



Loish's

• DIGITAL ART •

School

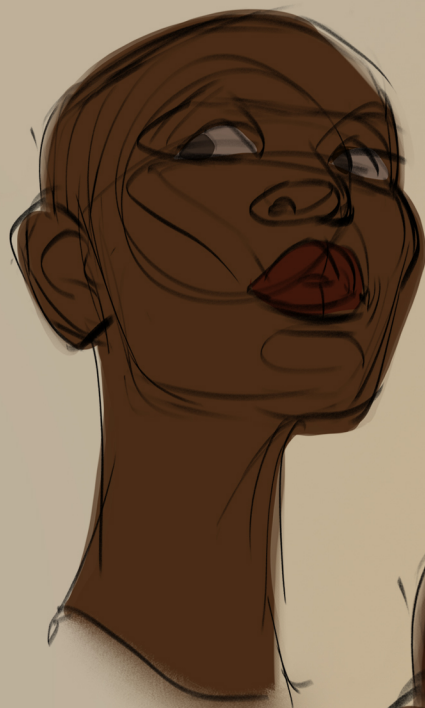
CREATING
SOFTNESS

01//CREATING A BASE



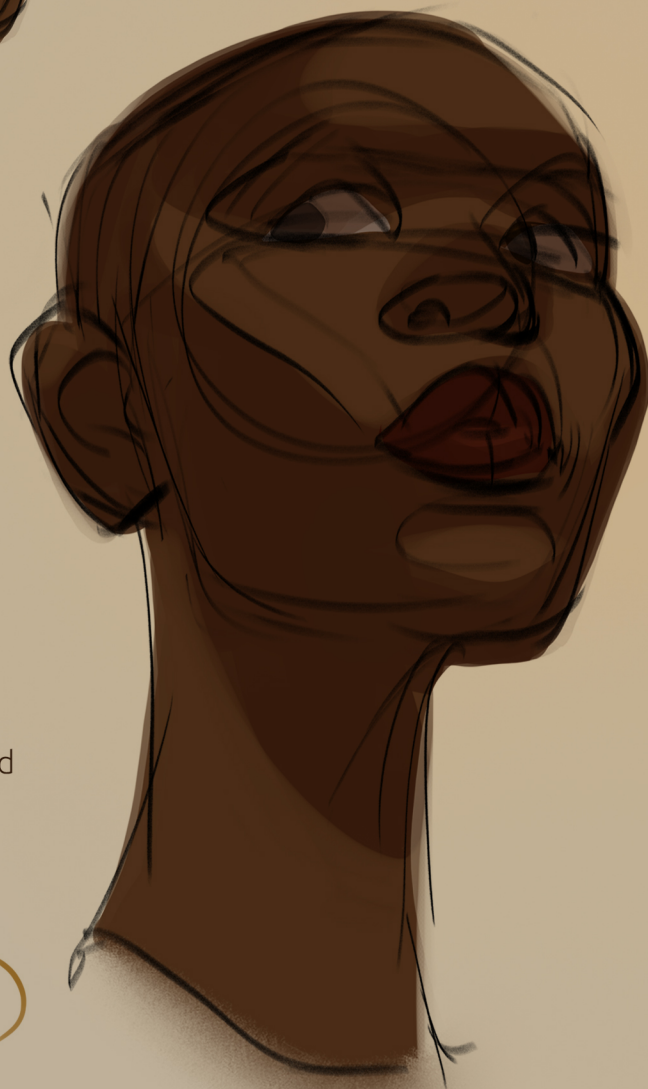
INITIAL SKETCH

Use loose and flowy lines. Don't worry about getting them perfect!



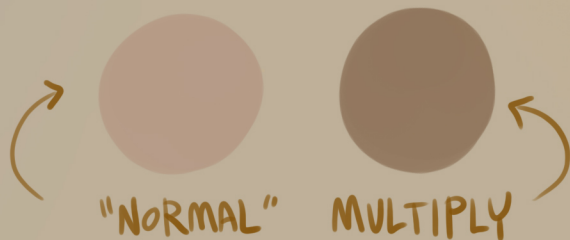
BASE COLOR

Block in your base colors on a separate layer, below the lines.



