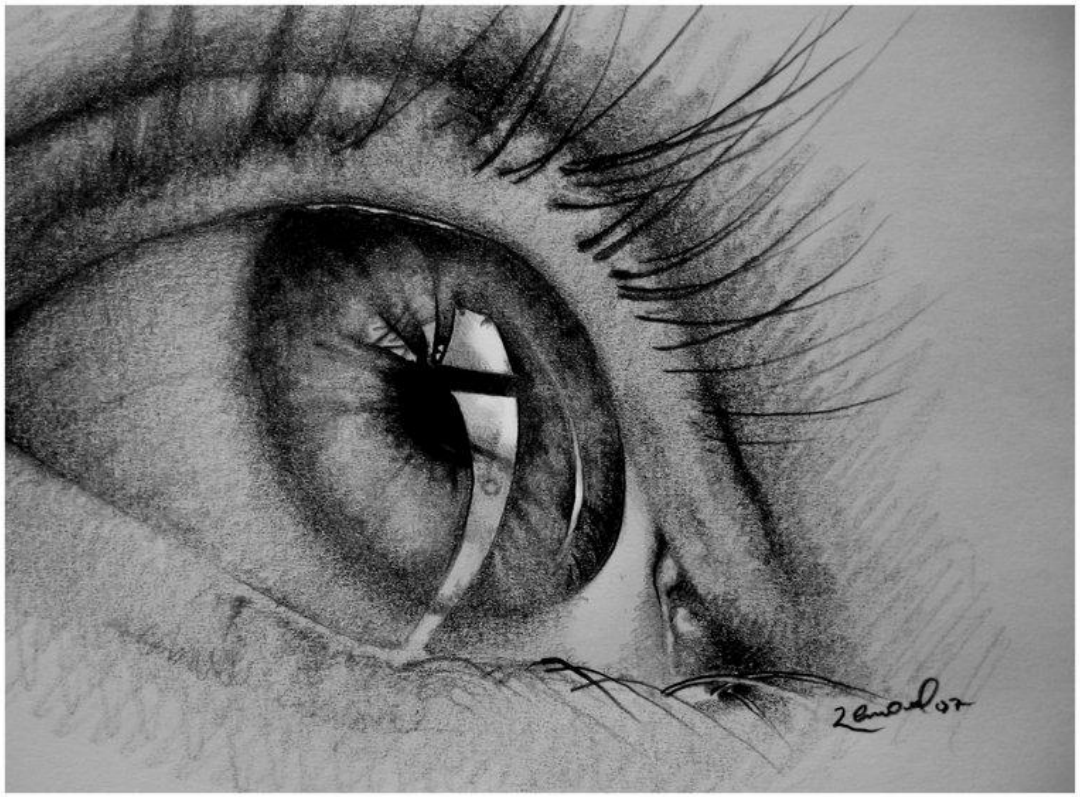


Observational

Drawing 101

What does it mean to *observe*?

What does a good *observer* do?

What is *Observational Drawing*?

Close, careful observation as you draw a subject while looking at it.

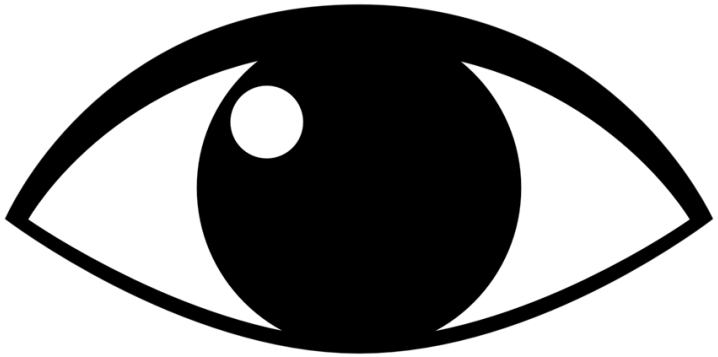
"The magical mystery of drawing ability seems to be, in part at least, an ability to make a shift in brain state to a different mode of **seeing/percieving**.
When you see in the special way in which experienced artists see, then you can draw."

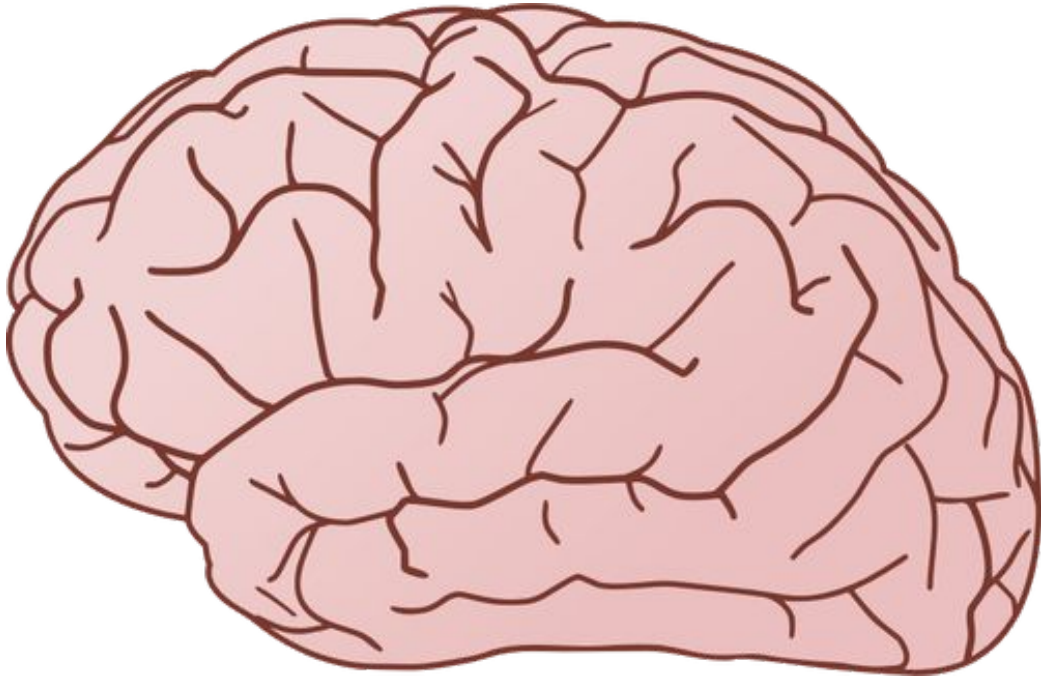
Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain, Betty Edwards

Practice, Practice, Practice!

