Sketch Club

Top Tips for Drawing

50/50

Remember to look at the object you are drawing as much as you look at your drawing.

Shading

When shading, whether using cross hatch, stippling or standard shading, start off blocking out all the areas you want to shade lightly then gradually build up the contrast. Working over the whole drawing at each stage rather than a small portion will ensure consistency throughout your drawing. This can be applied when working in colour too.
Proportion and Spacing

Use grid lines and measure points to help you get proportions and spacing correct.

Lightly draw the main vertical and main horizontal line on your paper before you start sketching. Then refer to the other lines and measurements frequently as you draw.

Line 1: runs touches the left-most tip of the lady’s hair and the collar of her dress, the knuckles of her left hand and the left-most tip of her toes.
Line 2: runs through both elbows, the lady’s waistband and the horizontal lip of the chimney breast.

Measurement A: from the top corner of the cushion to the diagonal bottom corner of the cushion is the same as from the lady’s chin to her waistband.

Measurement B: The width of the chimney breast is the same as the distance between the two innermost points of the lady’s dress cuffs.

Warm up Exercises

The following exercises are designed to help improve brain, hand and eye coordination as well as helping you to draw loosely. They can be used as warm-ups or to approach your drawing in a new and fresh way.

Continuous Line

Draw the main outlines without taking your pencil off the paper.
Blind Continuous Line

Draw the main outlines without taking your pencil off the paper whilst only looking at the object. DON’T LOOK AT YOUR DRAWING!

Quick Fire Drawings

Draw the object for 30 seconds only, drawing as much of the object as you can within that time. Repeat the exercise three times starting a new drawing of the same object.

Then repeat the above exercise, drawing for 1 minute, then again for 2 minutes.

Mark-making Practice

Draw using only cross hatch, standard shading or varied weight line.
Small to Large Drawing

You will need a view finder for this exercise.

- Fold, then tear your paper in half. Tear one of the halves in half again, leaving the other half to one side. Repeat this until you have two pieces that are postage stamp sized.
- Starting with the smallest piece, select a section of the object you wish to draw using a viewfinder.
- Draw this section on your smallest paper being sure to fill the page. Then repeat on the next size up until you are on full sized paper.

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