SHADOWS

Make a new layer on top of the base color. Set it to multiply and block in your shadows!



ANALYSIS

HARD EDGES

The edges are quite sharp and hard, making the drawing look heavy.

HARSH LINES

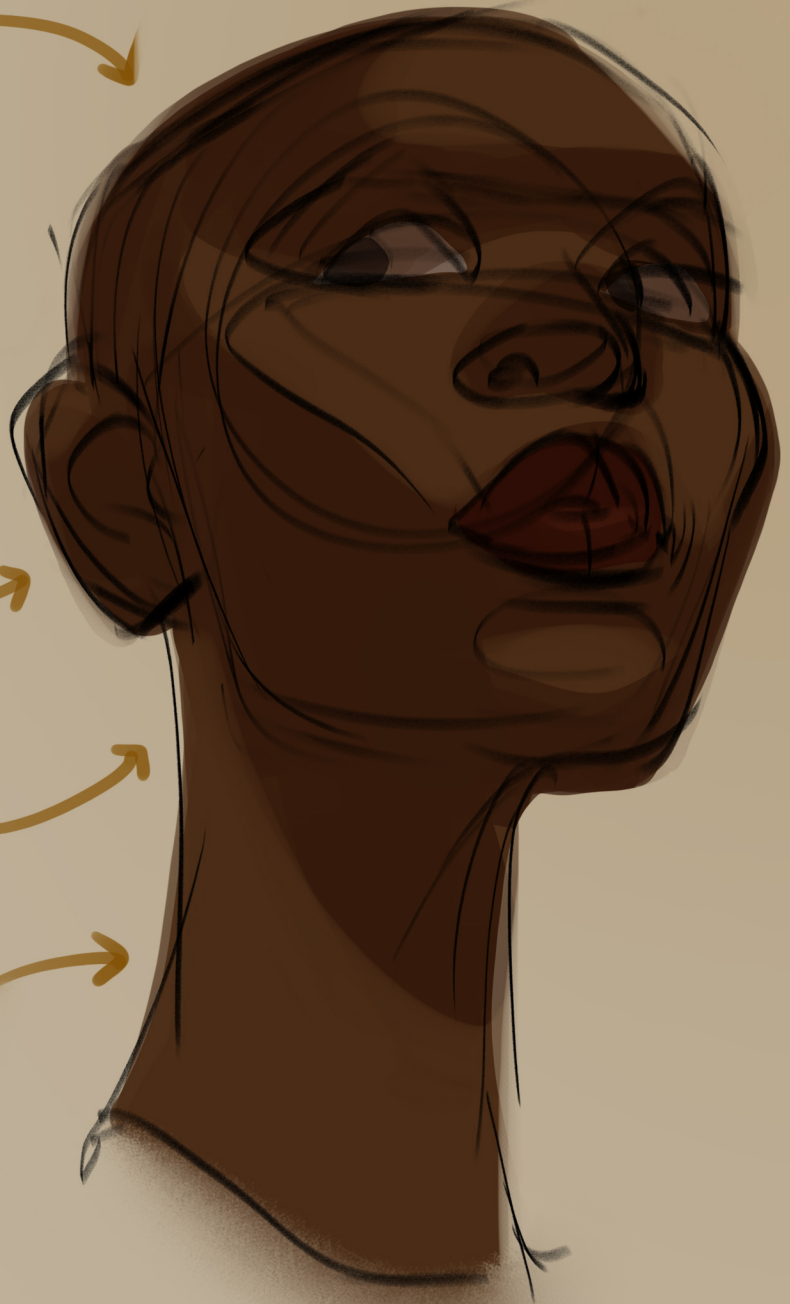
The sketch lines are quite dark and heavy, which creates a feeling of harshness for this sketch.

NO BLENDING

The shadows consist of sharp edges and are not blended in to the base color.

FLAT COLOR

The base color layer doesn't have a whole lot of color variation.



HOW CAN WE MAKE IT SOFTER...?