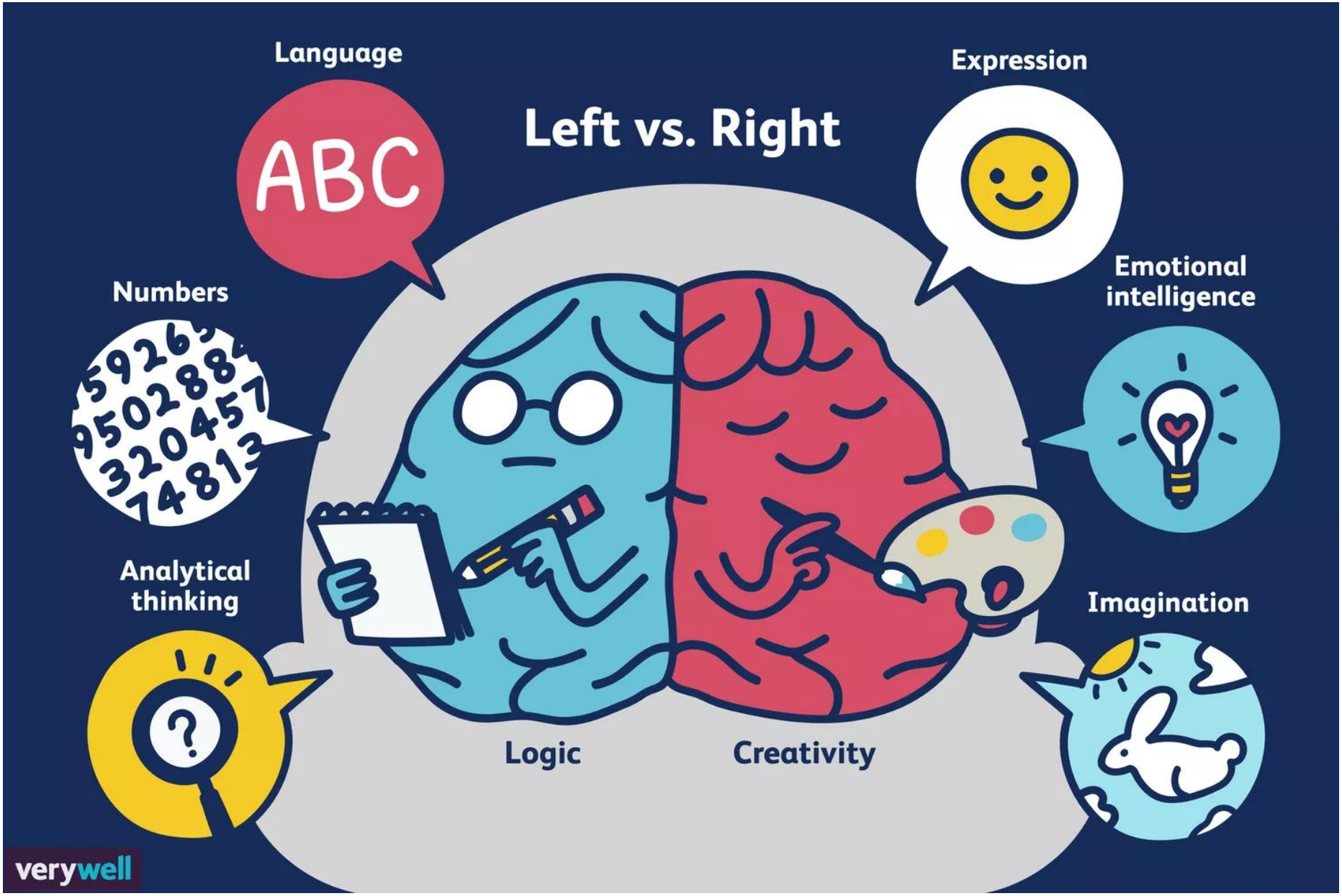
Learning to draw and/or improving your drawing skills is just like learning how to play a new sport or musical instrument.

To improve drawing, the skill you practice is the way you look and see things...





You also practice how to activate the right side of your brain


Left vs. Right
Language
ABC
Expression
Numbers
Emotional intelligence
Analytical thinking
Imagination
Logic
Creativity
verywell

BRAIN SCIENCE

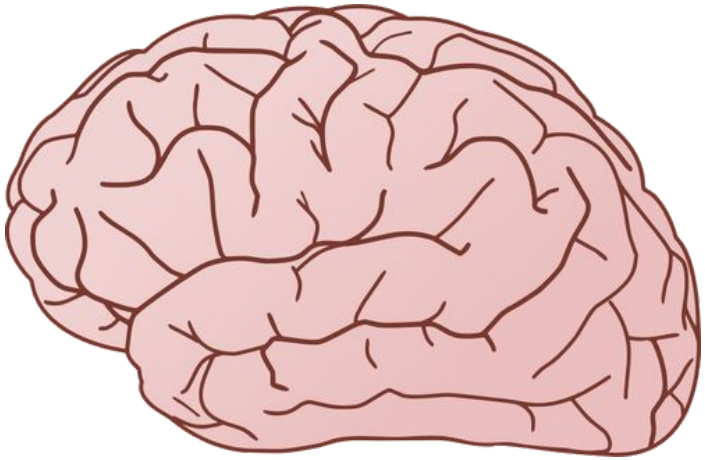
Your Left and Right Brain

Left Brain

Verbal, analytical, and processes information sequentially

Right Brain

Non-verbal, visual, and processes information intuitively



Activating the RIGHT side of your brian helps you improve drawing skills

Drawing 101

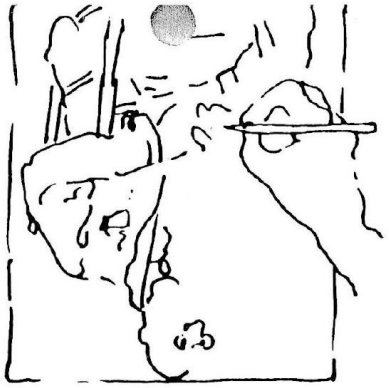
1. Edges & Contours

Edges & Contours

- An **edge** is where two things meet
- In drawing, a **contour** is an edge as you see/perceive it

