

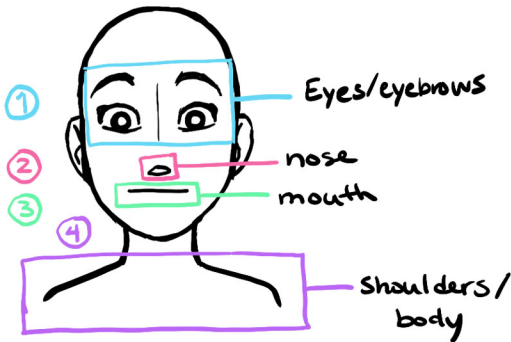
What
NOEL

Knows about the

Art of

EXPRESSION

Expressions can be achieved through the combined efforts of many body elements. The majority of which are in the face. However, body language is just as integral in conveying complex emotion. I'm going to break down expressions through each element, finally combining them all together to achieve the full effect.



① Eyes :

Eyes are by far the MOST IMPORTANT element in depicting emotion. They are also the primary location viewers look to when watching film or viewing a scene. The age old expression: "the eyes are the window to the soul" is especially relevant to the artist, whose primary goal is to bring characters to life. And that is heavily dependent on the eyes.



The eye is a spherical shape, but it is mostly concealed within the skull's eye-socket. It is additionally covered by the upper and lower eyelids, and BOTH are important in achieving dynamic expressions.

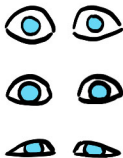


The upper eyelid moves the most, especially for normal actions like a blink. However, the lower lid CAN and DOES move, but more subtly.

The KEY to depicting eyes is how much or how little you reveal the SCLERA (the whites of the eye.)

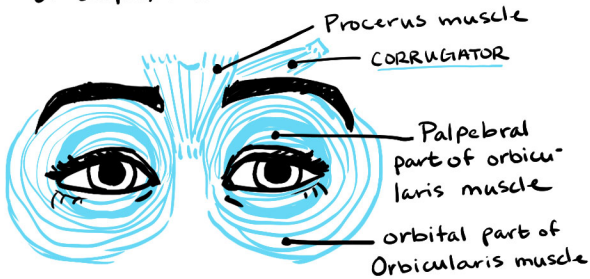


- In a neutral state, the eyes reveal very little of the Sclera above and below the IRIS.



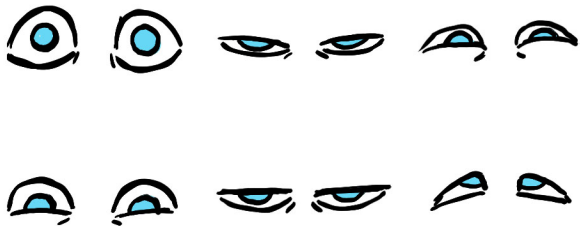
- In a state of shock, the eye opens wider, often revealing much more eye surface area, including more of the Sclera.

The eyebrows sit atop the ORBICULARIS muscles, and surround the PRO CERUS muscle. These all work together in allowing the eyebrows to take on a large variety of shapes, and interact with the forehead.

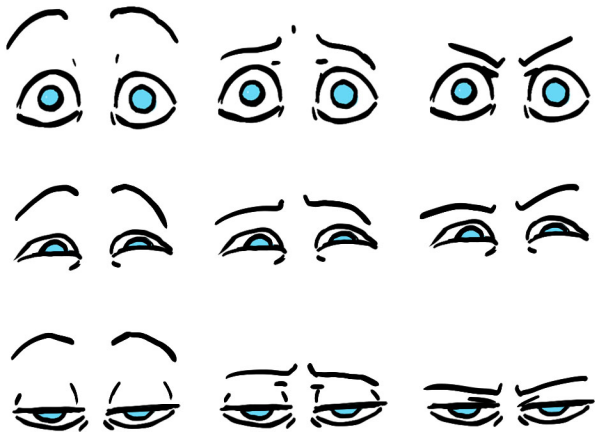


These muscles and more work together in order to achieve a WIDE range of facial expressions...

The eyes and eyebrows often work together to achieve certain emotions, but the eyes by themselves can still be extremely expressive. Here are a few eye shapes independent of eyebrows. The upper and lower lid interact and move with the pupil, depicting a large array of emotions:



Now, if we add eyebrows, we can change the emotion entirely, creating some really great, abstract facial expressions.



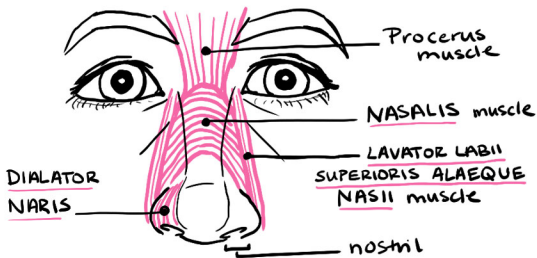
An important thing to note with the eyebrows is that they are attached to the brow muscles, and follow their movements. The brow ridge protrudes over the eye region, especially for males, and especially when the brow is furrowed.



