

How to Make a Decent Field Sketch

Not a Sketch



lighting comes from subject's upper right

background landscape is lower on the left side

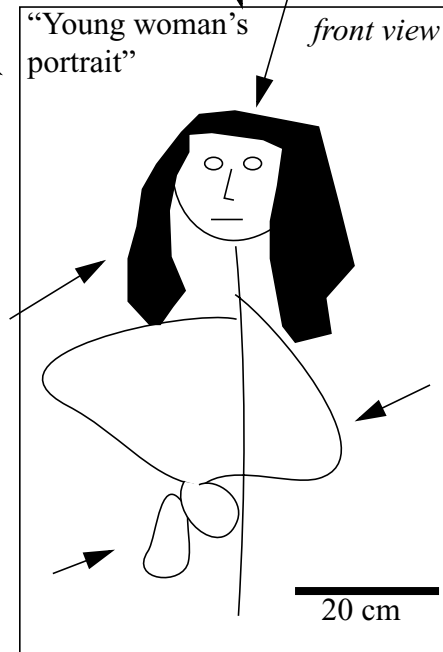
inscrutable smile

hands crossed, right over left, all fingers

Sketch

rural scene for background, green sky and trees, brown hills

Dark hair and eyes



all objects in the scene have fuzzy borders

dark brown clothing

10/10/03

woman sitting for portrait has unusually ambiguous expression, leading to much speculation as to its cause and meaning.

Geologic sketches are usually NOT a reproduction of a scene. They are used to highlight important features. They can also be used when the feature is not known, where you capture details without an interpretation. They should take just a few minutes, as it is only another tool to use in field work.

Typical sketch components:

- perspective (N,S,E,W: side, top, oblique view)
- scale
- location and date of sketch
- label key features (layers, faults, folds, fractures, flows, color...)
- label or briefly describe key processes (erosion, resistance, air, wind or water forces)