

ColourWheel – Home Project

This week the main lesson from ColourWheel is on portraiture (human), but some of you have done similar lessons during the term. So, we are offering an alternative furry portrait option!

Donkeys are a popular subject (cannot think why we have not done them before), and below is a selection of portraits in pastel, in colour pencil, and in charcoal and chalk pencils.

For this lesson choose whether you want to work in graphite, charcoal, colour pencils, pastels or even ink... If you have colour paper (maybe grey or tan) it can help your whites to stand out, but don't worry if you do not – white is fine!



By Claire Murthy (pastel)



By Olga Gorbachev (pastel)



By Amy Dee Animal Art (colour pencils)

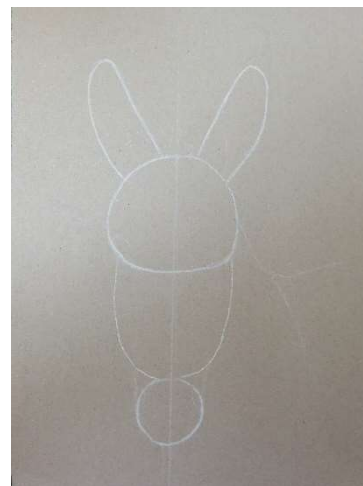


By Glynnis Miller (charcoal and chalk pencils on tan paper)

Main Task – this demo is done using colour pencils on grey paper

Step 1 – Lightly sketch out the main shapes of your chosen donkey face – I am working on tan paper, so I sketched in white (a little heavier to show in the photo).

Take careful note of the proportions – the top section of the head is almost a circle, but a bit flatter at the bottom. The middle part of the head is more oval but about the same length as the top section. The ears are also each approximately this same length. And the muzzle is circular with a diameter of about half the length of either of the upper sections.

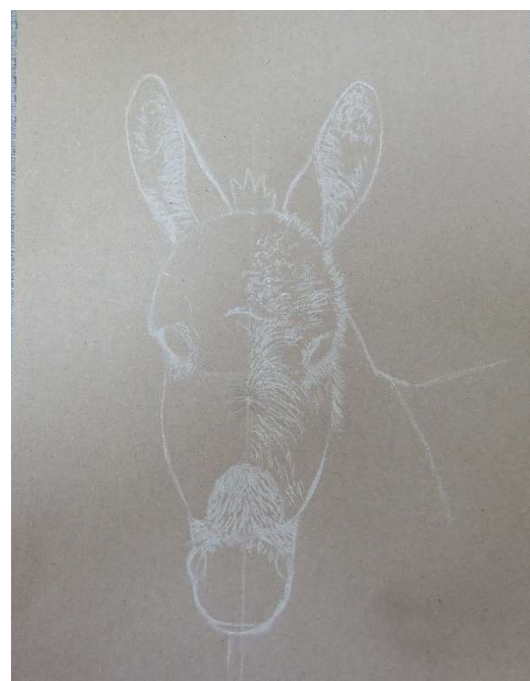


Step 2 – Refine the shapes, and check the proportions before sketching in the main features of the eyes, muzzle, nostrils and the markings

If you find this sketching difficult, you can of course trace – but it is good to learn to simplify and sketch out shapes in this way.

Step 3 – Start putting in the fur lightly at first, gradually building up the textures. If you are working in chalk on colour paper start with the whites. If you are working in graphite or charcoal on white paper, you will need to conserve the white of the paper or retrieve it later by erasing.

Use small flicking movements with your pencil to create the visible hairs. Observe the direction and length of the fur in each section. Also observe the light and shade in the fur, and how it tufts in sections – try to replicate this effect by using different marks especially the fluffy areas on the forehead. Take note of the whorl halfway down the donkey's face where the hair goes out in all directions. Also note other areas where the hair directions change



Step 4 – Start to add colour in the fur, but be careful to observe the direction, length and texture of the fur in each section. Remember to keep your marks a bit random, so the fur is not too regular. Build it up gradually – if you lay down too much colour pencil or graphite early you will 'burnish' the marks and not be able to add marks. At first, I started with browns and greys, but then I could see so purples and blues in the fur – colours can give the drawing more interest. Put the darkest colours/tones in last.

