

Learn To Draw – The Easy Way!

Lesson 2

Pamela Weisberg, Instructor & Founder of The Village Art Center

www.thevillageartcenter.com

email: info@thevillageartcenter.com

Today's lesson consists of learning how to do two types of drawings - contour line drawing and gesture drawing.

Exercise #1 Pure Contour Drawing - Draw Your Hand Without Looking – Using your sketchbook follow the following steps as best you can.

Step 1. Sit comfortably in your chair. Place your paper on the table in a position that is comfortable. You will not move the paper during this exercise. Tape it down if necessary.

Step 2. Gaze at the hand you are about to draw and turn your body away from your paper leaving your drawing hand in a comfortable position over your paper.

Step 3. Focus your entire attention to your hand...it is your visual information. Look closely at the curves and lines that make up your hand and plan where you will begin your drawing.

Step 4. Place your pencil on your paper on the spot where your eyes have decided to start. Slowly begin to move your pencil along the contour of your hand. As your eyes move, also move your pencil point at the same slow pace on the paper. You will register everything on your paper as your eye sees it.

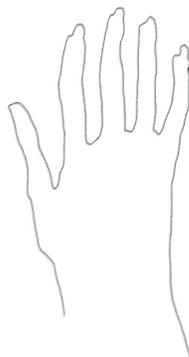
Step 5. ***Do not turn to look at your paper even if you feel lost.***

Step 6. Your finished drawing will probably not look like your hand so don't worry about that as you are drawing. You will not be able to monitor the proportions etc. ***But, you will be learning to see things exactly as they are. You are recording your perception.***

Step 7. Do not pause, continue at a slow, even pace. Ignore the left brain's complaints. It may threaten you with a headache, complain you're going too slow, tell you to quit after all, it's already supplied you with symbols for whatever it is you are drawing. Allow yourself to study the lines and curves. A wrinkle is not just a wrinkle anymore, it's now a series of lines, curved, broken, soft, etc. Start to see what you are looking at.

Step 8. When you are finished, put the date on your drawing and no laughing!! See example below.

Contour Drawing



Exercise #2 Modified Version of Draw Your Hand

Modified contour drawing is the same as pure contour drawing except that it allows you to look at your drawing at intervals to establish relationships of size, length proportion, etc. This is more satisfying in that your drawing will look better than those done in pure contour.

Using your hand as your model, do the same exercise but you may glance every once in a while to see where you are on the paper. Do not draw the outer edges and attempt to fill in the inside. Instead, go from form to adjacent form. You will still not lift your pencil from your paper. 90% of drawing time should be spent studying your hand.

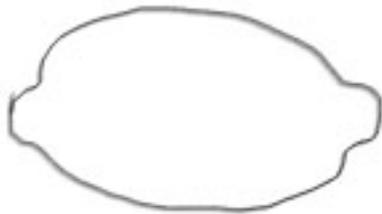
Exercise #3 Modified Contour Drawing of Simple Objects (Fruits, etc.)

In your sketchbook, do modified contour drawings of simple objects using the same modified version as above. Do your drawings very slowly.

Exercise #4 Gesture Drawing

This type of drawing is the opposite of the previous. You can lift your pencil off the paper. You draw as fast as you can without losing control. Hold your pencil lightly and draw what you see. Compare the examples below.

Contour Drawing



Gesture Drawing

