

The Three-Quarters View

The three-quarters view of the face can be challenging, but is very rewarding and has more dimension than the standard profile or frontal portrait that can have a tendency to be flat if not handled properly.

Since the three-quarters view is a combination of the profile and the frontal view, characteristics of both will be present.

Proportions and Fore-shortening

The same general proportions found in the profile and frontal view apply for the three-quarters view of the face. The eyes are in the center of the face, the nose ends halfway between the eyes and chin, the lips end halfway between the nose and chin, and the distance from the hairline to the eyebrows, the eyebrows to the end of the nose, and the nose to the chin are roughly equal.

The difficulties that arise with the 3/4 view is fore-shortening, which occurs when one part of the body is farther away than another. The farther part appears smaller and will often be covered by the closer part. In this case the farther eye appears slightly smaller.

When drawing the 3/4 view, it is important to understand the planes of the face in order to draw it correctly.

Drawing the 3/4 View

Due to its higher level of difficulty, the 3/4 view often takes longer to master and sometimes requires revisions while drawing in order to bring features in line with where they are supposed to be. As with the other views, one starts with a circle and a line that bisects the circle.

From there one can mark the key features of the face, but note that as the head is rounded, the lines that mark the features will also be curved.

The features can be sketched in, keeping in mind that the face is not flat, look back to the sheet on profile views to remind yourself how the front line of the face is formed.

The enjoyable, and the challenging part about drawing the 3/4 view is the variety that it provides. It includes all the positions imaginable between the profile and the frontal views.