02// SOFTEN COLORS

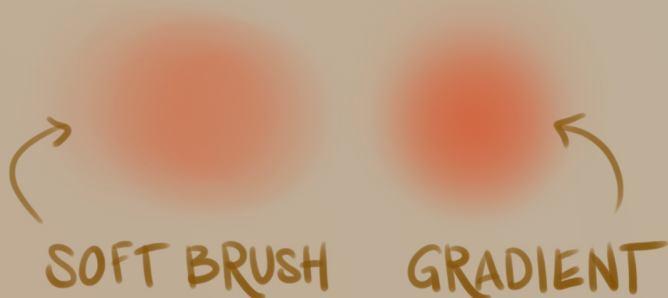
CHANGE LINE COLOR

Set your line layer to Multiply and pick a warmer color. This makes the lines way less harsh!



BREAK UP FLATNESS

Add some subtle color variation to the base color layer, using a soft brush or gradient.



03 // SMUDGE

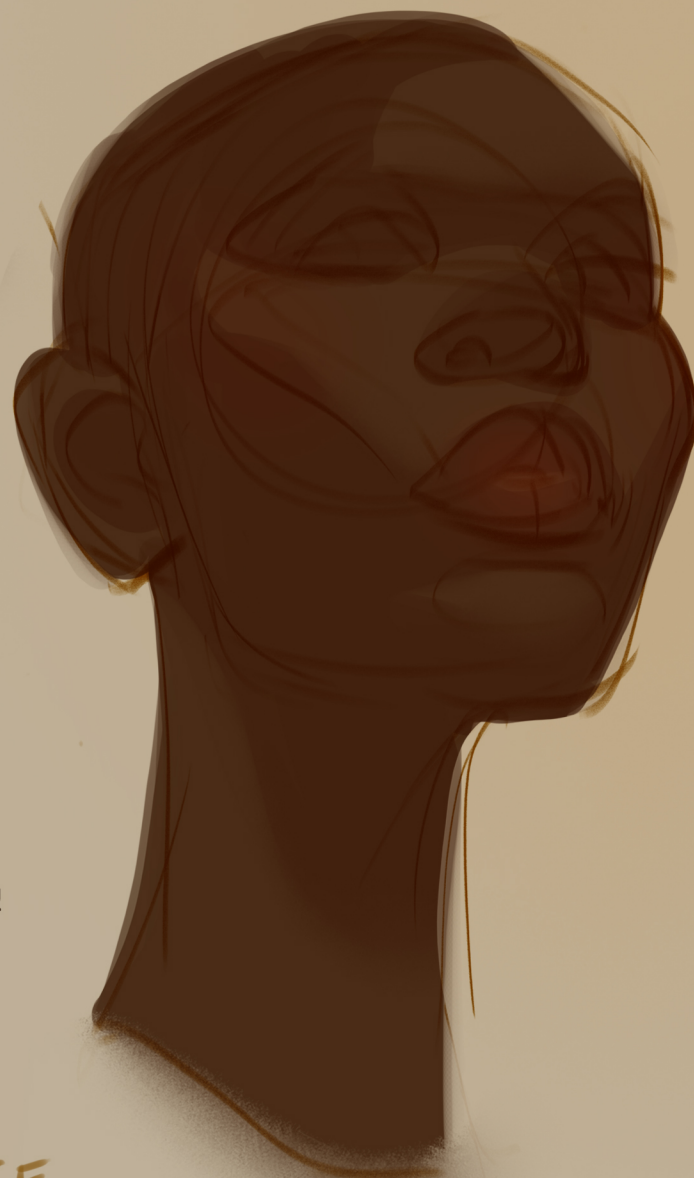
SOFTEN EDGES

Use the smudge brush to soften some of the shadow edges.