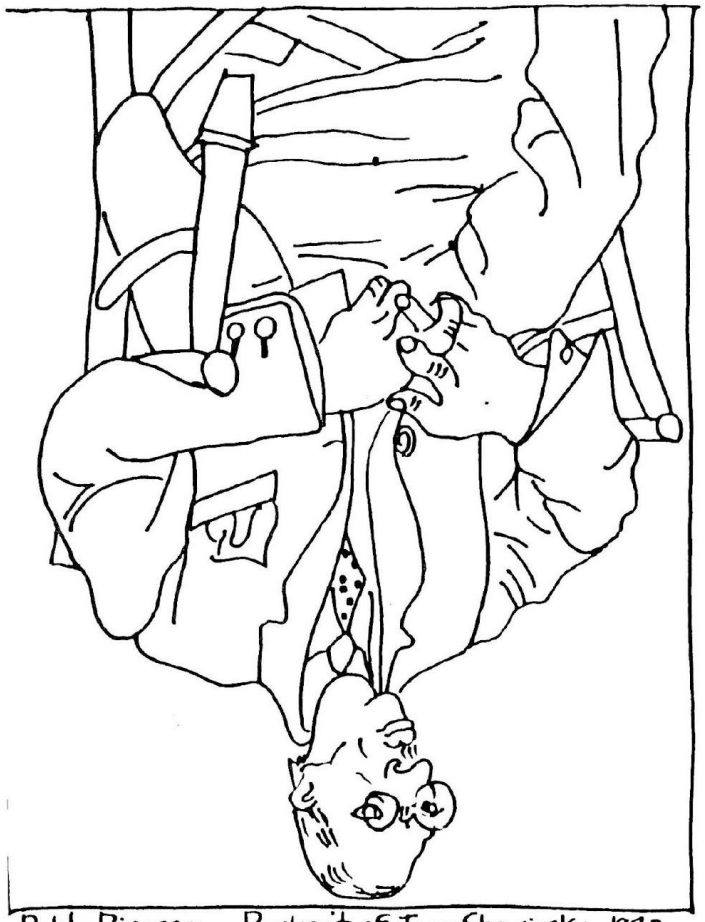
2 Helpful Practice Drawing Exercises:

1) *Drawing Upside-down*
2) *Blind Contour Drawing*



Upside - Down Drawing

* Excercise the right side of your brain! Try it! You might be surprised at how well you do! Think abstract shapes!



Pablo Picasso Portrait of Igor Stravinsky 1920

My upside-down version

Blind Contour Drawing

… is created
without looking
at the drawing
while it is in
progress

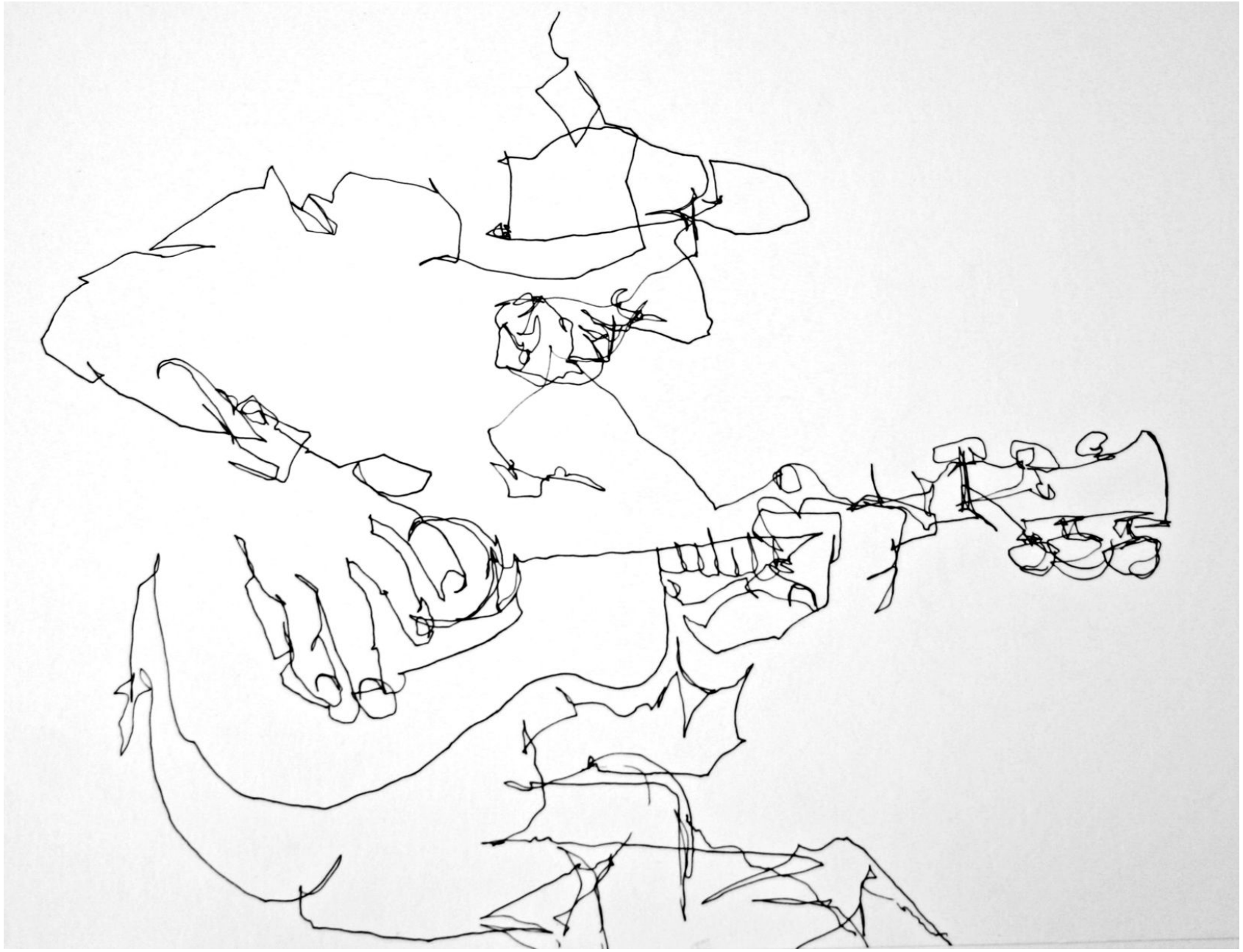
“WHY???”

