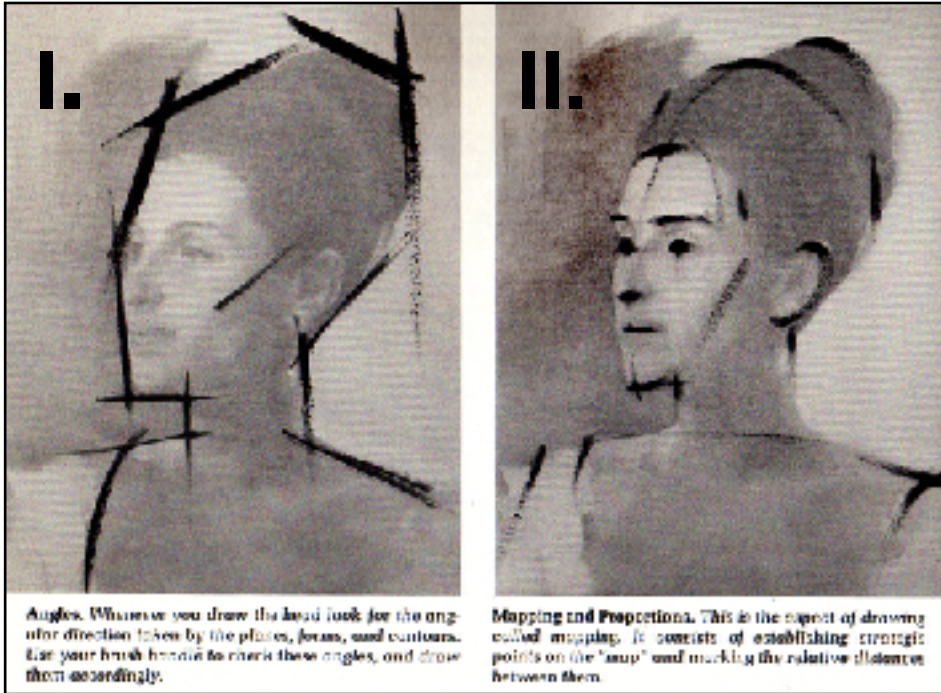


# Drawing = Observation & Selection

The main ingredients of drawing are *observation and selection*. The simple secret to drawing is carry a sketchbook! Draw for 5 or 30 minutes, doesn't matter just keep it going and build momentum.

Alla prima painting is basically drawing with a brush! Apply the drawing principles described below and you'll soon find it paying off in your paintings.



I.

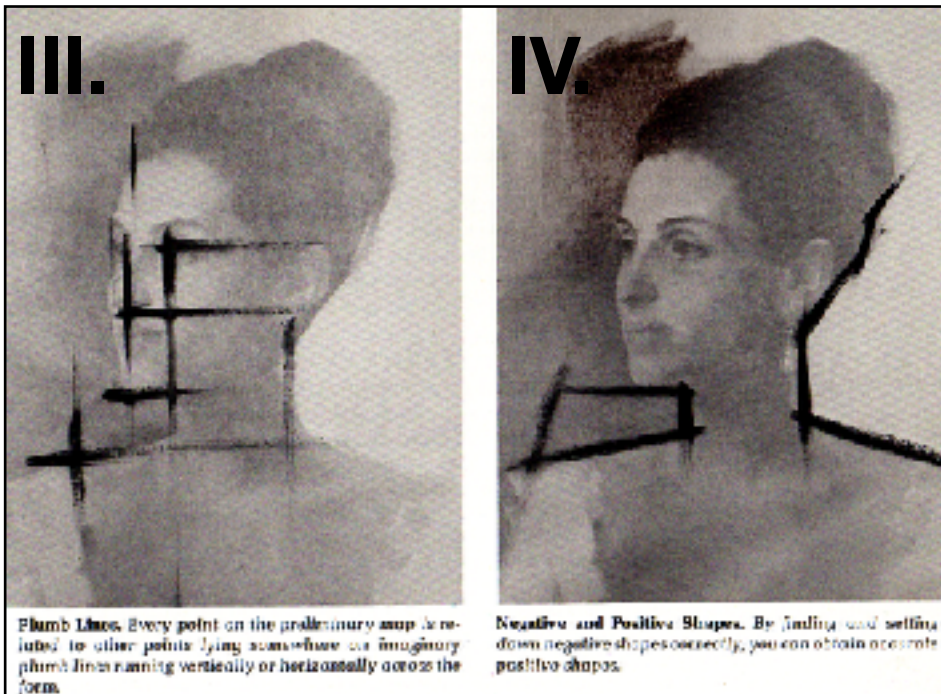
II.

**Angles.** Whenever you draw the head look for the angular direction taken by the planes, forms, and contours. Use your brush handle to mark these angles, and draw them accordingly.

**Mapping and Proportions.** This is the aspect of drawing called mapping. It consists of establishing strategic points on the "map" and marking the relative distance between them.

Source: Painting the head in oils

by Jan Howard



III.

IV.

**Plumb Lines.** Every point on the preliminary map is related to other points lying somewhere on imaginary plumb lines running vertically or horizontally across the form.

**Negative and Positive Shapes.** By finding and setting down negative shapes correctly, you can obtain accurate positive shapes.

## I. Angles

To draw angles means to not slavishly follow all the contours of the hair.

Practice editing and reduce what you see on the contour with a few few direct lines that describe *direction*.

Tip: Use your brush as an angle checker.

## II. Mapping, Proportions & Distances

Establish a map which indicate relative distances and relationships between points of importance on the form and state them simply.

ie. Where does the corner of the left eye lie in relationship to the the corner of the mouth?

## III. Plumb Lines

Use the power of plumb lines to find where features like eyes, nose, mouth and ears *align with one another*.

Look for alignments between elements of the head, neck and torso forms as well.

## IV. Negative and Positive Shapes

Negative shapes help you to see the positive shapes!

## The Power of Gesture

All living things have gesture! Strive to keep the *spirit of the pose* throughout the painting.