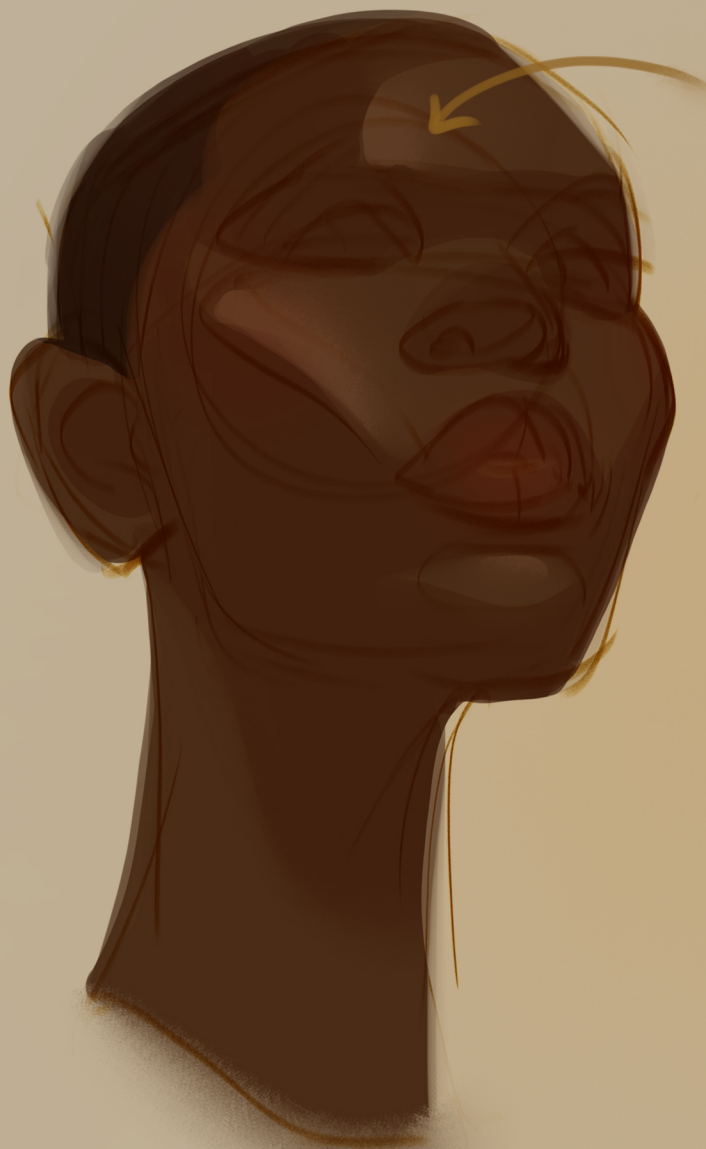


ADD VARIATION

Mixing hard and soft edges is the best way to create visual appeal. The variation in edges helps the softer transitions stand out!