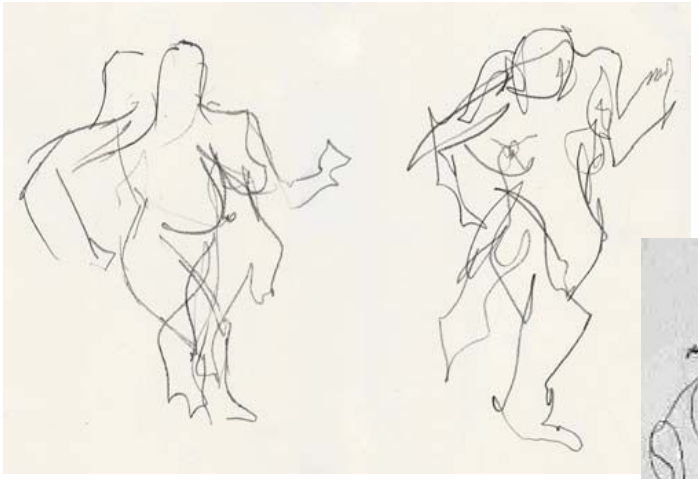
…would you do this…?!!

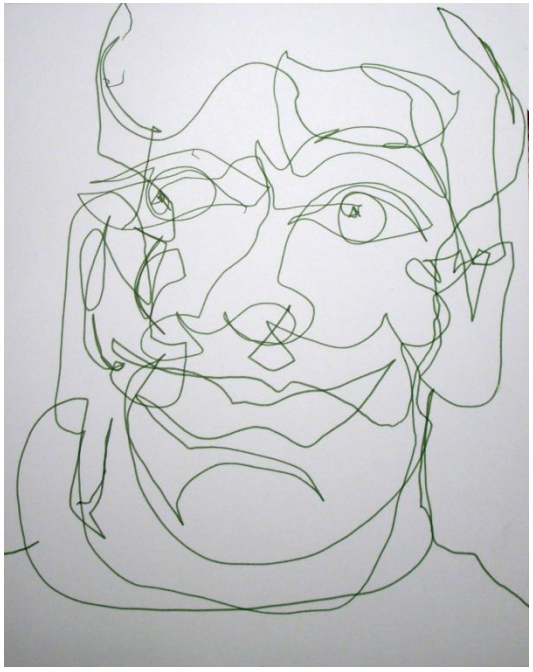
WHY???

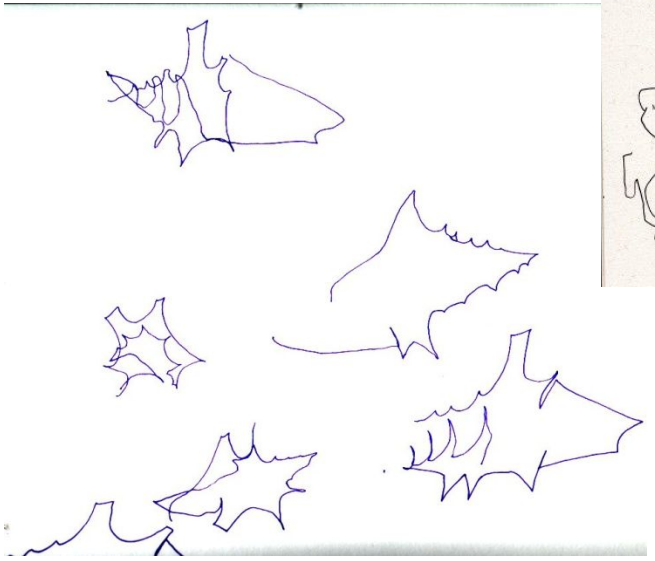
- To practice looking and seeing
- To practice recording your perceptions
- It's like an exercise!

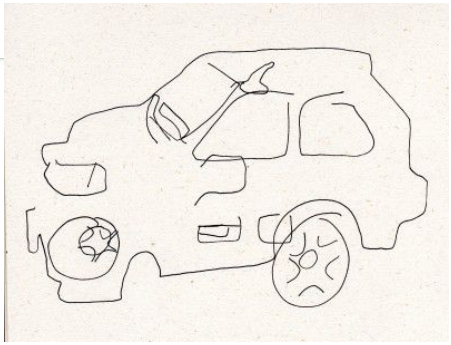
(we are not concerned what a blind contour drawing looks like afterwards!)











Today's Goal:

- Understand the purpose of a <u>blind contour drawing</u>
- Practice how to record your perceptions by completing blind contour drawings of your hand

**Look closely at the image to the right… this is what you will be doing!

Fig. 6-1.