Use small circular marks to start to build the texture of the very soft muzzle. Again, build this up gradually whilst carefully observing your reference photo. When you come to the eyes, remember to put in (or conserve) the white highlights, and build up the darks gradually. Once your donkey is nearly finished, go back to the very darkest tones in the ears, eyes and nostrils to make these pop.

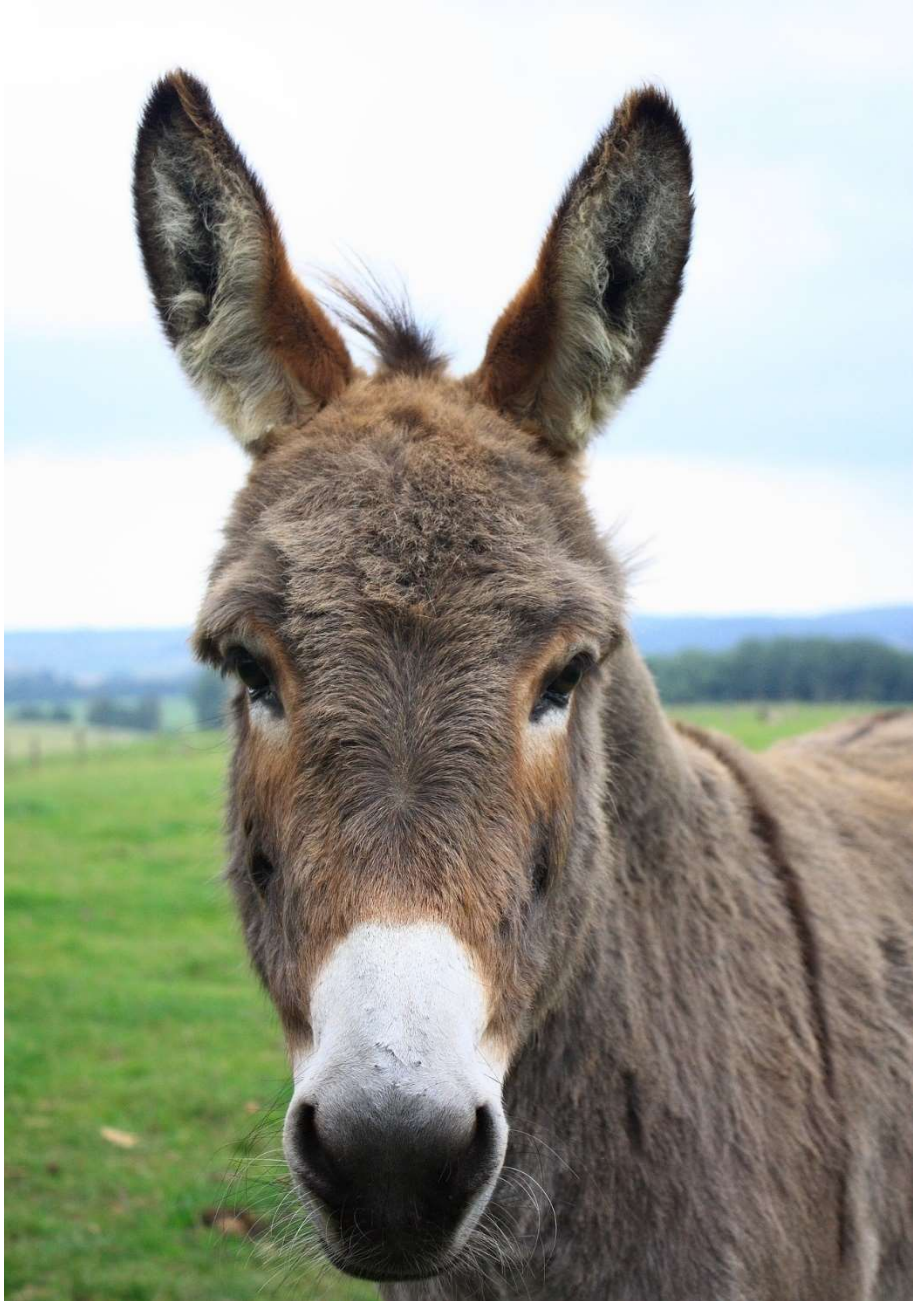
ENJOY – and share the results with us!



