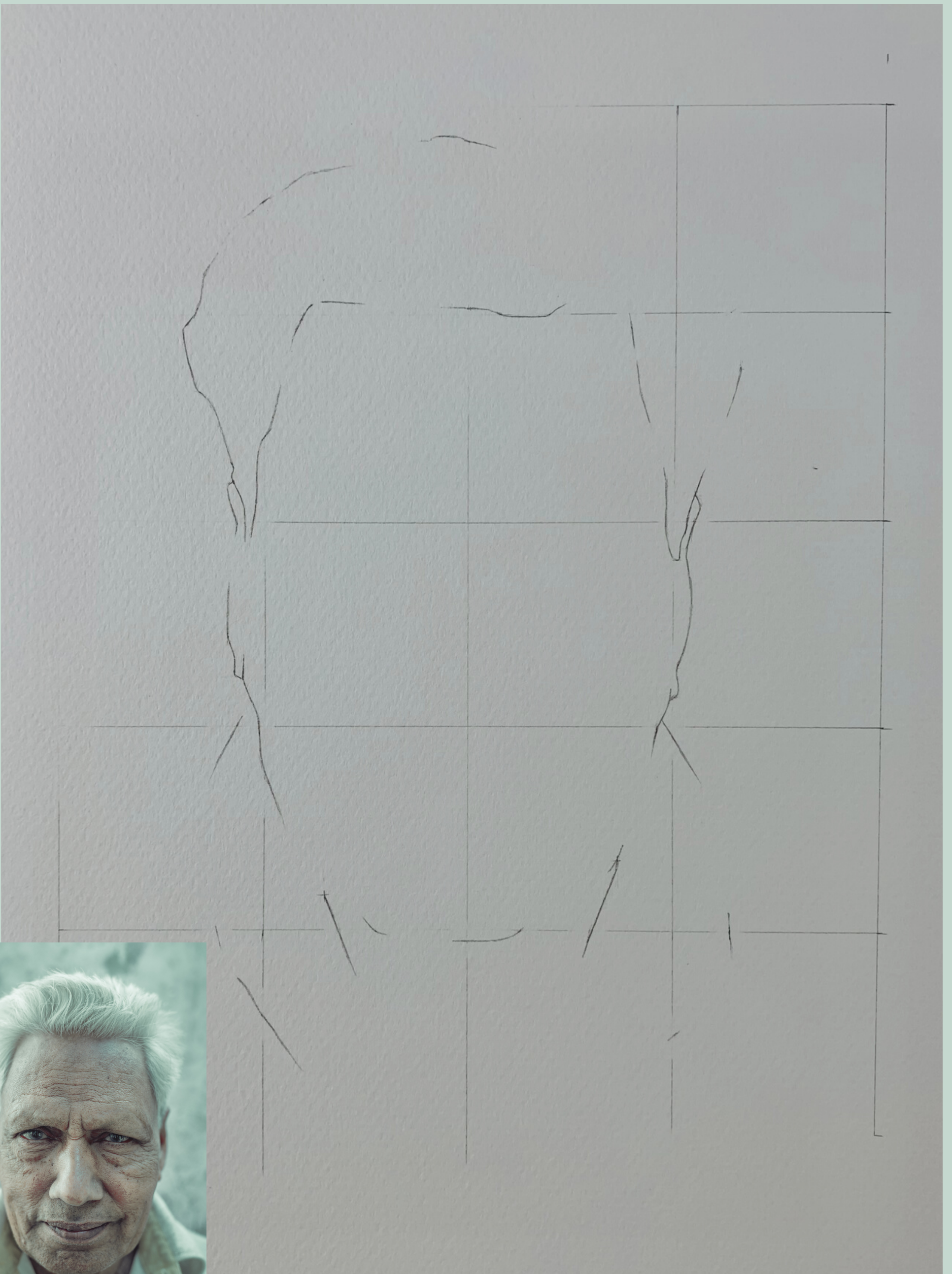


A quick guide to my drawing style

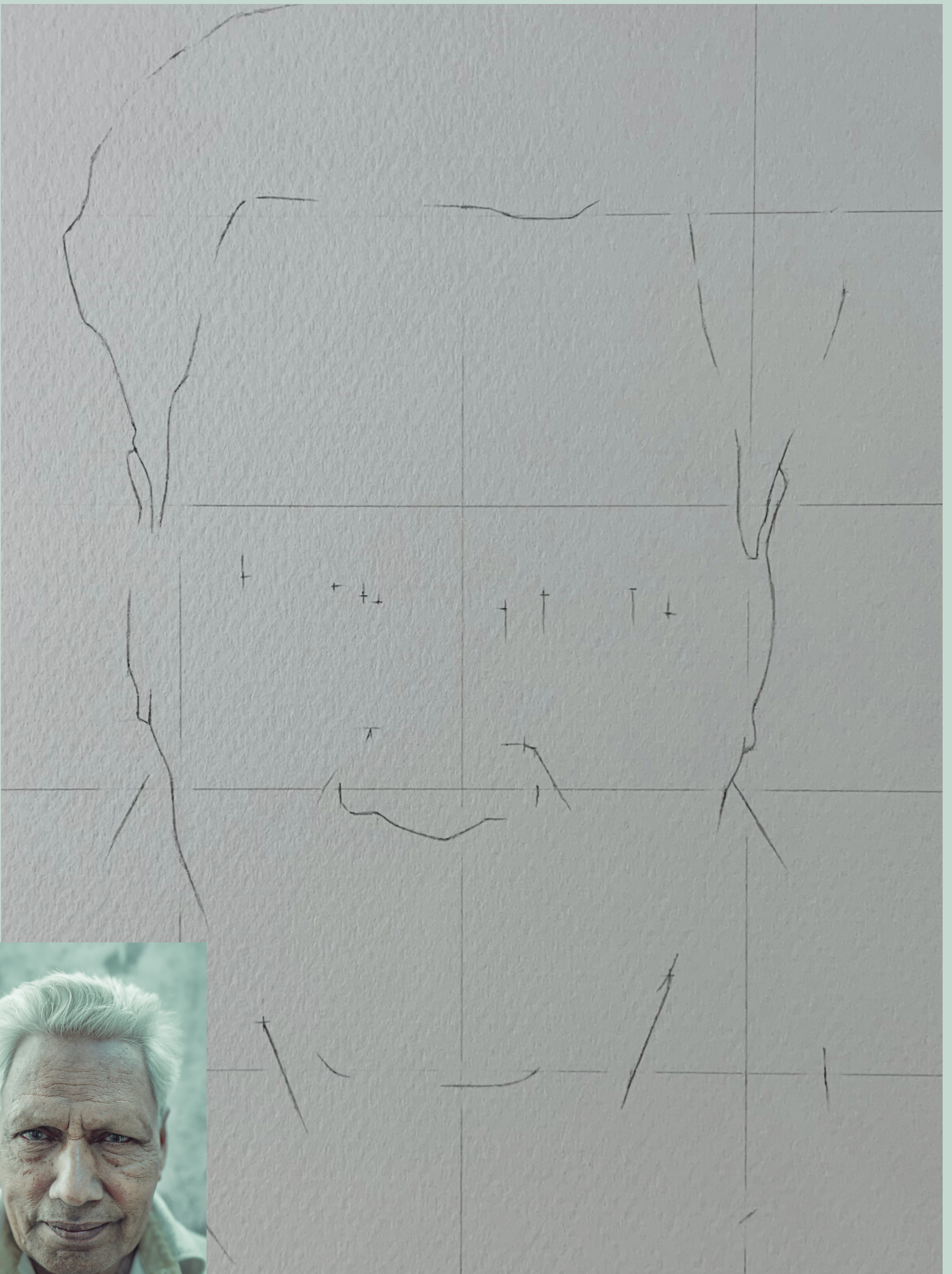
- Use a grid, and lightly mark key points where your subject intersects the lines.
