My dearest watercolourists,

I hope you are well. I am writing to you from abroad! I hope you have enjoyed a little break and are excited for Thursday!

Today we are going to play a little bit more with creating caricatures and cartoons.

As I promised last week we are going to look at how to create a caricature starting from a real-life figure. Nonetheless, I also mentioned that we are not going to create a caricature of someone who is alive or someone in real life. This is why we are going to draw inspiration from a fictional character- from Charlie Chaplin's The Tramp.

This portrait is going to emphasise some traits that might also diminish others to create a comical appearance. Because the initial character is already coming from the comedic background there are some exaggerations present. These exaggerations are what characterise and define Charlie Chaplin.
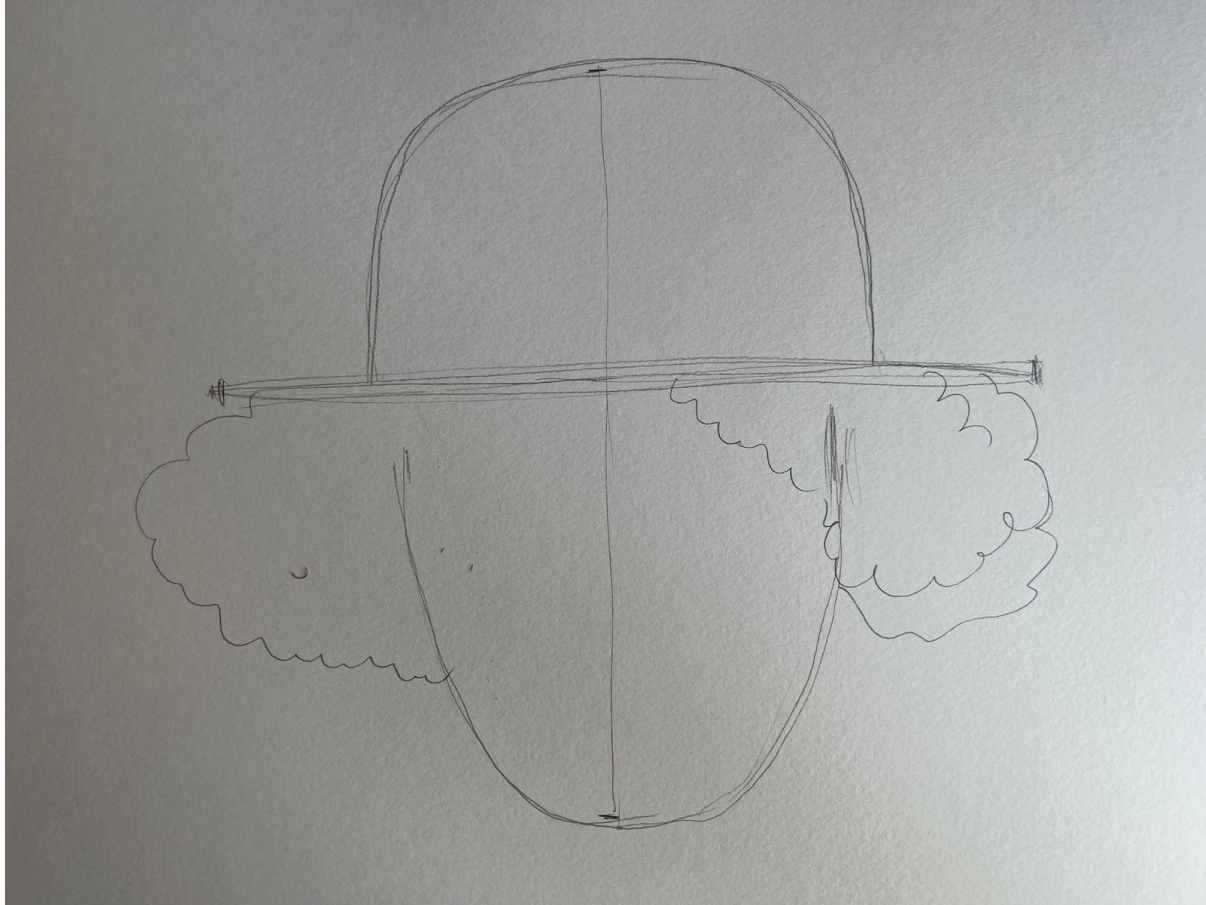
We start with the head and we use a symmetry line down the middle of the page. The face shape at this stage is an 'U'. The head is about half the size of the page. Charlie Chaplin wears a funky hat that has the brim ever so slightly too narrow. We are going to emphasise the way that his head looks with the hat. We add the funny looking hair as Well.
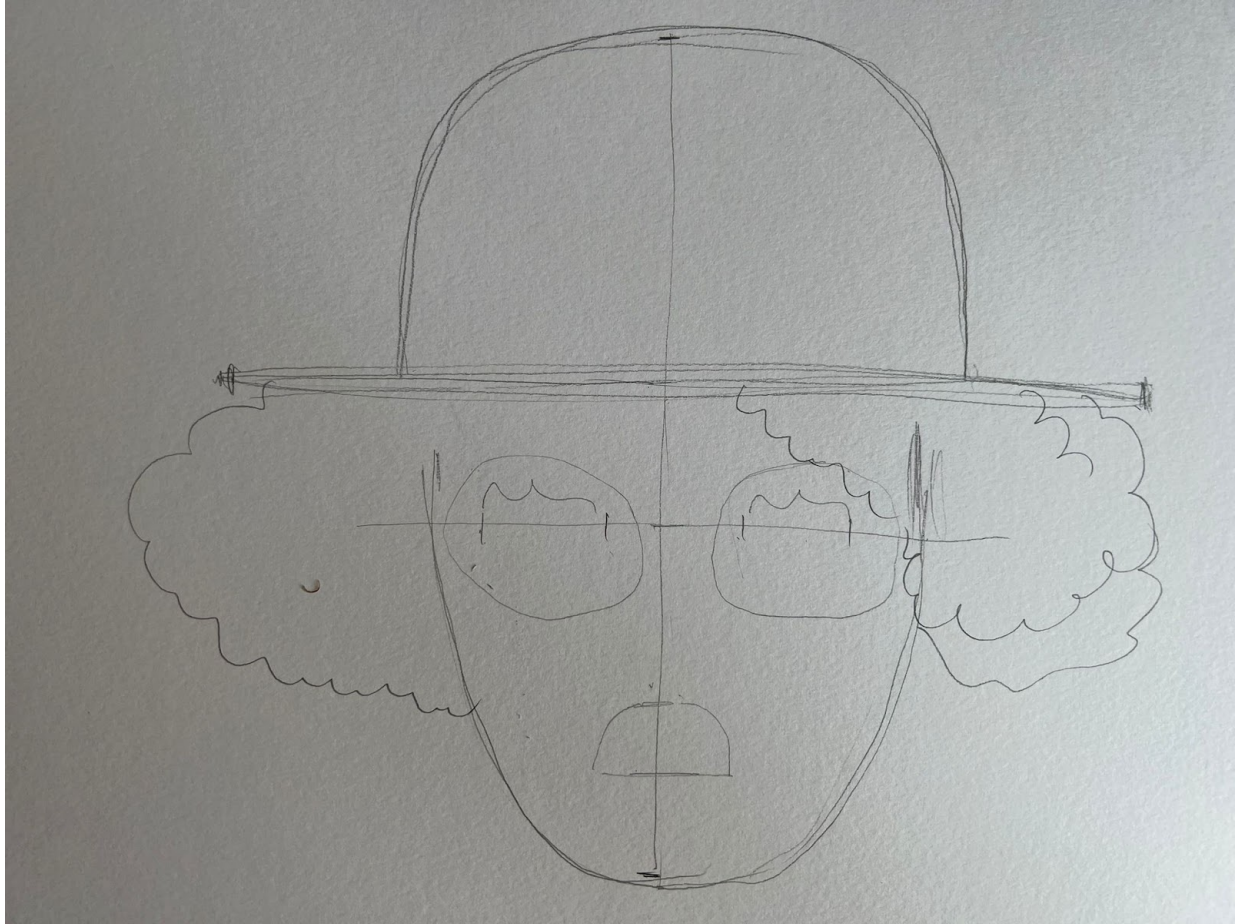
Next next we are going to add the eyes and roughly sketch where the nose and the moustache are going.

