



# DRAW LIKE AN EGYPTIAN



Are you wondering why Egyptian pictures seem so strange? It may be because when Egyptian artists created a drawing or a tomb painting they followed a strict set of guidelines. Everything that was added to their artwork, whether real or representational, held meaning.

To show the physical characteristics of a person certain parts of the body were turned toward the viewer to make them clearly visible. Eyes were important so one was drawn on the side of the face. The nose was drawn in profile because it was more beautiful than a nose drawn from the front. Some features such as the eyes and hair can't be seen and admired if the person's face was facing the viewer.

The shoulders and top part of the body faced front, but the body from the waist down faced the side.

Egyptian painters did not show objects and people in their proper size. The importance of a person or object related to its size. The larger a person or object, the more important it was. Therefore, a man might be larger than a group of trees or a lion because the man was more important. A pharaoh was always the largest figure in any drawing because a pharaoh was the most important person in Egypt.

Artists painted scenes on tomb walls showing the person who had died doing things he or she hoped to do in the afterlife. Artists could not just walk into the tomb and start drawing the scenes. They had to follow these steps:

- Draw the scene on a sheet of papyrus
- Mark a grid on top of the papyrus drawing
- Lightly mark a grid on the tomb wall with string dipped in red dye
- Redraw the original scene grid by grid onto the tomb wall in a much larger size
- Put a coat of wax or varnish over the drawing for protection

# How to Draw in the Egyptian Style

1. Draw the head and neck of your figure in profile (side view).
2. Add an eye to the side of the face. The eye should look to the front. Outline the eye in black and add a curved black eyebrow.
3. Draw the lips as viewed from the side.
4. A black wig can be drawn on the head of a man or woman. The ear should be left showing.
5. The shoulders and chest should be drawn facing the front. The arms are drawn according to what the person is holding or doing.
6. Hips, legs and feet are drawn facing the side (in profile).
7. Draw Egyptian type clothes on the figure. Men usually wore short skirts, and women wore straight dresses held in place by two straps. Clothes were usually white, but both men and women wore brightly colored jewelry.
8. When the figure has been drawn and clothed, color the remaining skin a dark tan.