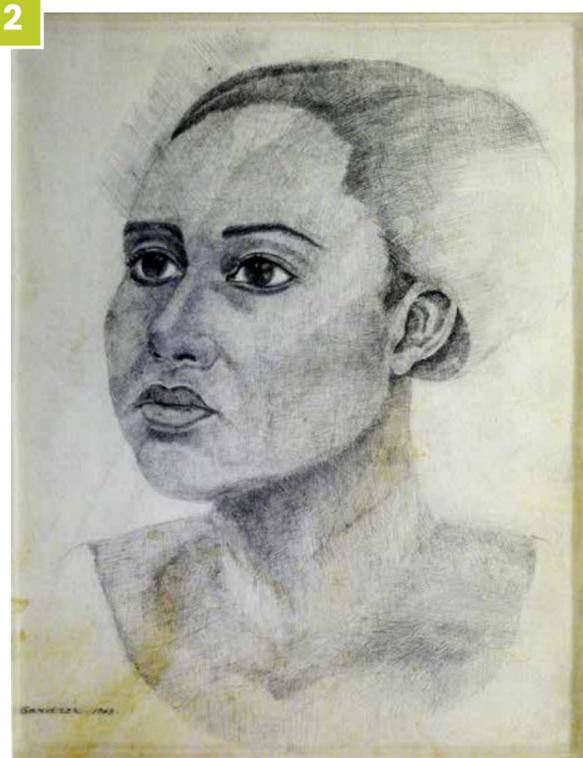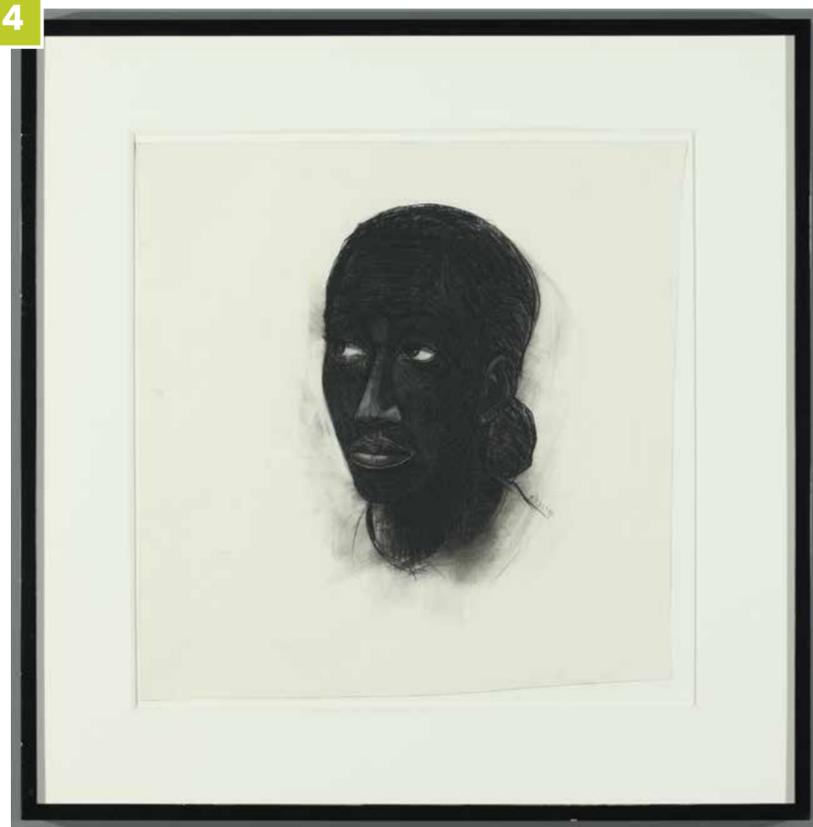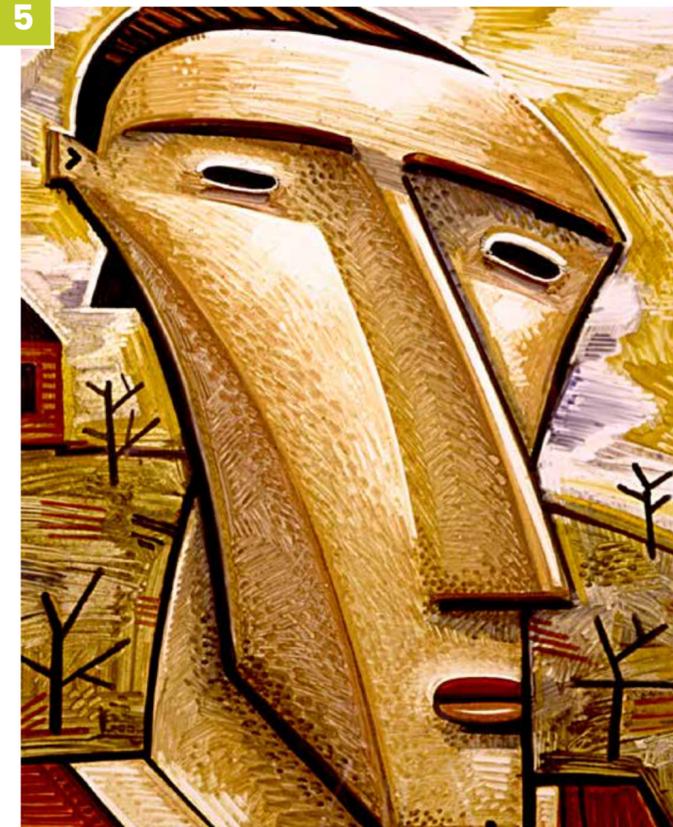1. Howard Chandler Christy
American, 1873 – 1952
Portrait of Mrs. Hoyt Colgate
1923
Oil on canvas
Gift from Mrs. John T. Cochrane, Sr.