② Nose

Everyone's got a nose, and considering it's such a staple part of the face, it deserves its own chapter. Believe it or not, the nose actually plays a large role in expression as well, and is quite moveable, just not as noticeably as ~~the~~ the eyes or mouth. Much

Many of the most notable movements of the nose are done by the NOSTRILS. The muscles that make up the face closely surround and interact with the nose, and are also very closely connected to the movements of the mouth. The two most prominent nose expressions are the nose scrunch, which is closely correlated with disgust or anger, and the nostril flare, which can be used for several abstract facial contortions (most of which are not very pretty.)



Nose
Scrunch:



Nostril
Flare

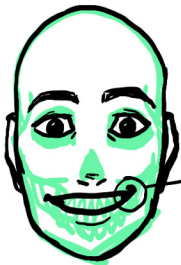
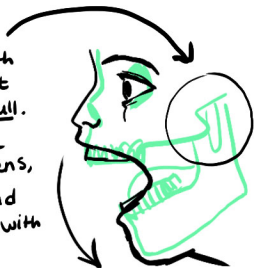


③ Mouth

the mouth, teeth, lips and tongue all are VERY important when it comes to conveying emotion, especially considering animation or dialogue.



The teeth
are a part
of the skull.
When the
mouth opens,
it opens and
goes back with
the jaw.

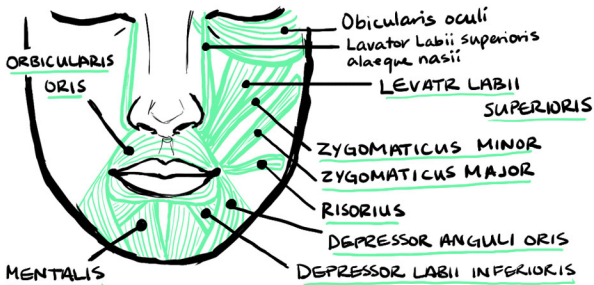


gap
from where
teeth
end

When we smile, our
parted lips reveal our
teeth, but usually only
the upper set. At the
smile's corners there are
tiny gaps, revealing where
our teeth begin to curve
back in the skull.

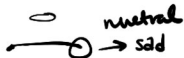
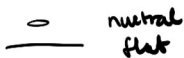
When dealing with the mouth, it is integral to take notice of the skull and all of the muscles under the skin.

It actually takes the cooperation of several small muscles to achieve a smile, frown, or open-mouthed expression. The muscles of the mouth are especially complex, and work closely alongside the muscles of the nose.





triangle

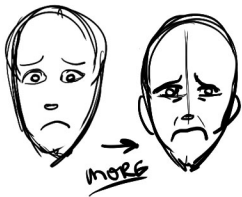
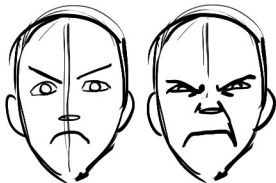


PUSH
faces

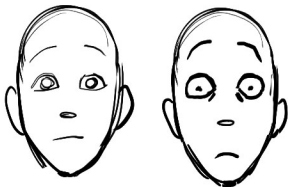
happy



angry



SAD

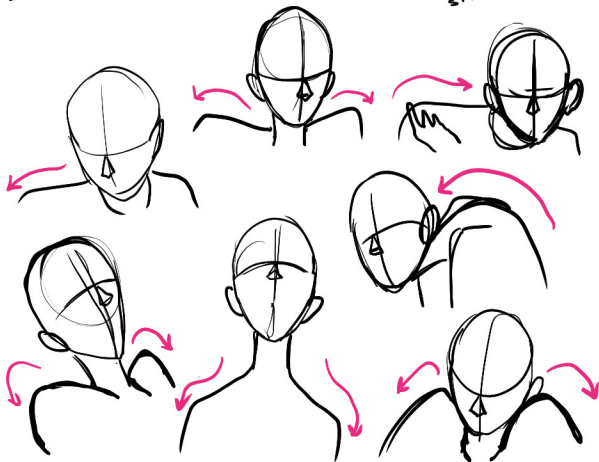


Surprise

Shoulders

"Shoulders are the eyebrows of the body."

- Some artist
smart





YIKES



- minimized forehead surface

- most of the face's surface is eyes
(most important expression)

often shrunk nose + elongated nose bridge

thinner neck width

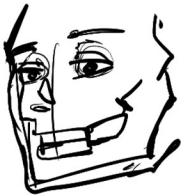


extended eye range

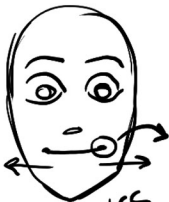
flattened/indented nose bridge

softened or sharpened chin, shrunken jaw height

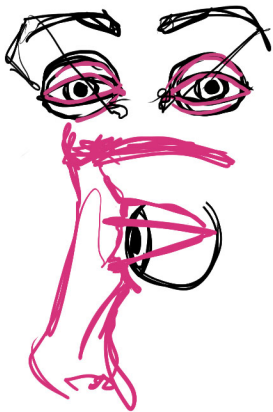




No



Yes.



Angry?

good
start... →



←
push
brows

BETTER
→

add
lower
eyelids →



←
nose
scrunch.