- The aim is to slowly bring the whole image into focus, rather than getting bogged down in detail early on.



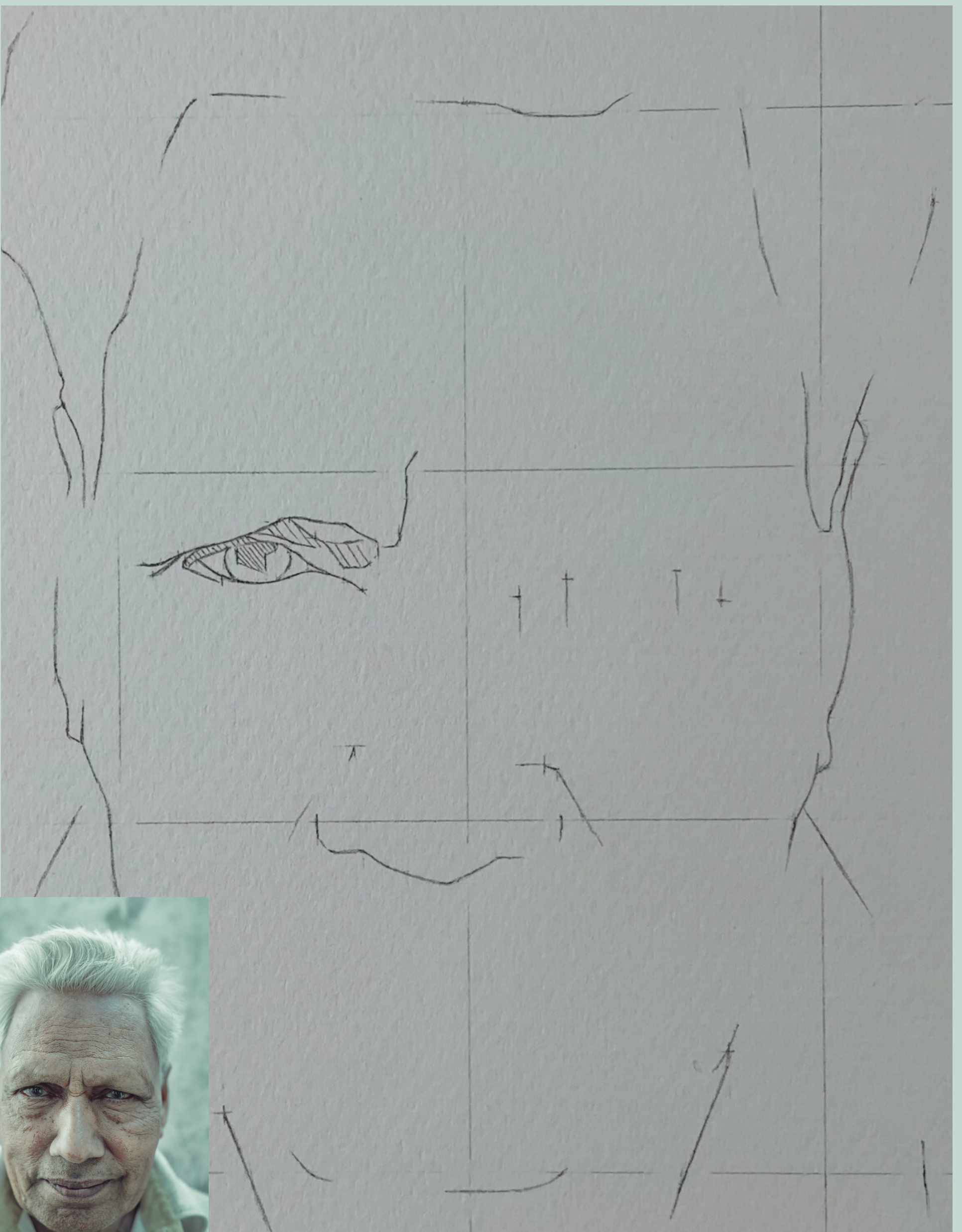
- Begin to add more outline, erasing the grid lines you won't need later.
