Self-portrait exercise, due Oct 2

Materials: drawing paper about 16” x 20”, pencil, ink, or compressed charcoal

For this exercise, produce a self-portrait using materials and modeling methods explored in class. Spend 2-3 hours on the project, using pencil, ink or compressed charcoal (or any combination of these) on a large sheet of drawing paper. Remember to start with faint lines, first striving to get overall proportions, and only then moving on to shading and details. Try to get the actual appearance of features, as revealed by a particular light, rather than symbols for those features. Remember that a focused, directed light source can bring out the shading of features more clearly, and that tones in the background will help to bring out highlights and volumes.

Details of historical self-portraits, clockwise from left:

Käthe Kollwitz
1912, etching and transfer

Max Beckmann
1914, drypoint

Rembrandt van Rijn
1630, etching

Théodore Géricault
1818-19, pen and ink

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