2. Unknown Artist
American
Untitled
1963
Graphite on paper
Gift of G.B. Kahn

3. James Chapin
American, 1887 – 1975
Man with a Saw
1933; reworked 1961 – 1962
Oil on canvas
Museum Purchase Fund

4. Kerry James Marshall
American, born 1955
Untitled, Portrait of a Black Woman
1994
Charcoal on paper
Purchased with Funds from Museum
Acquisitions Endowment

5. Robert Gordy
American, 1933 – 1986
Male Head
1984
Monotype on paper
Museum Purchase Fund

CREATING A PORTRAIT

These portraits (pictures of people) can be found in the **American Men** and the **American Women** galleries in the **All American: From the Collection** exhibition. Look around your house; you can probably find some portraits of friends and family members! As you can see, portraits come in all styles and can actually tell you a great deal about the subject. Look for details in these portraits that tell you something about the people in them: **Which person lived a long time ago? Who do you think was wealthy? Who is a hard worker?** Also, notice the style of the painting. Find a portrait that you think is **realistic**, and now one that is more **abstract**, that is, presented in a style that doesn't depict the person as he or she is in real life, but rather in a style which is more imaginative. You can tell from these examples that some portraits show the whole person and others just the head and neck; some are simple pencil sketches, while others are drawn in great detail and carefully painted.