- Keep it simple - you'll fill in some of the gaps later, but in some areas you might not feel the need.



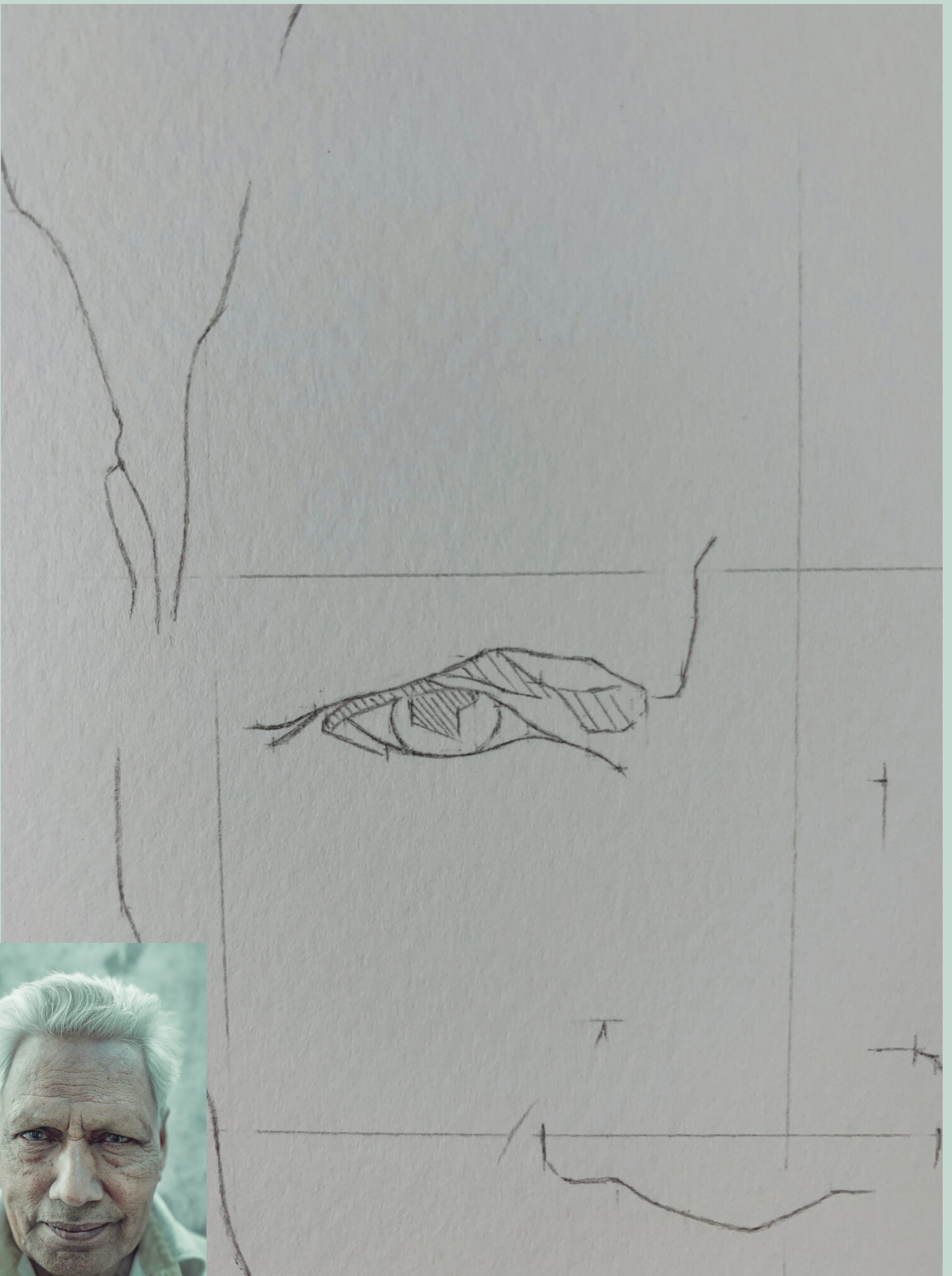
- For important parts of the face - like the eyes - you might want to mark out key spots, like where the corners sit, and where the iris meets the eyelid. Measure with a ruler if it helps.



