

Draw Realistic Eyelashes



Conquering the adversary of many portrait artists: realistic, natural-looking eyelashes

Supplies: paper, 2B pencil, pencil sharpener, sandpaper block, erasers

This tutorial has three sections:

- Eyeball Eyelashes
- Render Individual Eyelashes
- Draw Eyelashes on the Outer Edges of Eyelids

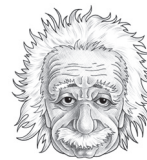
Eyeball Eyelashes

Eyelashes are among the most challenging parts of human anatomy to draw realistically.

Even if every other part of a face is well drawn, incorrectly drawn eyelashes can totally spoil a drawing's appearance.

Individual eyelashes that are the same value and/or thickness from root to tip are simply not realistic (Figure 1).

Individual eyelashes that are thick at the bottom and gradually become lighter and thinner closer to the tip do look realistic (Figure 2).



ArtSpeak

Eye: The organ of sight and light sensitivity.

Eyeball: (also called the *white of the eye*) The entire spherical section of an eye that is safely protected within an opening in the skull called the orbital socket.

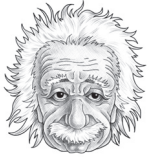
Eyelashes: Fine hairs that grow from the outer edges of the upper and lower eyelids.

Figure 1



Figure 2





ArtSpeak

Lower eyelid: The fold of skin that protects the lower section of the eyeball. The lower eyelid cannot move without help from facial muscles around the eye.

Upper eyelid: A fold of skin that opens and closes automatically (blinks) to protect the eyeball.



Tip!

Sharpen your pencils frequently when you draw eyelashes. Otherwise, the eyelashes will look unnaturally thick.

Have a peek at three eyes with eyelashes that have been rendered incorrectly – they are too thick, too straight, and/or too long (Figure 3).

In reality, eyelashes are very fine, thin, and delicate.

With practice, you can draw natural eyelashes that are thick and bold close to the base, and thin and light at the tip.

Figures 4 to 6 show various eyes with eyelashes that have been rendered correctly.

Figure 3

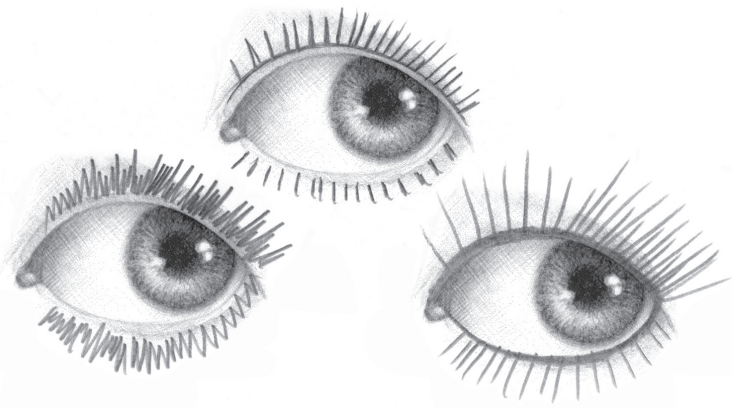
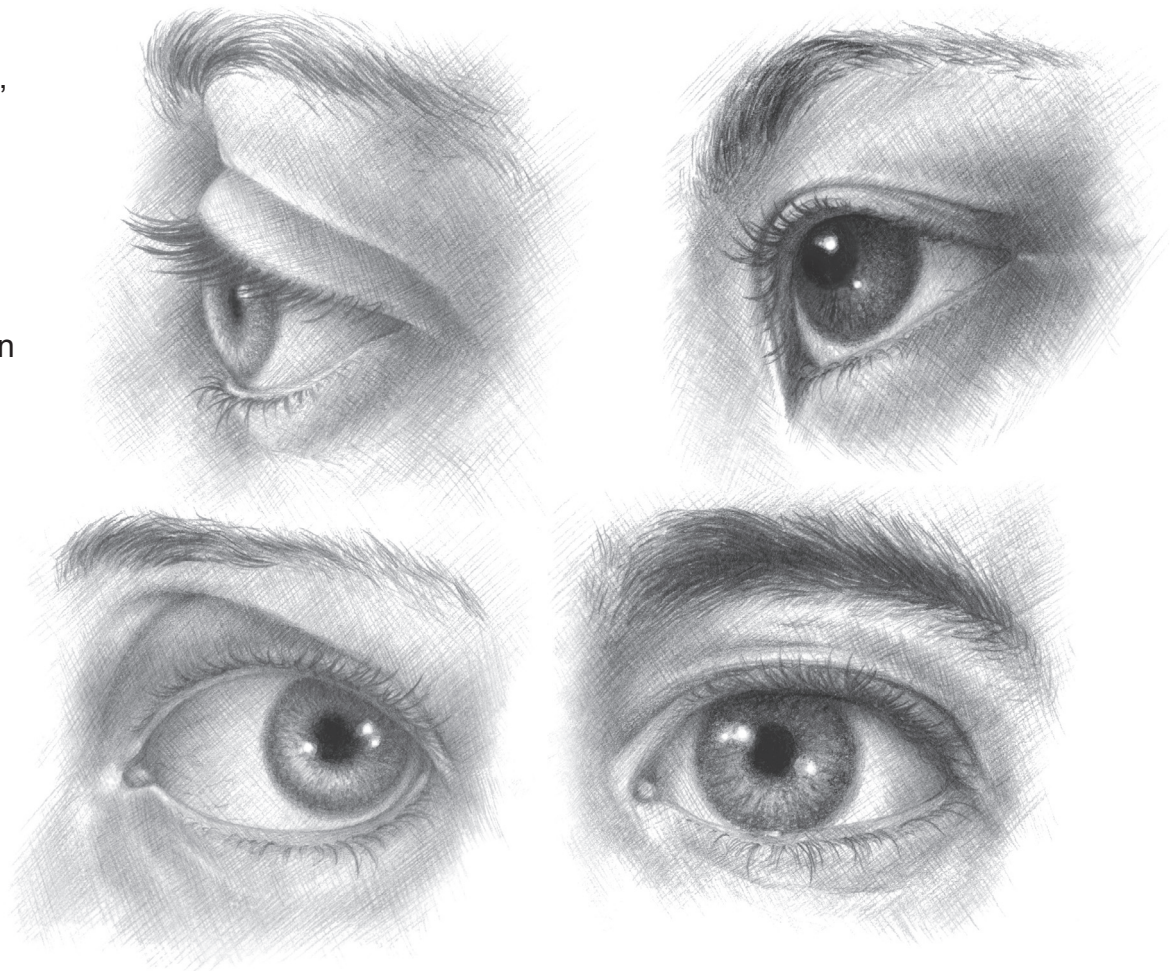
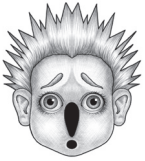