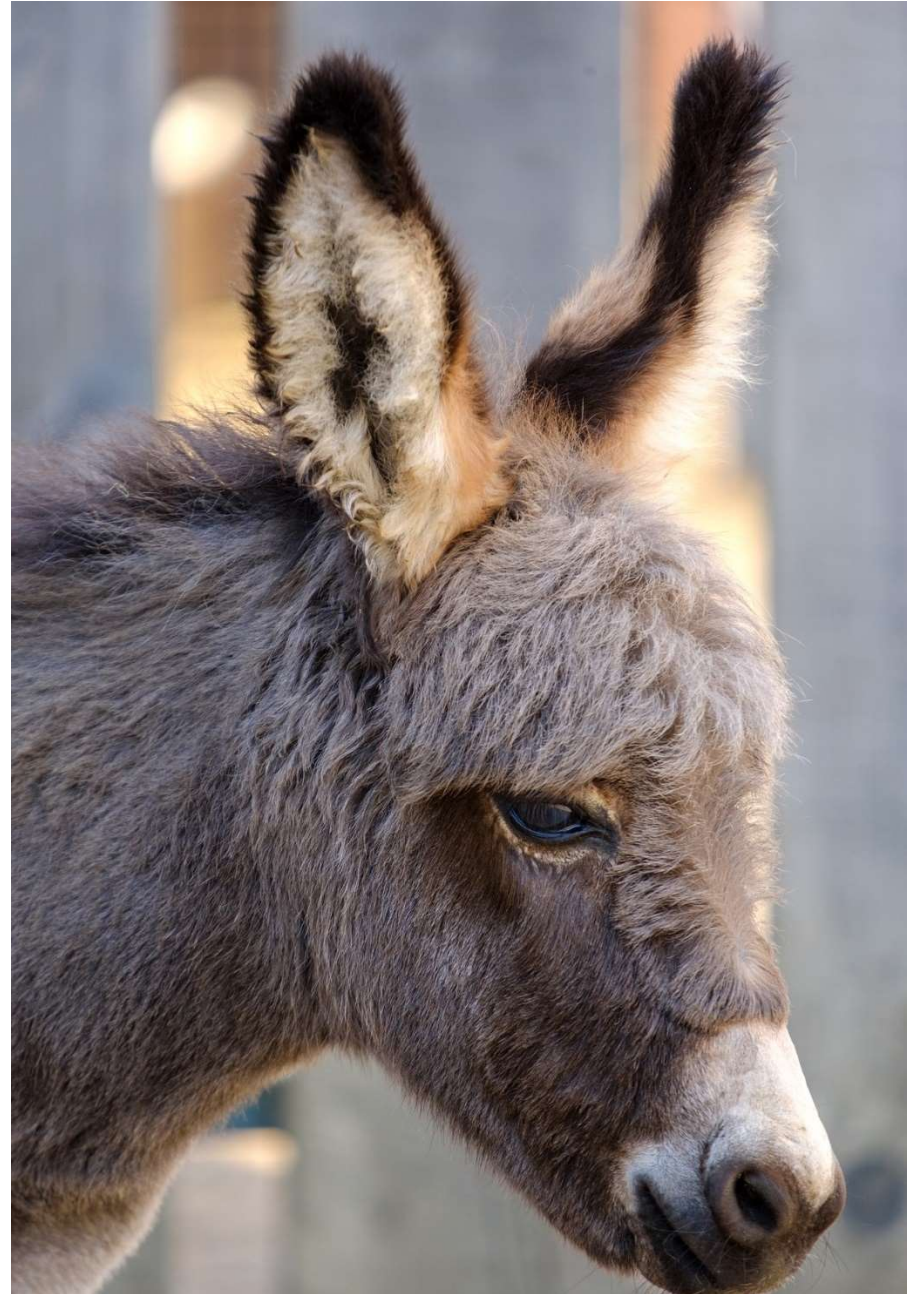
My finished donkey!