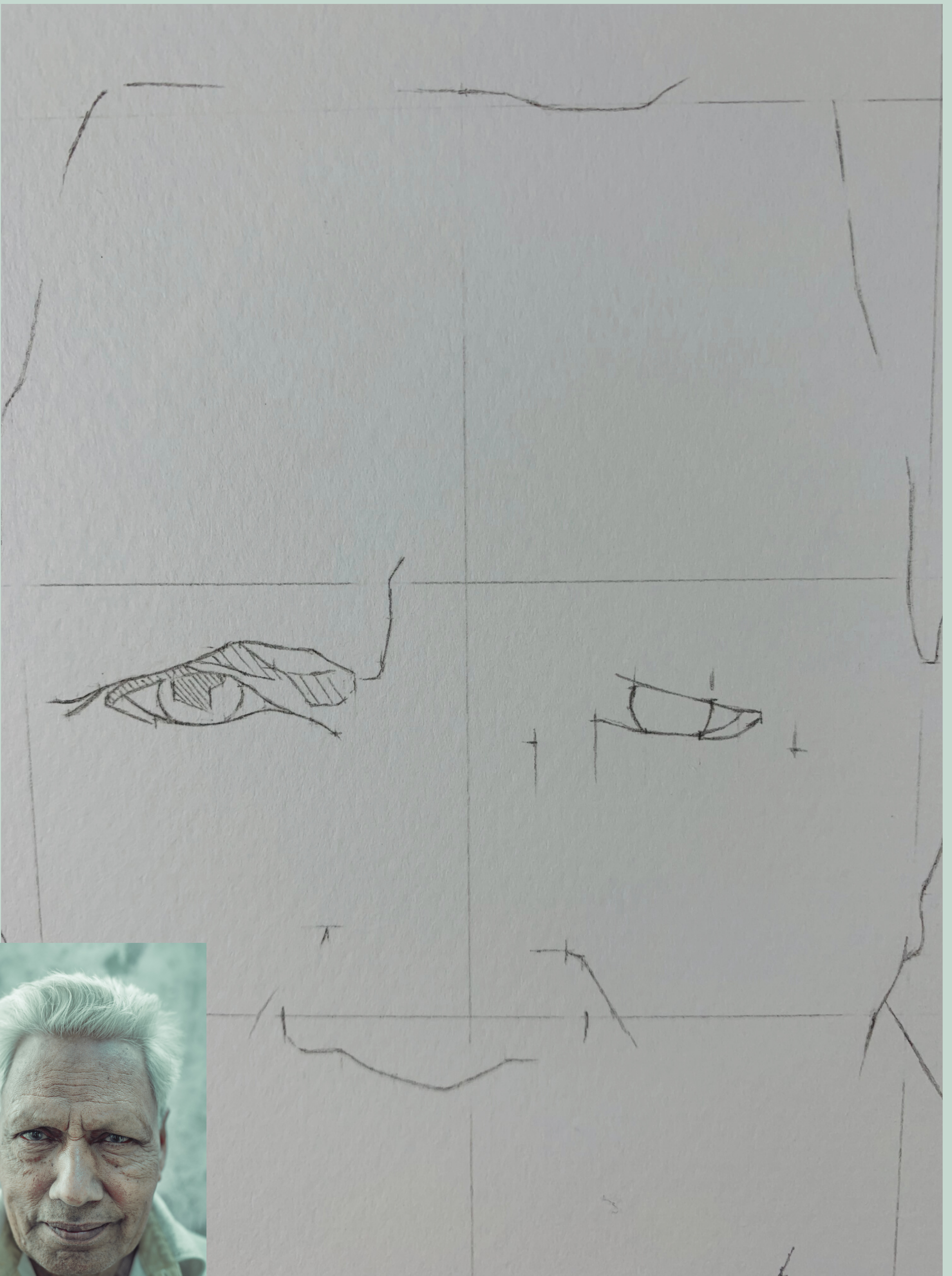
- Start adding detail, trying to see the eye as just a series of lines and shapes.
- There's no need to include everything you see at this stage, you can fill in gaps later where needed.



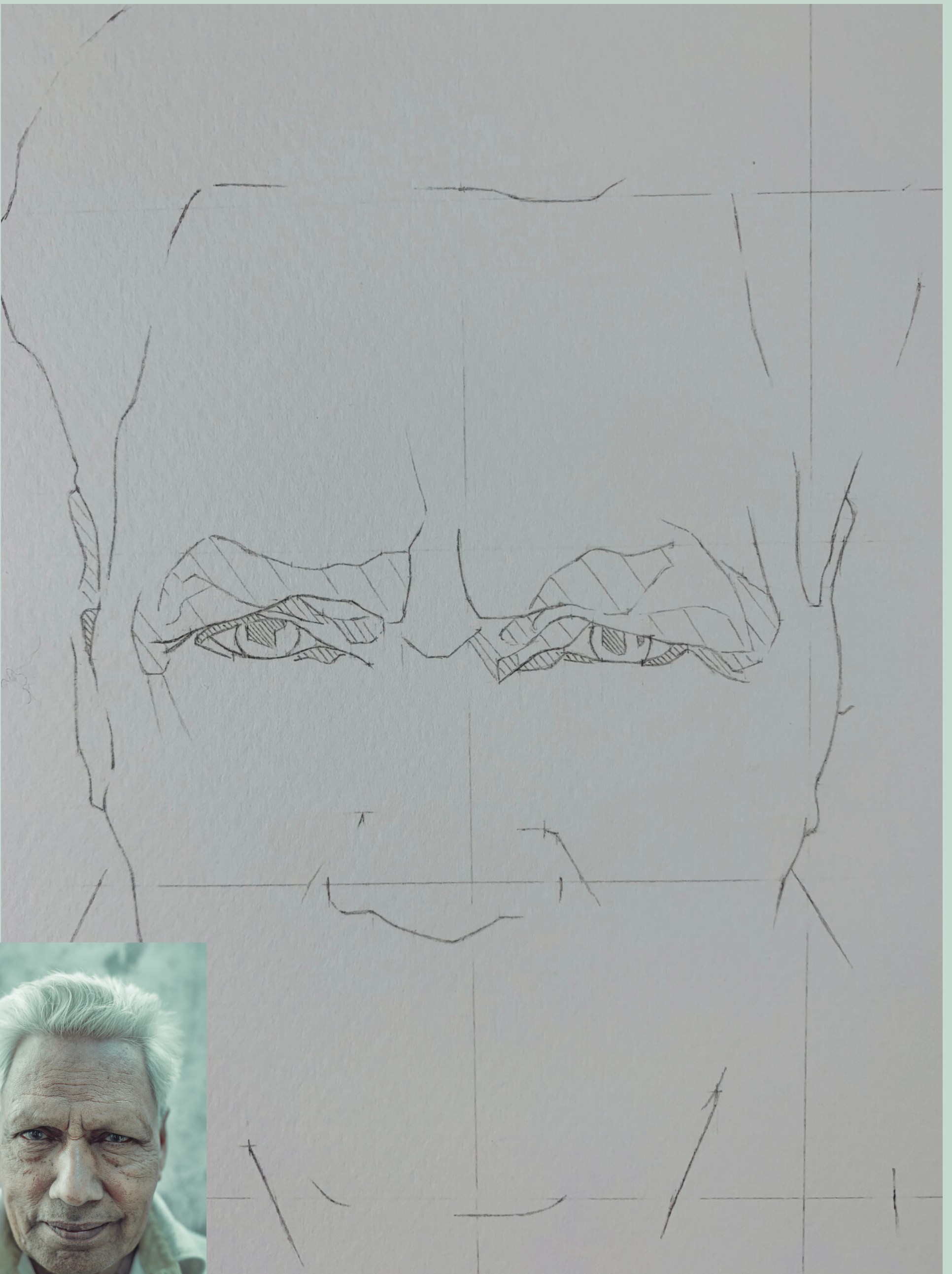
- To describe tone and form, look for areas of darkness and isolate them.
