfaces it is describing. Do not use a feathered or sketchy line.

Do not “shade” the drawing. Use the entire page to create a dynamic composition. This means looking beyond yourself and including what you see in the room behind and or above you. Organize your dark and light lines so the changes in value do not appear random. Many artists organize their line weight so that things that are supposed to be closer to us are drawn with a darker line and things further away are lighter.

Use whatever drawing tools you want to make your lines.