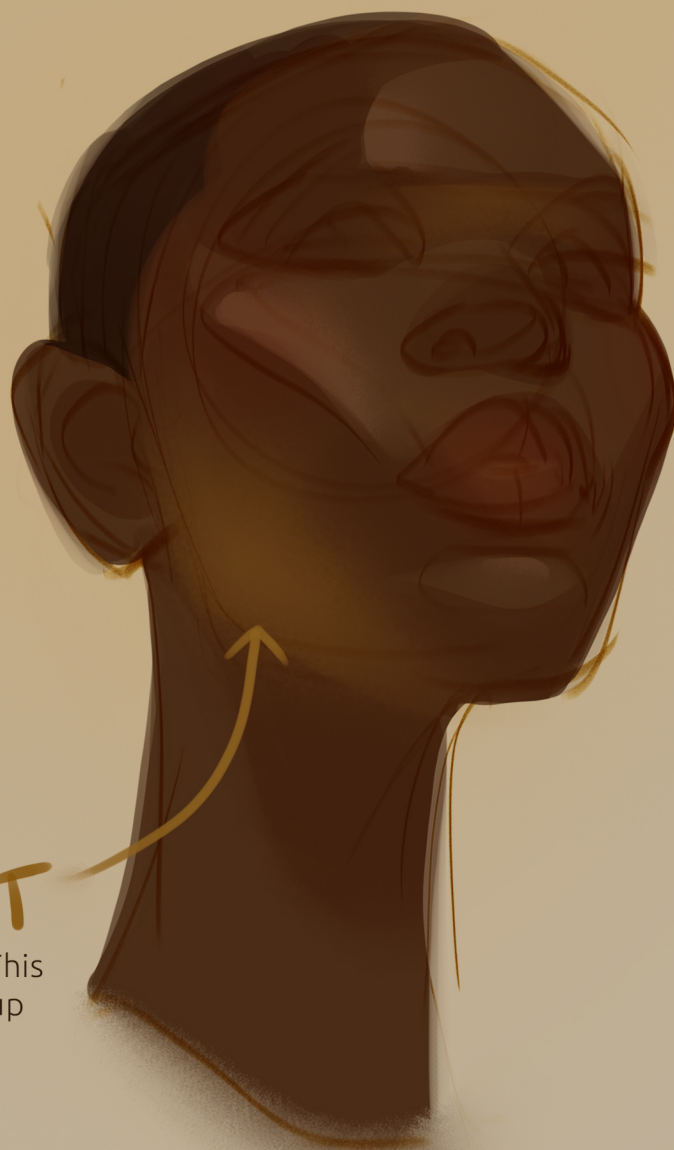


04// SOFT LIGHTING



HIGHLIGHTS

Make a new layer and set it to screen. Paint some subtle highlights on