

Contour Line Drawing



In this lesson, we will do an exercise that will help you develop your ability to follow the exact contour of an object with your eye.

Supplies:

A charcoal pencil
A piece of white paper
Tape
A flat board or large book
A box about 3-5 inches high

(If you do not own a charcoal pencil and would like to try this with a regular pencil, you can do that also, but the line will not be as dark.)

Objective: To train your EYE and your HAND to work together. This is just an exercise - your finished work will probably not be something to hang up in the living room! You are only practicing for the REAL projects! (The "Sea Shell" project is a good follow-up for this exercise!)

1. Tape the paper to the board or book. One piece of tape on each side is best. Prop it up against the box so that you will be drawing on a slanted surface.
2. Position the hand that you DON'T write or draw with in a relaxed position on the table.
3. Starting at the wrist, draw your hand using a single, continuous line.

* DRAW SLOWLY!

* Do not "sketch" or correct your line.

* There may be some moments when you must take your pencil off of the page, but do this as LITTLE as possible.)

* Your eyes should move back and forth from your hand to your page often! Follow the fine details of the wrinkles of your hand carefully!

* DON'T WORRY about this drawing! This is an exercise, not a museum piece. Over time, with enough practice, you will find your contour line drawings becoming more and more correct.

This is an exercise that should be repeated and can be done with many subjects such as:

- * a flower
- * a baseball glove
- * an old shoe or sneaker
- * an oak or maple leaf