Figure 4





Caution!

Never draw eyelashes from the tip downward toward the eyelid.

Always draw them in the direction that they grow: from the outer edge of the eyelid (eyelash root) outward.

Figure 5

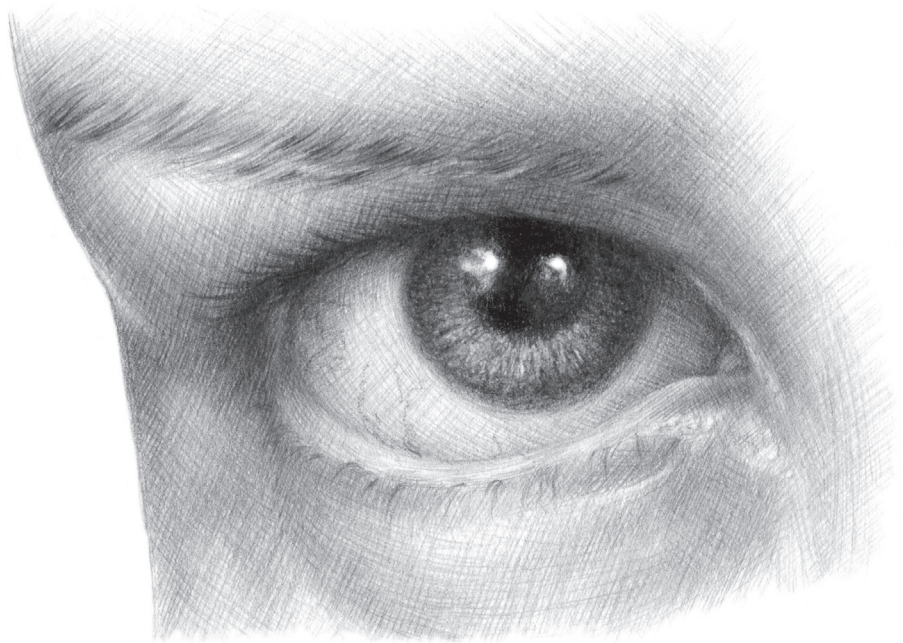


Figure 6



Render Individual Eyelashes

- 1. Begin with a slightly curved line at the base of the eyelash and press firmly with your pencil.**

Remember to always draw eyelashes in the direction they grow: from the eyelids outward.

- 2. Slowly release the pressure you apply as your curved line extends toward the tip.**

Realistic eyelashes look like inverted commas – thick at the bottom and thin at the top (Figure 7).

3. Gently lift your pencil from the paper when the tip of the line is very thin and light in value.

Draw Eyelashes on the Outer Edges of Eyelids

4. Lightly sketch the shape of an eye with two lines at the top and bottom.

These two outlines represent the inner and outer edges of the upper and lower eyelids (Figure 8).

5. Use 2B pencils to draw an average quantity of eyelashes on the outer edges of the upper and lower eyelids (Figure 9).

Correctly drawn eyelashes:

- are rendered with thin lines of different lengths
- are curved and unevenly spaced
- appear thicker closer to the eyelids
- grow from the outer edges of the upper and lower eyelids and not the white of the eye
- are drawn in groups rather than single lines
- gradually become longer and thicker toward the outer corner of the eye

Sign and date your drawing, and find another project that challenges you to draw all the parts of an eye.

Figure 7



Caution!

Do not draw eyelashes that appear to grow from the white of the eye instead of the eyelids.

Eyelids are thick folds of flesh with an inner edge that touches the eyeball and an outer edge from which the eyelashes grow.

Figure 8

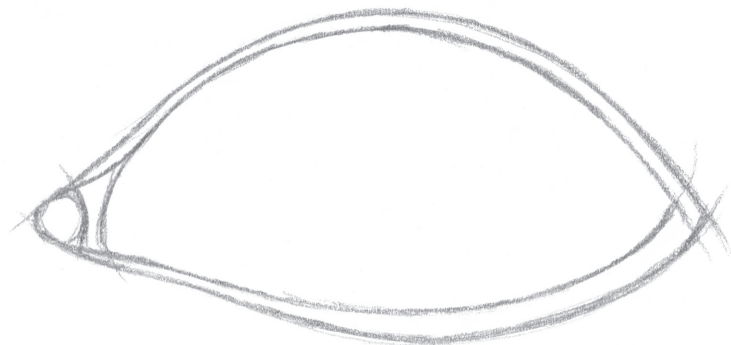


Figure 9