this layer, using the smudge brush to blend them in.



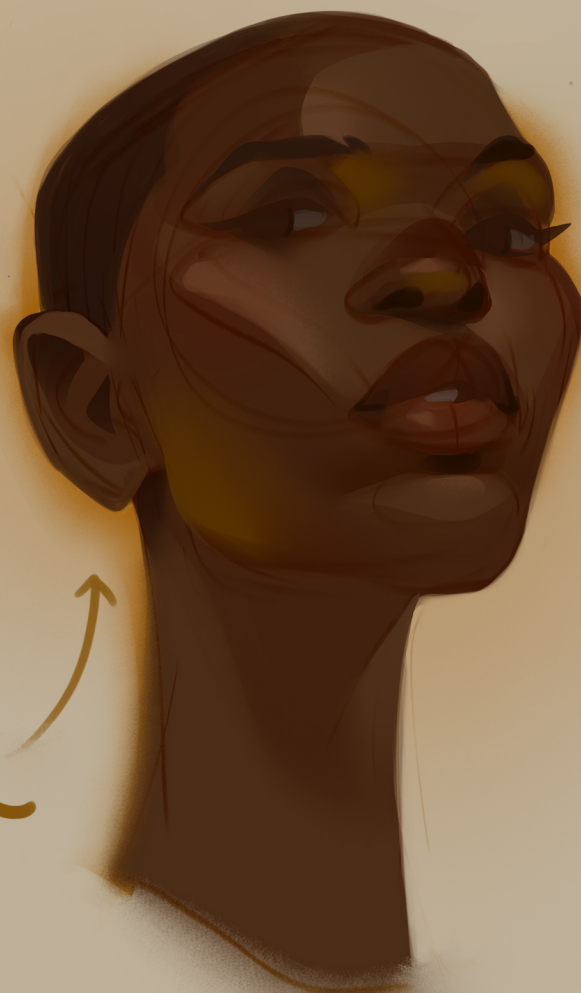
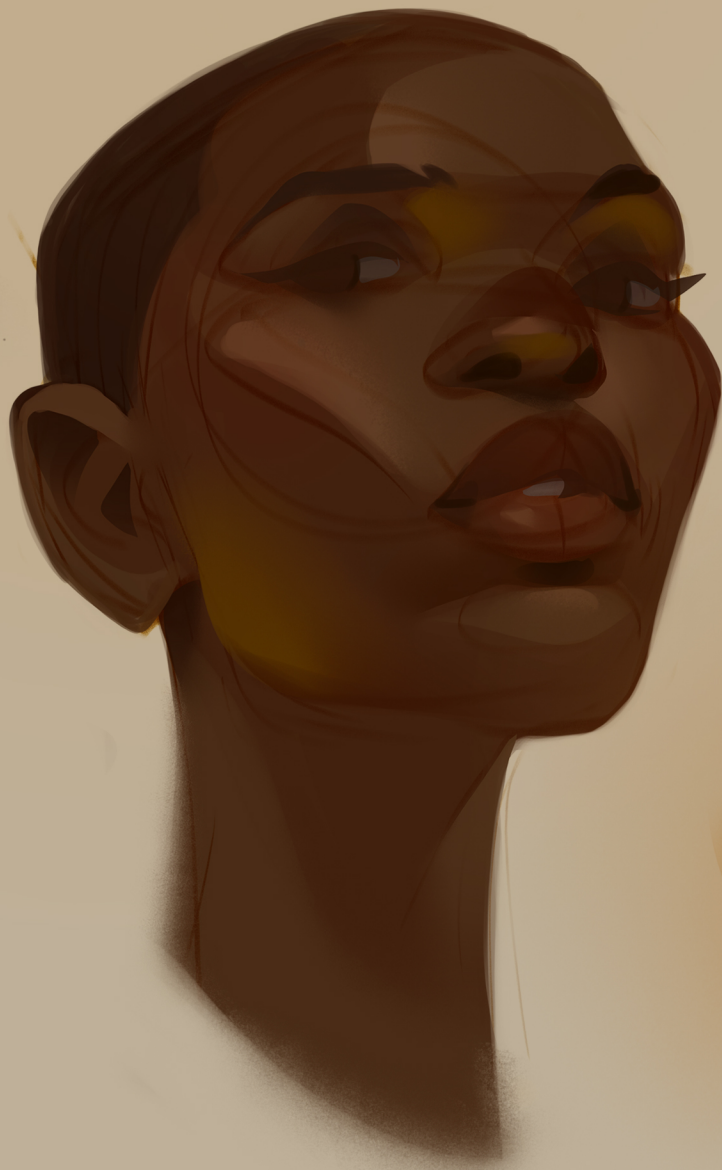
BOUNCE LIGHT