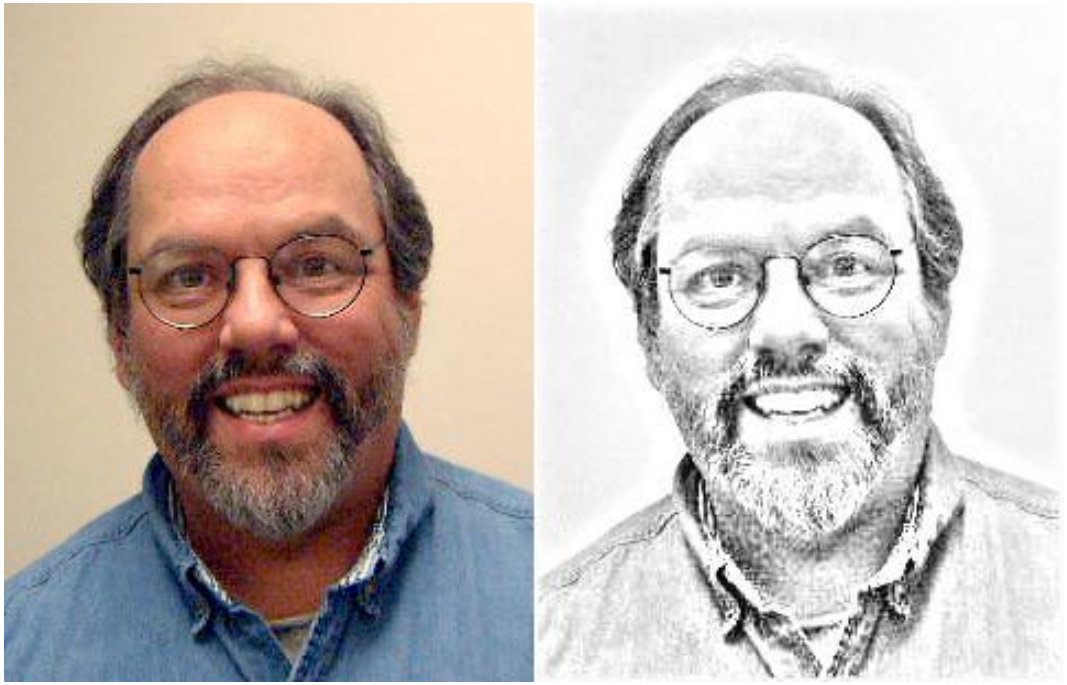
Drawing 101

2. Adding Value, Shading, and Highlights

Seeing values is key to drawing in the third dimension.

(seeing dark and light helps to draw things more realistically)

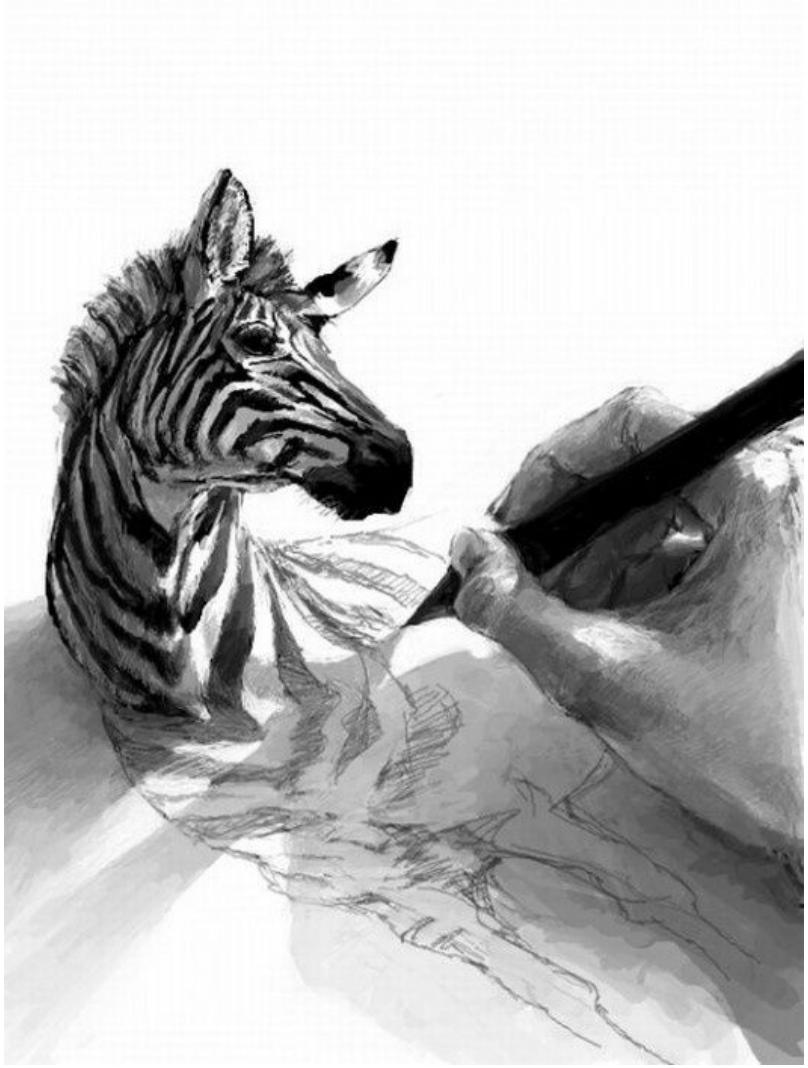
Translating values you *see* into values you *draw*



Almost everything has more than one value. Depending on the light source, most things have some areas that are very light and others that are quite dark.

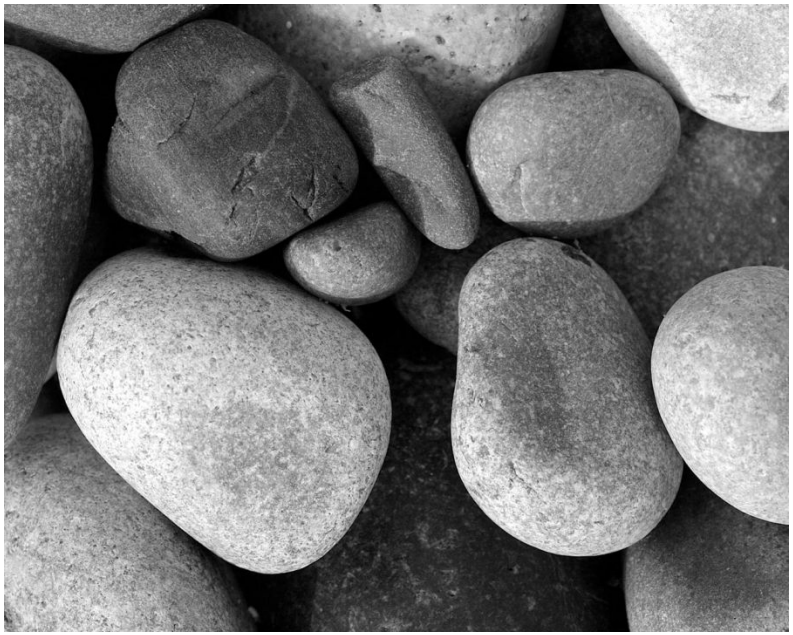
Translating values you *see* into values you *draw*

When you can see a range of different values you can draw your subject in the third dimension.