- Fill each area by hatching (or crosshatching) - the darker the area the closer your marks should be.



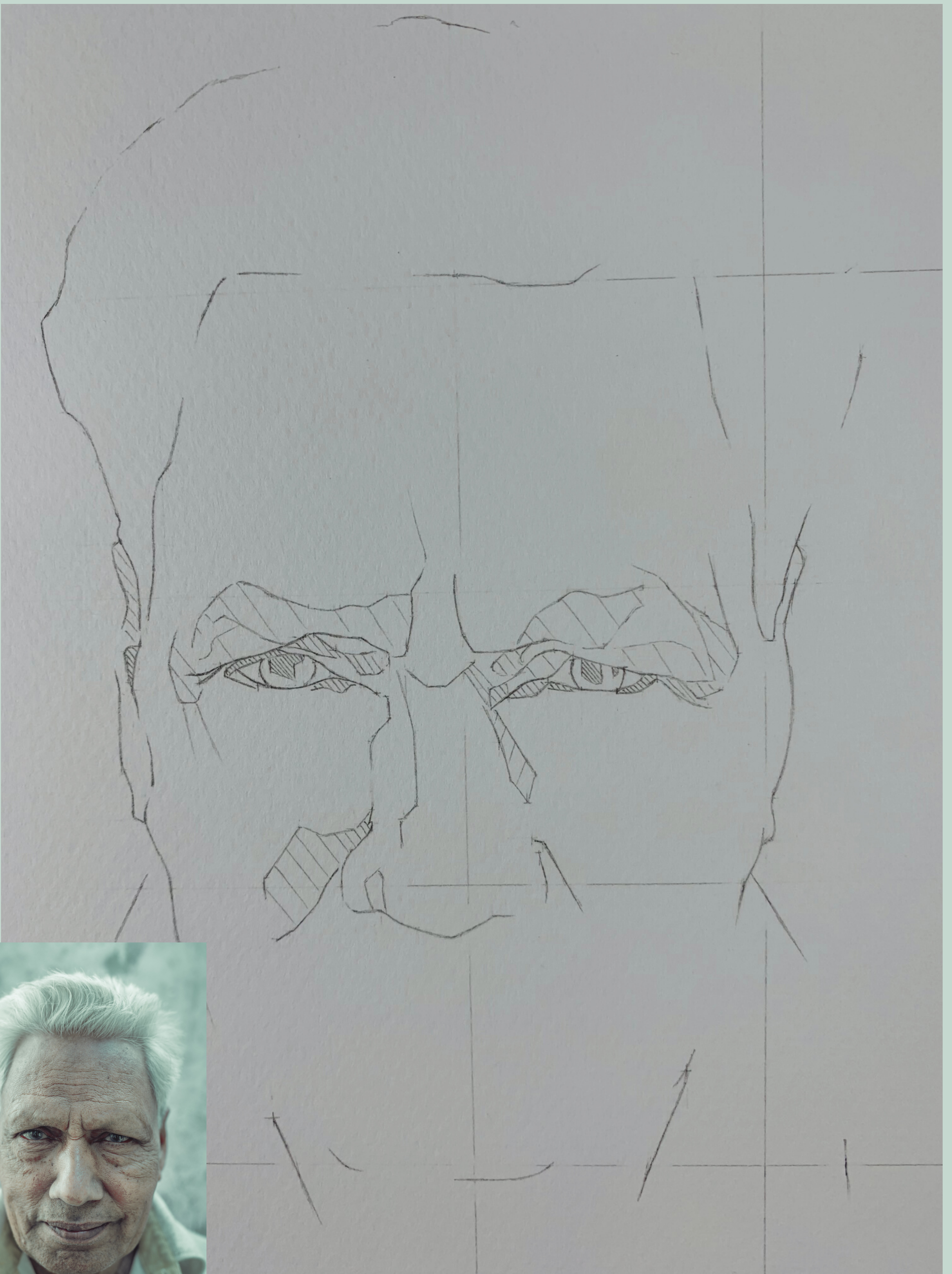
- Don't feel the need to draw the outline of the eye before the iris - you're trying to forget that what you're drawing is an eye, so the order in which you describe it doesn't matter.



