

# Women Artists



Uncredited Photographer, Beatrice Wood, 1923

# Beatrice Wood

## About the Artist:

*"My life is full of mistakes. They're like pebbles that make a good road."*

-Beatrice Wood

Beatrice Wood is best known for her ceramic sculpture. However, Wood did not begin to study ceramics until she was forty years old, as her early artistic life was spent as an actress. The majority of Wood's drawings come from a clearly female voice and a personal perspective. Wood was closely associated with the Dada art movement in the United States. In 1917, together with Marcel Duchamp and Henri-Pierre Roche, she founded *The Blind Man*, a U.S.-based Dadaist art journal. Born on March 23, 1893 into a San Francisco family of socialites, Wood's early interest in pursuing the arts was met with resistance from her family. Her rebellious spirit and broad range of interests, including Modernism, folk art, Dadaism, and Eastern philosophy, would all become influences in her artwork. Wood worked in her Ojai, California studio until her death at the age of 105 on March 12, 1998.



Beatrice Wood, American, 1893 - 1998, Self-Portrait, 1925, pencil and watercolor on paper, 10 3/4 × 8 3/8 in. (27.3 × 21.3 cm). Collection of the New Mexico Museum of Art. Bequest of the Rick Dillingham Estate, 1994 (1994.67.70)

If you are inspired by this self-portrait by Beatrice Wood, make your own self portrait at home!

#### Materials needed:

Mirror	White Paper (8 ½" by 11")	Pencil
Eraser	Colored Pencils	Watercolors

#### Directions on how to draw a self portrait

1. Look in the mirror. Notice the shapes of your facial features and begin to sketch them lightly on paper.
2. Start with drawing an outline of the bottom of your face (a U shape) with a pencil.
3. Draw the shape of ears, neck, and shoulder using light lines and shapes you see in the mirror that represent you.
4. Add your own hair using lines that are straight, curly, wavy, coily, or something else!

5. Draw your nose.
6. Draw your eyes larger than they are in real life.
7. Add the lids, irises and pupils inside the eye. Iris is the colored part of the eye, and the pupils are the dots inside the color.
8. Draw a mouth. Start by drawing the line that is formed where the lips meet. The top of the lip is bow shaped, varying from person to person. The bottom of the lip is usually larger than the top, and more creased with vertical stretch lines.
9. Trace the lines of your face using colored pencils.
10. Color in your portrait using watercolors.

New Mexico Museum of Art

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