Some Examples…

- If you look closely at a mound of dark earth, you notice that it has several different values.
- If a fresh layer of snow covered this mound of earth, there would still be lots of values.

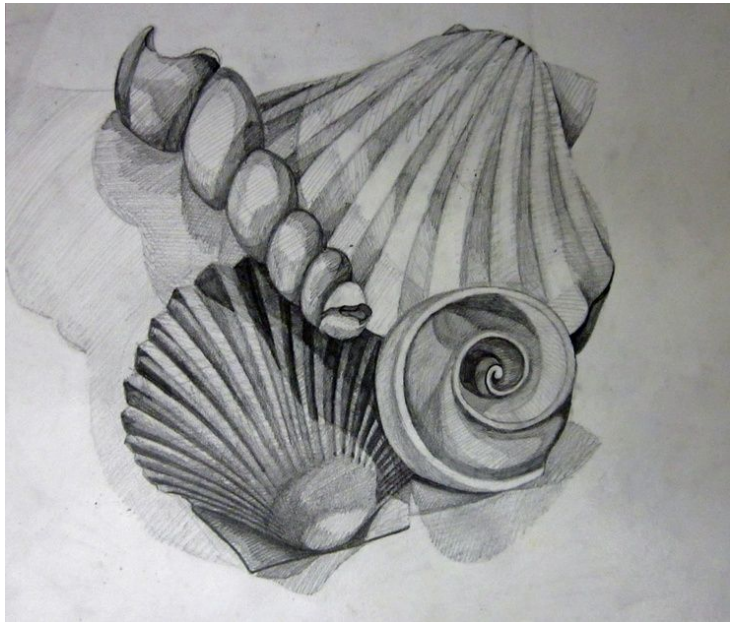



white lines

Adding **Value** to your drawings helps you…

- to learn to control your pencil
- to train your brain to perform automatically
- to see subtle changes in values or tone

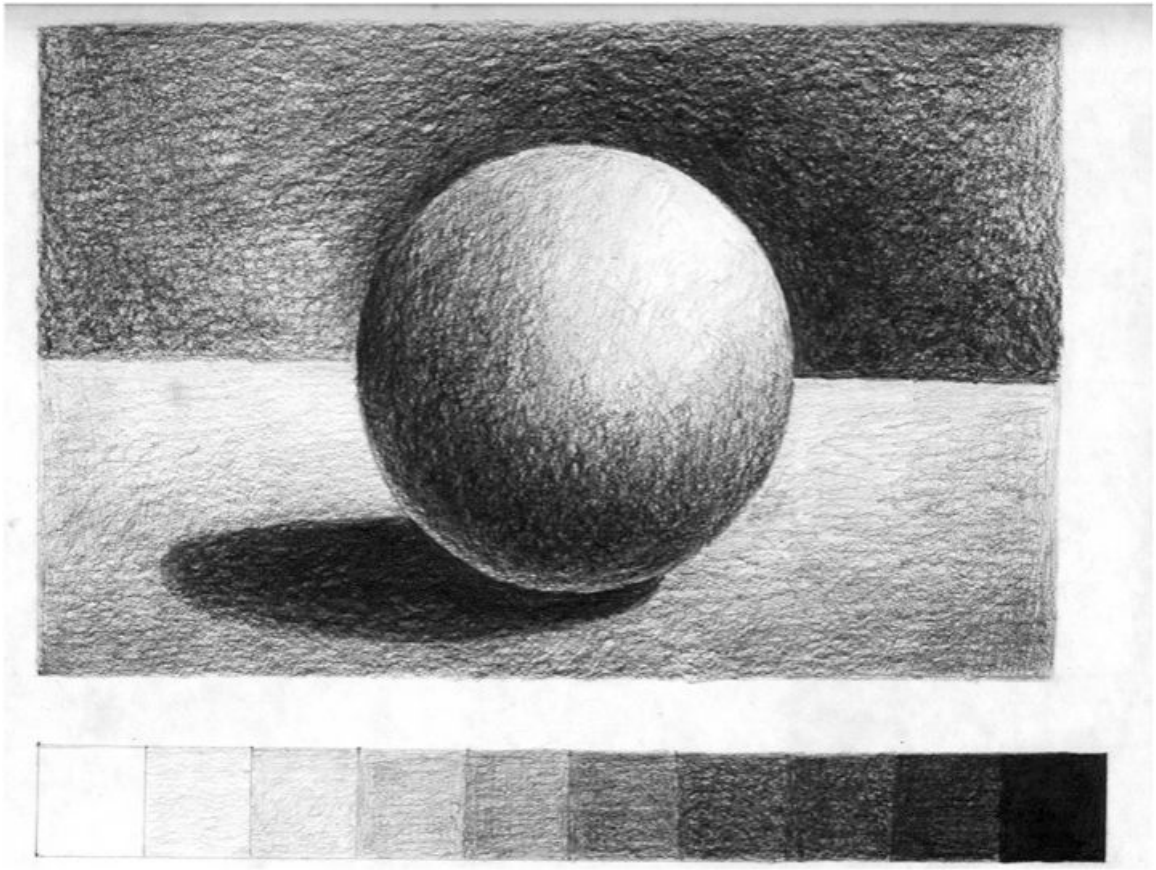
- **….and ultimately, your drawings will have the illusion of 3 dimensions, thus making them much more realistic.**