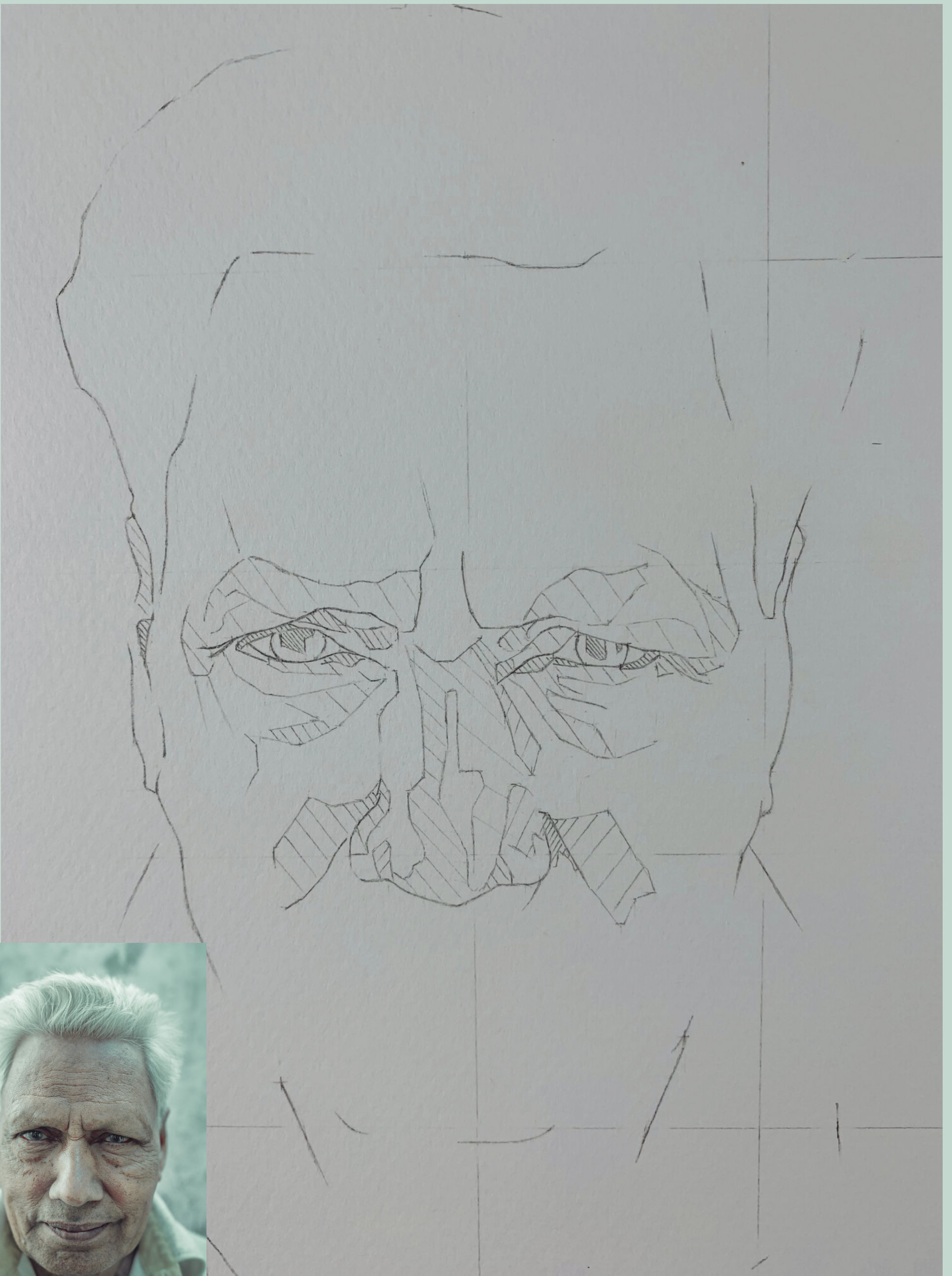
- Slowly make your way outwards from the eyes, capturing the sockets and eyebrows, but without getting carried away with detail.