Most people have the same facial features: forehead, eyes, nose, cheeks, mouth, chin, ears and neck. So why don't we all look alike? The answer lies in the size, coloration and proportions of these features. Once you learn how to arrange and recreate these, you, too, can create a portrait of someone you know or just an imaginary person. **Let's get started!**
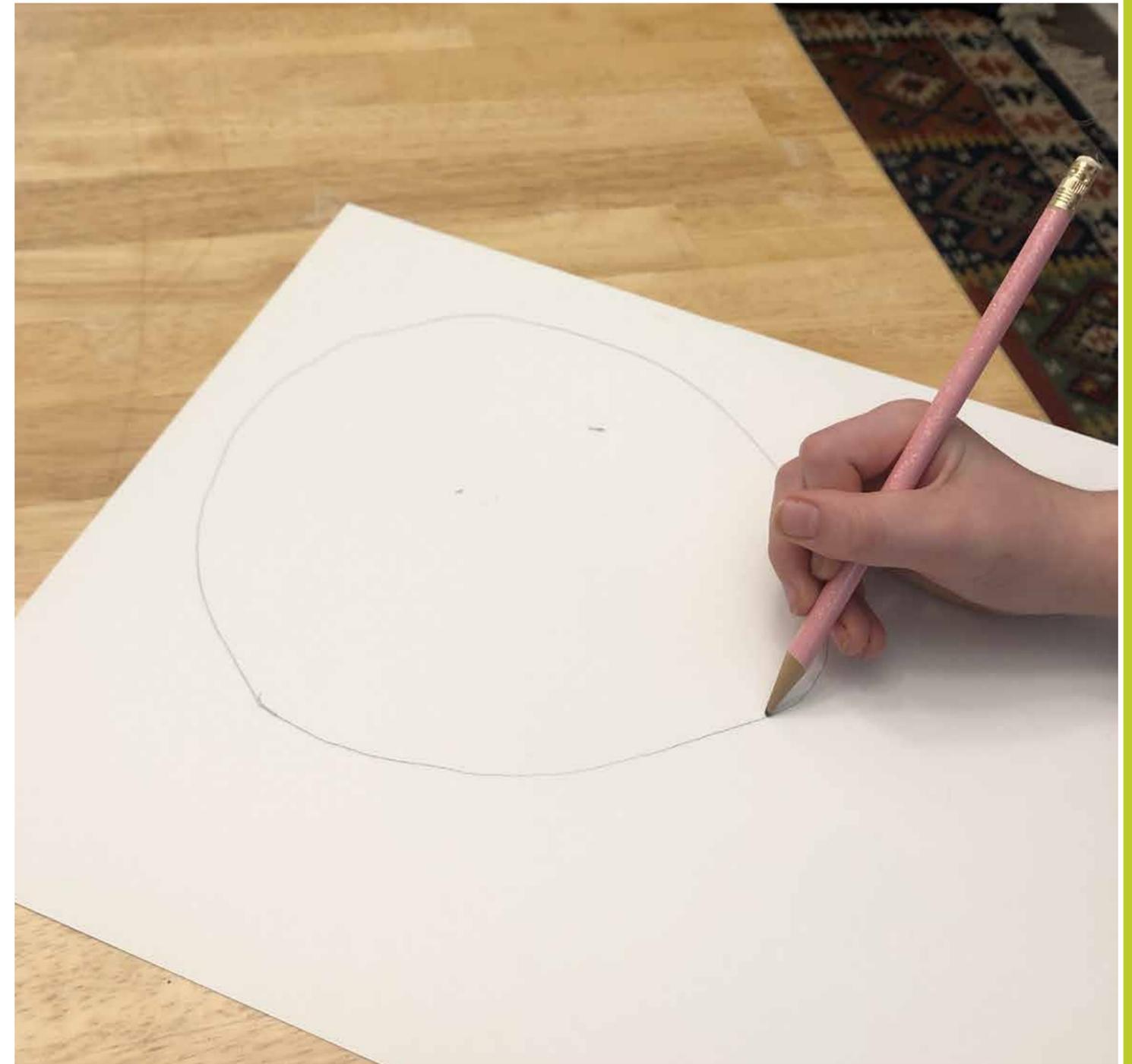
SUPPLIES

- **PAPER**
- **PENCIL**
- **ERASER**

DIRECTIONS

Draw a large oval on your paper. Try to take up at least half of your paper.