Tips, Tricks & Practice Exercises

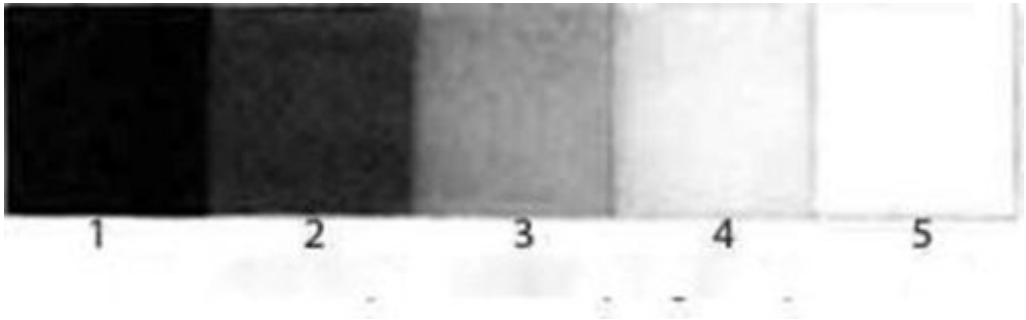
1. Create a Value Scale
2. Shape + Value = Form
3. Start with simple shapes and forms
4. Squint your eyes to see values and simple shapes
5. Squint to turn colors into values

1. Create a Value Scale



Value scales represent the amounts of lights and darks that might be in your drawing.

Here's an example…



Here is a 5-value value scale

The *5 values* represent the *5 types of shadows* that a drawing might have in it.

The *5 values* represent the *5 types of shadows* that a drawing might have in it.

1. *The Cast Shadow*

This is the darkest dark. It is the shadow that is cast by an object on a surface that it is laying on. The cast shadow is the darkest where the object and surface touch, and will get lighter as it gets farther away from the object.

2. Shadow Edge

This value is on the <u>opposite side of the *light source*</u>. It is not the edge of the object.

3. Mid-Tone

This is what the <u>actual color of the object is, without any effects from light or shadow</u>.

4. Reflected Light

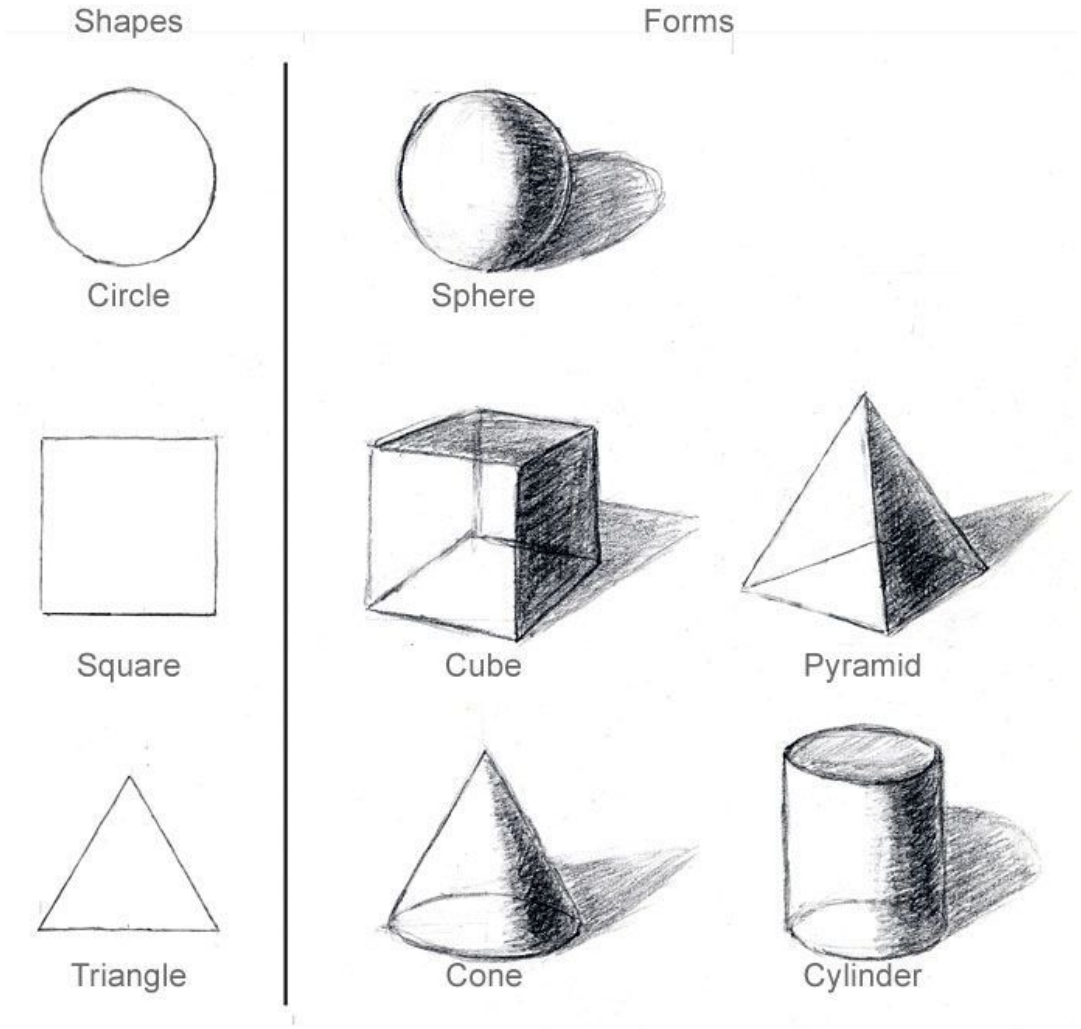
This is the light that is seen around an object, usually between the cast shadow and the shadow edge. It's the light that is bouncing off of the surfaces around the object. This value is never bright white. When drawing in color the reflected light will contain the color of the object or surface closest to the object your drawing.