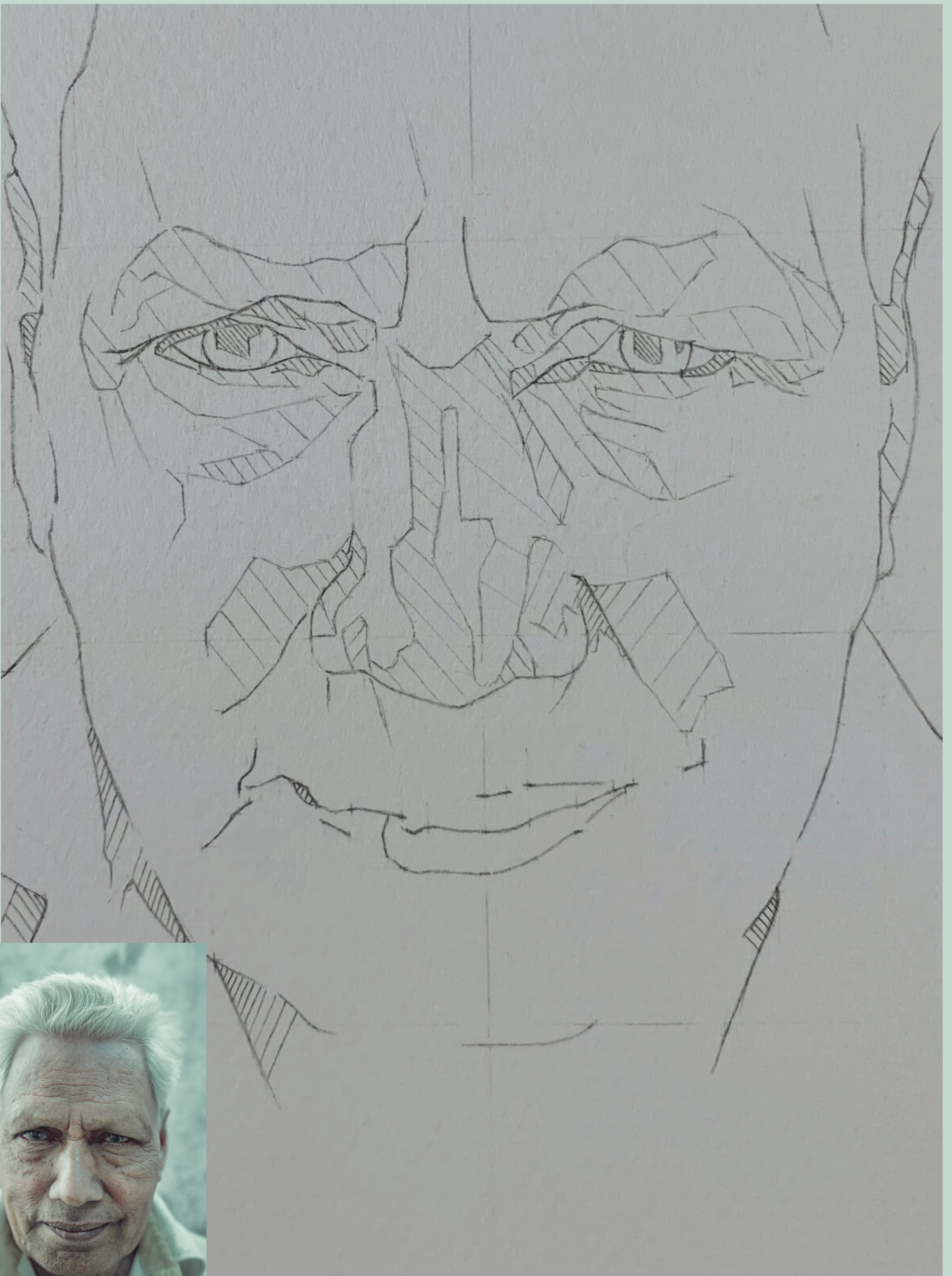
- Head down to the nose, again trying to see this as just a series of shapes, and isolating areas of darkness for hatching.



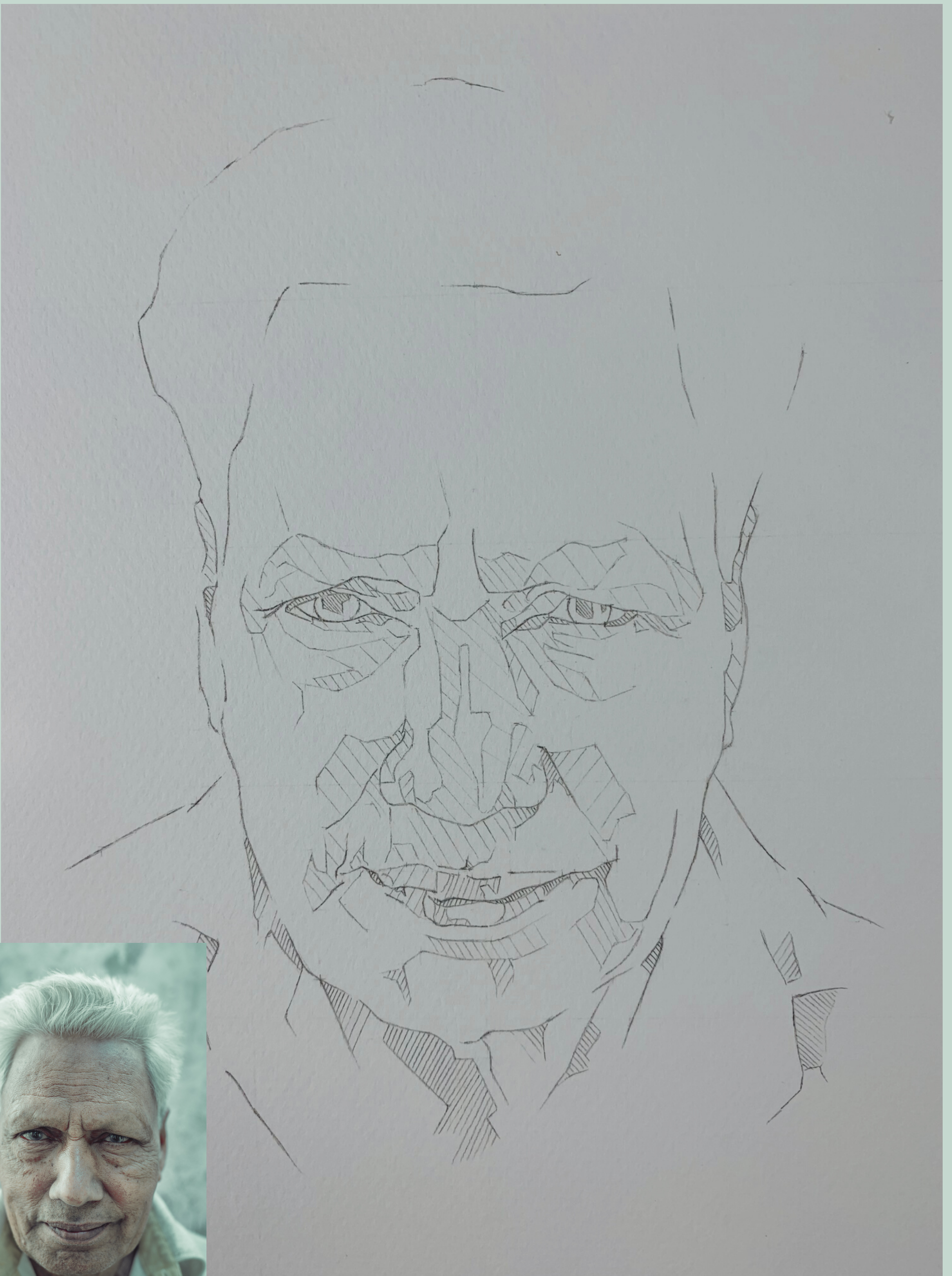
- Consider the face as a whole - when describing how dark each area is, make sure you're comparing it with the tone of the whole image, and not viewing it in isolation.