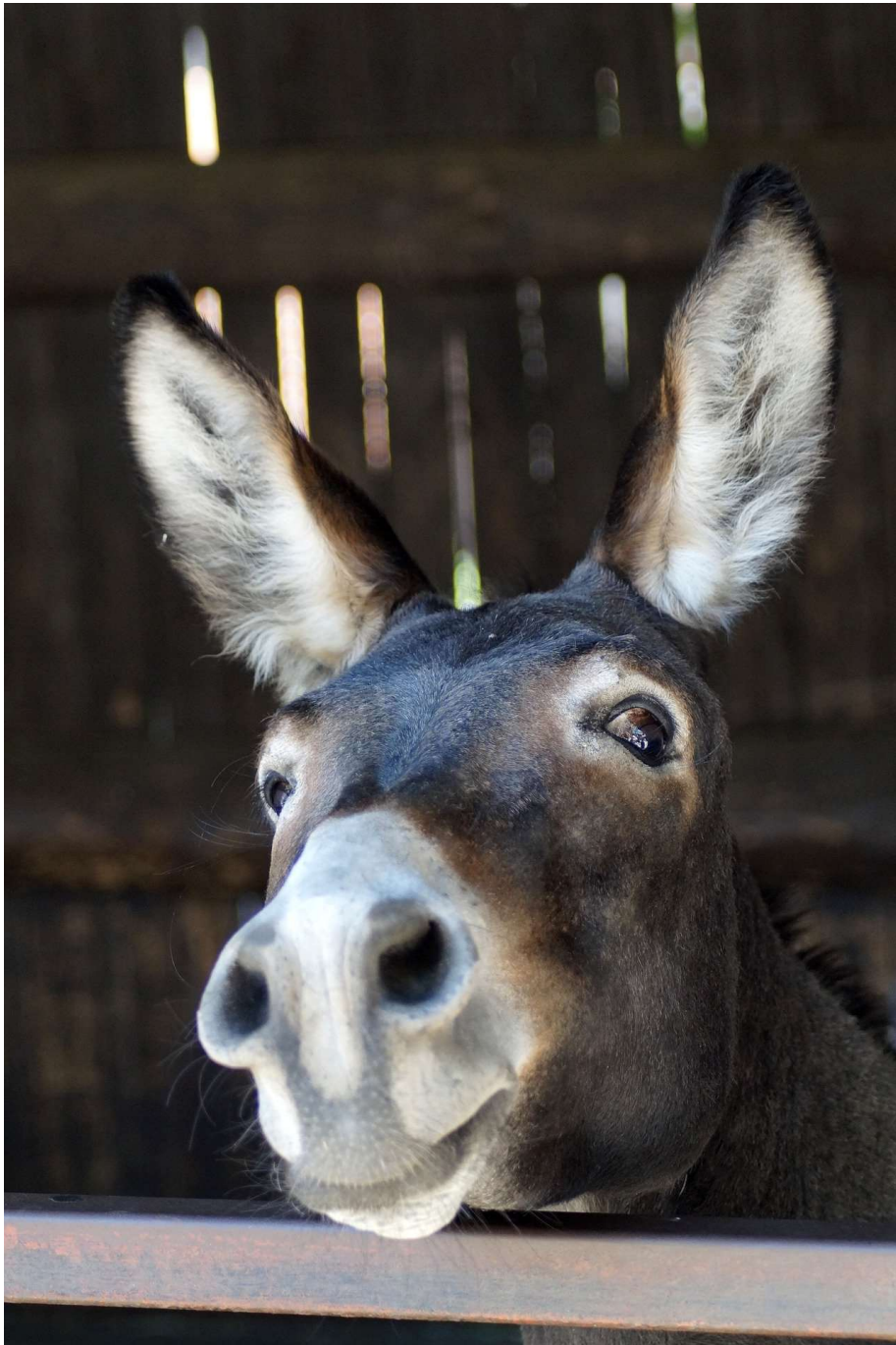
Reference photos



By Christian Fabian from Pixabay



By Bruno / Germany From Pixabay



By Marzena P from Pixabay



Drawing by Glynnis Millar (graphite)