Because We create cartoonish eyes, these are disproportionately large compared to the rest of the face. Above you can see I created some marks where the normal sized eyes should go- and then I created some larger circles to suggest how big the eyes could be- since we are working more into the caricature realm.
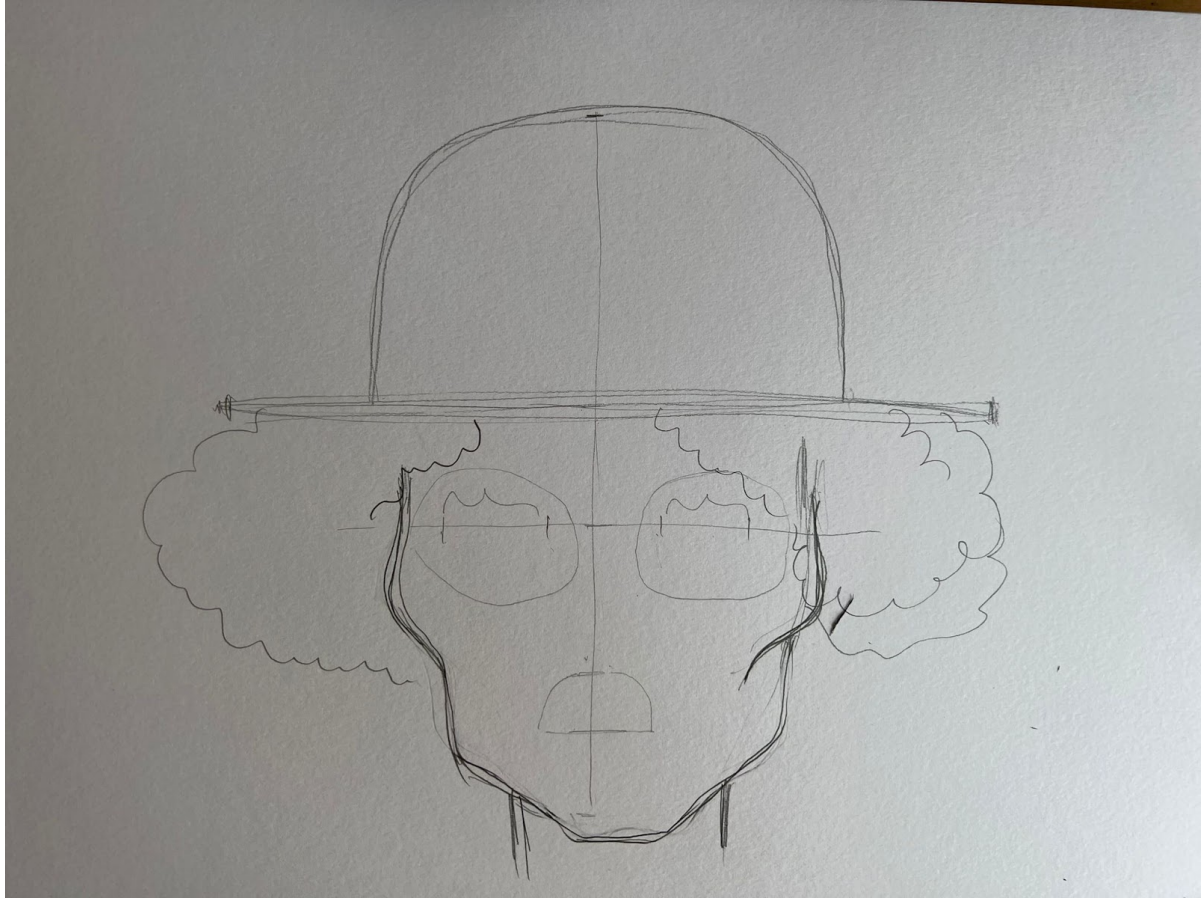
Then we looked at how to emphasise the masculinity of the facial features and one way to do this is by creating quite sharp angles around the cheekbones, jaw bones and the chin. Only then, We started adding finer details such as the eyes.
Since Charlie Chaplin is one of the characters coming from the black-and-white film era, the eye make up is already quite special and sharp. so it is one other trait that we can use in order to make our caricature resemble the real life character more. The black makeup around the eyes needs to be really deep. Also, at this stage, I realised the hat did not look ridiculous enough, so I changed its initial shape to make it look-what I thought would be- funnier:

We continue to add facial features. The eyebrows are quite an important element as well and we tried to make them not too thick, but at the same time not too small so they look feminine. The nose is quite pointy so we emphasised that too. Of course, there is the moustache that is another characteristic feature! Once the face was done, and the elements looked in proportion, we erased the unnecessary lines. I thought that the hair I sketched initially did not match the features I added later, so I changed the curls to better fit the face.

With that it was time we proceeded to paint. Inspired by the fact that the character belongs to the black and white film era, we decided to use either a black and white palette or a sepia tone.

For the hat, we used brown - 30%, blue- 10% and black - 60%. The hair was 80% - brown, 10%- blue and 10% - black. The eye contour, eyebrows and the hat band were 90%black 5%blue and 5%brown. For the hat, the hair and the face we used a large brush (no 10 and bigger is fine) and plenty of water. For the eyeliner, eyebrows, moustache and the hat band, we used a small brush- no 5 and below could do.

The face colour is a very thin watery layer of 80% beige(if that is not on your palette box mix yellow, white and brown to create a light beige), 10% white, 5% yellow, 5% pink. If it looks too warm, the smallest drop of blue can do wonders.

Because the face skin colour needs a lot of water, I suggest this painting order: first the face, then the top of the hat, then the brim, next the hair. Check the face paint is dry, and only then proceed to paint the eyes, eyebrow, moustache and then, check the hat is dry, and paint the band.

You can finish the painting here, or, if you want to work with shading, allow the face to be fully dry, then, in the colour you mixed for the fece, add a drop of brown, and add some shadows around the eyes, under the eyebrows, under the nostrils and the cheekbones as well as below the chin.

Remember to paint the eyes as well. I used the hat shade in which I added some more blue to get a lighter grey tone.

And, with that we are done!

I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial and had fun joining in! I also hope to see you this Thursday!

Kindest regards,

Ioana