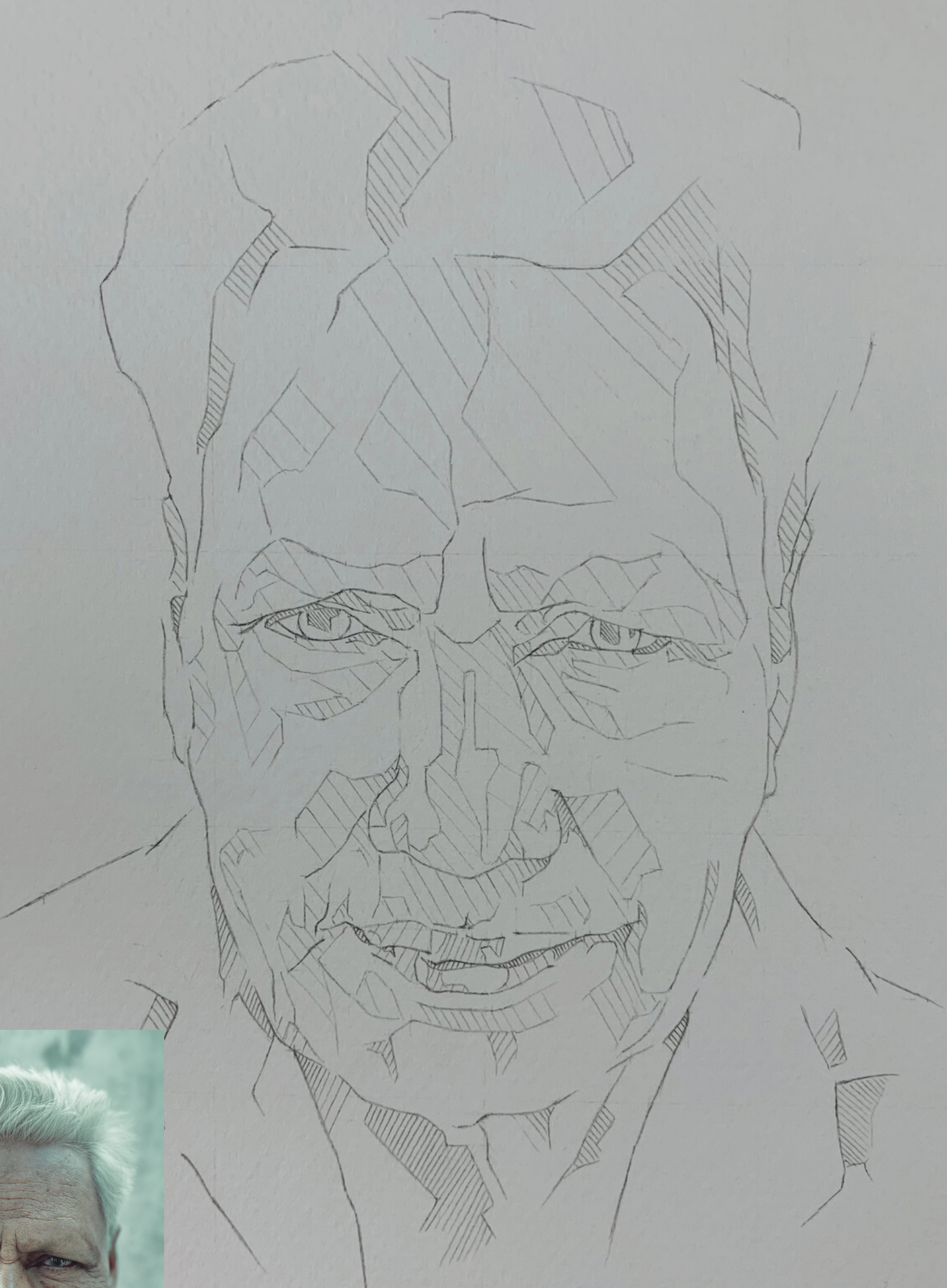
- As with the eyes, don't feel the need to draw the full outline of the mouth before filling in its detail.



- Now is a good time to look at the neck and shoulders.
- I usually prefer to just suggest this area, allowing the viewer to fill in the blanks.



- And it's your call as to how much detail you want to provide around the forehead and hair. Sometimes I describe this, sometimes not.



- Finally, use a softer pencil to go back over the darkest areas, for definition.
- Sometimes I add white pencil for highlights, and sometimes full colour. But that's for another day!