Lightly sketch a dotted line dividing the oval in half vertically and another line dividing it in half horizontally. These will be erased later, so don't draw them too dark.
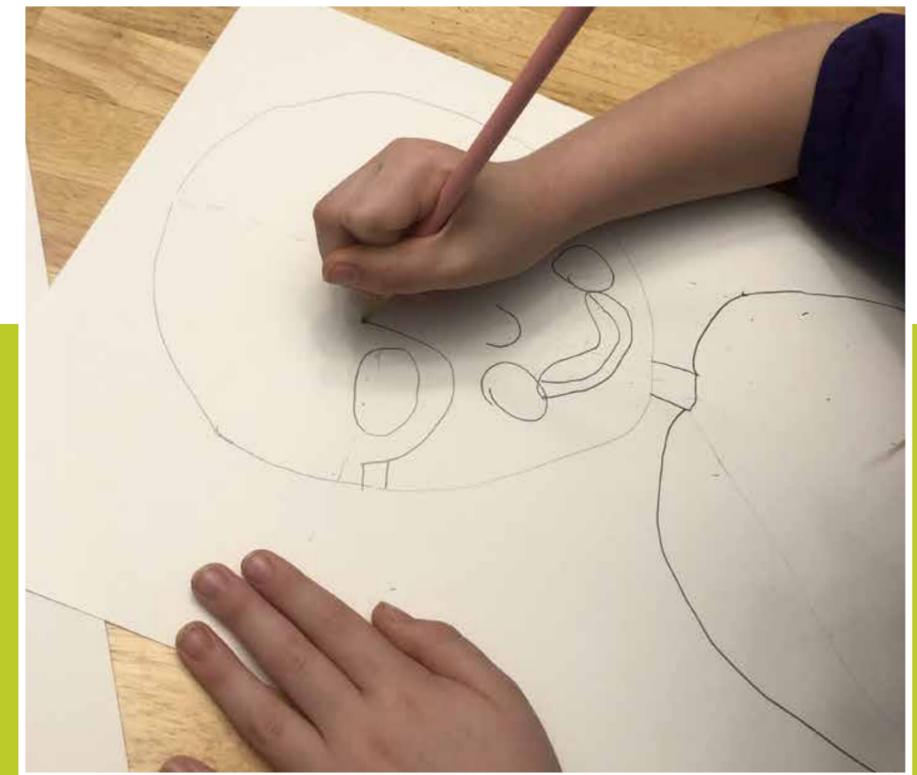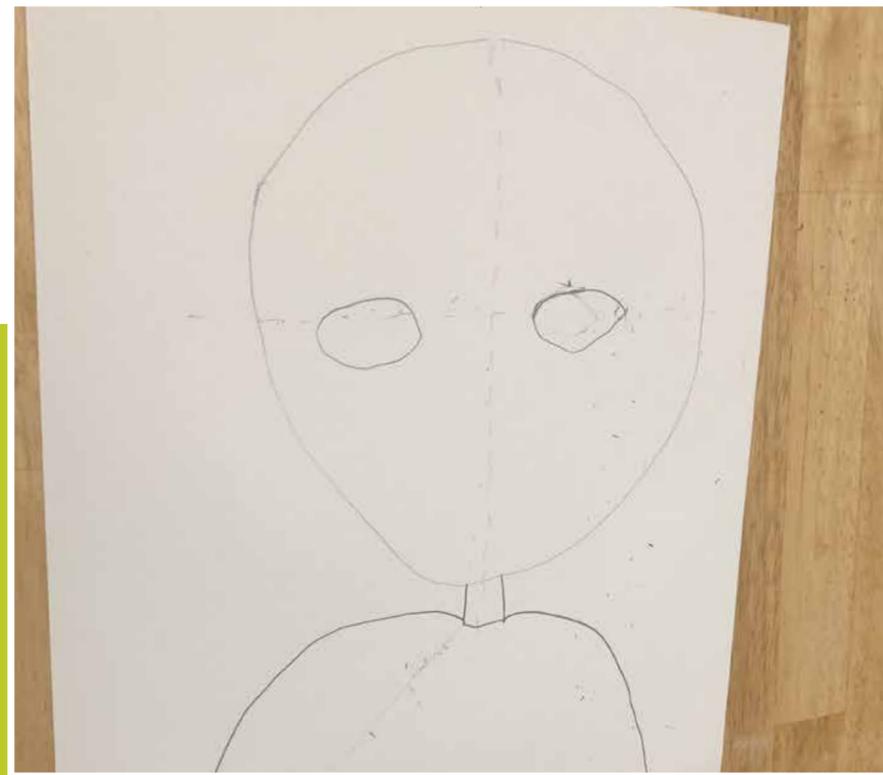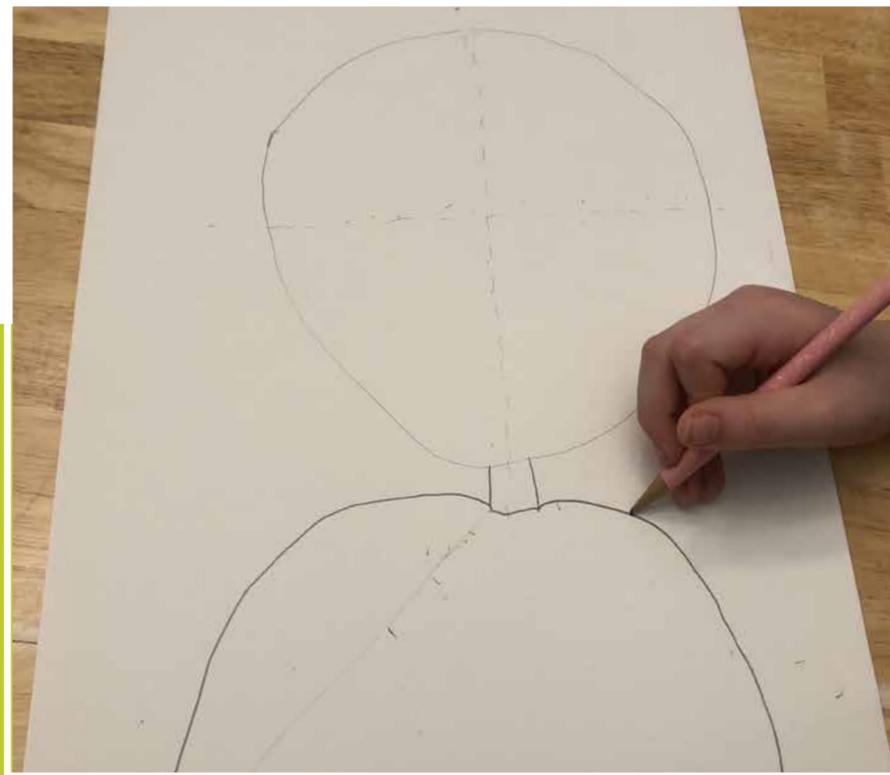
DIRECTIONS