Fill the shadows with some color. This gives the effect of light bouncing up into the darker areas.

05 // DETAILS

LESS IS MORE

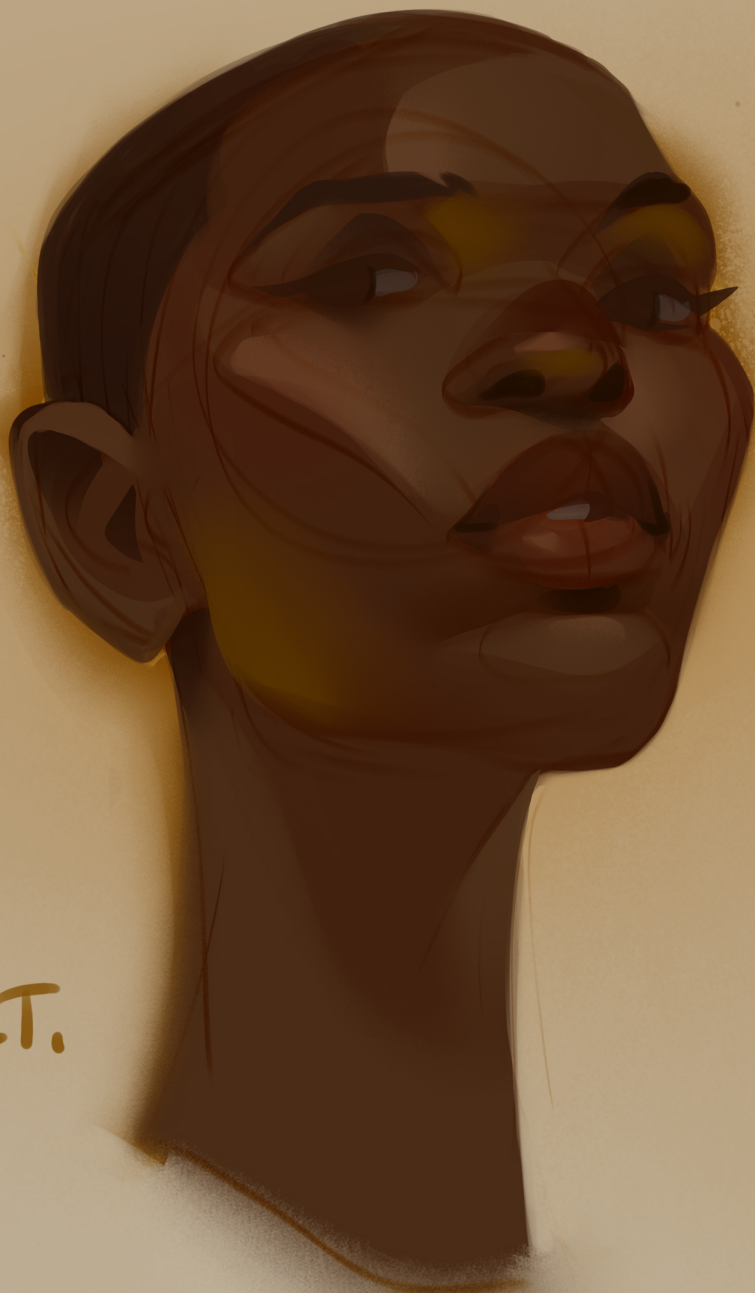
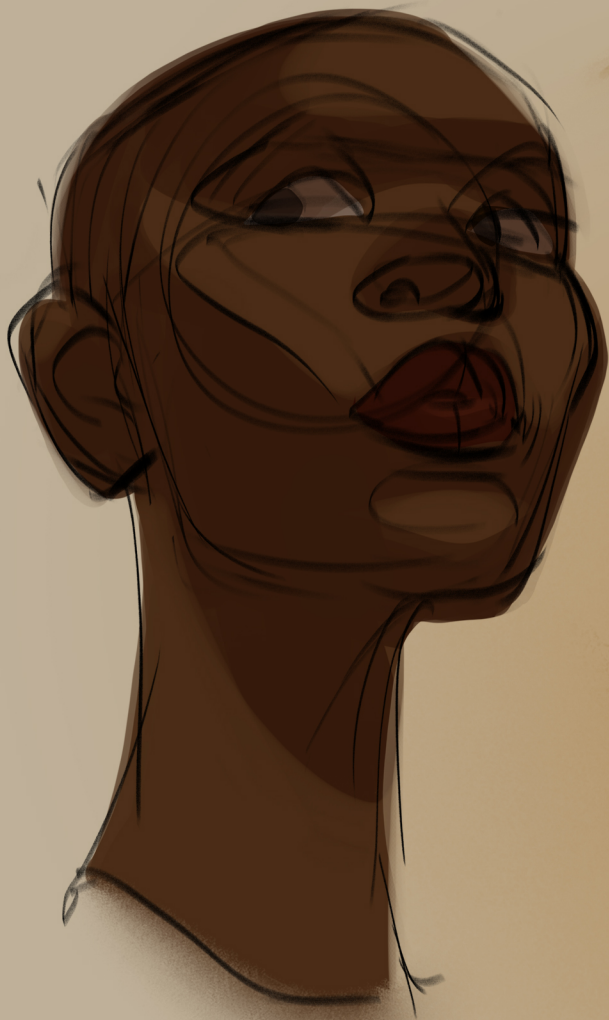
Only add details where needed. Too much detail will weigh your drawing down.



HALO OF COLOR

I like adding some color around the edges of the drawing. This boosts the softness!

COMPARISON



**SAME SKETCH,
DIFFERENT RESULT.**

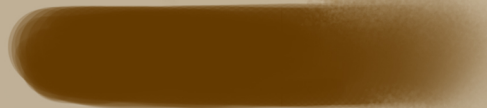
By taking a softer approach to shading and color, you can get a more gentle rendering effect!

LOOKING FOR SMUDGE BRUSHES?

Get your free smudge brush set at Loish.School!



SOFT NOISE



GRITTY SMUDGE



SANDY SMUDGE



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I post a new in-depth tutorial every month. If you join the \$10 tier, you'll get access to the entire backlog - that's over 60 tutorials at your disposal!

> WIPS, PROCESS VIDEOS AND EARLY ACCESS

You'll be the first to see my new art, and you'll also get a behind-the-scenes look at how it was created.

> MONTHLY DRAWING CHALLENGES

Members of the \$10 tier will get a new challenge to draw every month, as well as helpful resources to help complete each challenge.

> ARTIST COMMUNITY

You can join our artist discord community where we talk about art, participate in challenges, and share our progress!

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