Draw lines at the bottom of the oval for a neck and curved lines going down to the bottom of the page for shoulders. Your neck should be about half as wide as your face.

Draw two ovals on the dotted line that goes across the face for eyes. They should be about twice as wide as they are tall. The space between the two eyes should be about as big as one eye. Don't worry yet about adding details. **TIP: For young children, you can tell them to draw a "rainbow" above the line and a "smiley face" below the line to create the eye shape.**

Lightly sketch another horizontal dotted line halfway between eye line and the chin. This line will be the end of the nose. For a nose, older children can draw a wavy line to represent the bottom of the nose and add nostrils and a line going up to form the bridge of the nose. Younger children may want to do something very simple like a curved line or an "L" shape.

DIRECTIONS

Lightly sketch another horizontal dotted line halfway between the bottom of the nose and the chin. This is the center of the mouth. For the top lip, make a low, wide "M" shape. For the bottom lip, draw a half circle. Again, younger children may want to use just one line to represent their mouth.

Before you erase your dotted lines, if you want to add ears, they should go from the eye line to the nose line on either side of the head.

Erase all of your dotted lines.

To draw hair, start about halfway between the top of the head and the eyes. Simple lines can show the outline of hair. Remember that if you hair is long it should go down to the shoulders, taking up room between the widest part of the face and the neck.

Now you can add details to the eyes, eyebrows, glasses, clothing, and a background.

Be creative & have fun!