5. Full Light/Highlight

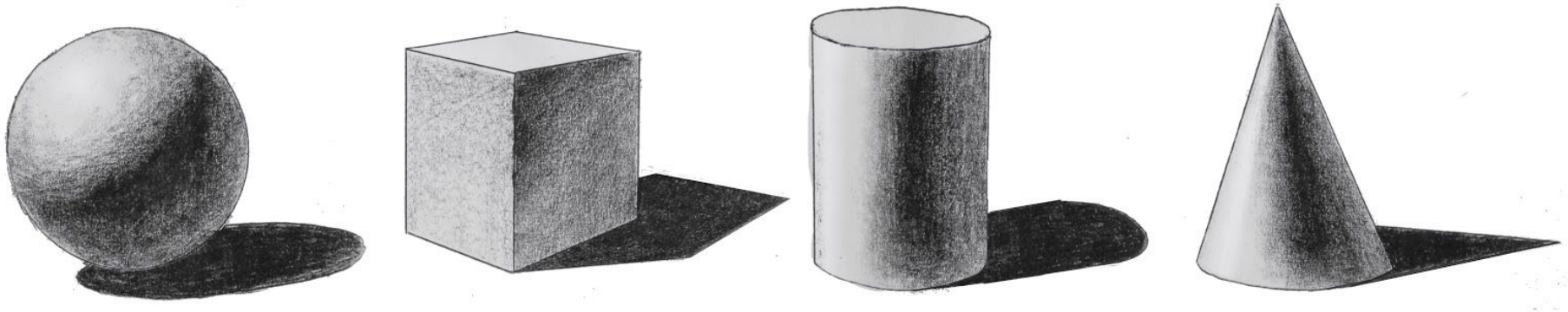
This is where the light source hits the object at full strength. It is <u>usually shown by the white of the paper</u>. All the areas of gray around the full light should be blended so that there is a smooth, gradual transition between them.

2. Shape + Value = Form

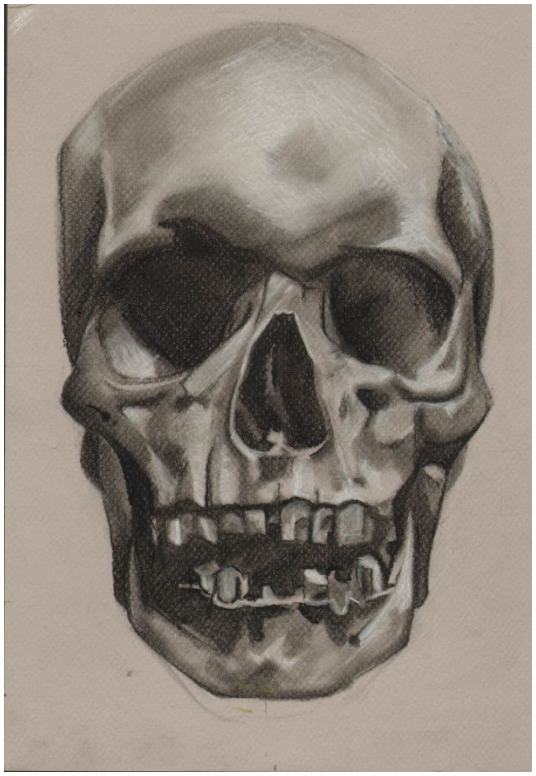
- Start with light pencil lines and draw a shape
- Adding value to this shape will create the illusion of a 3-D form

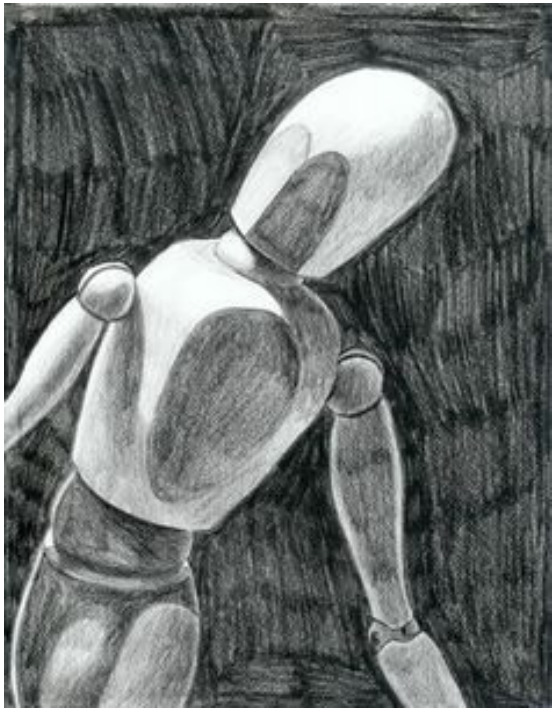


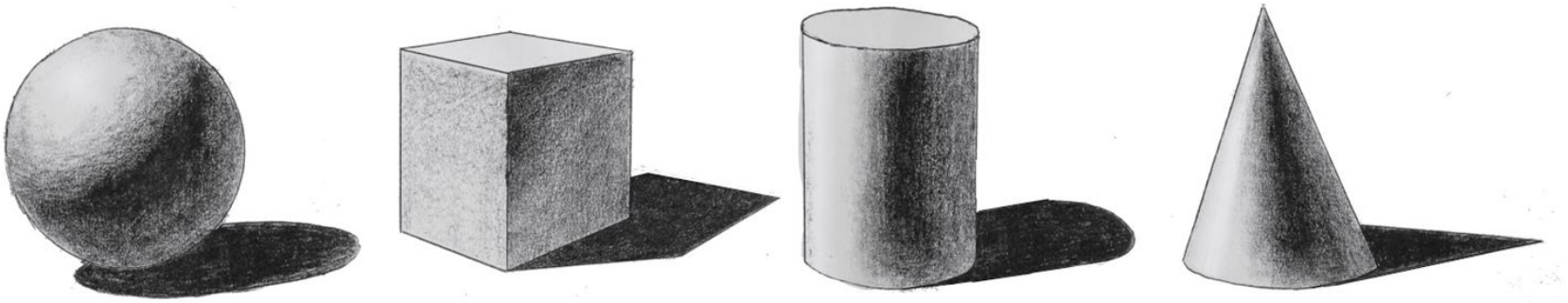
3. Start with Simple Forms



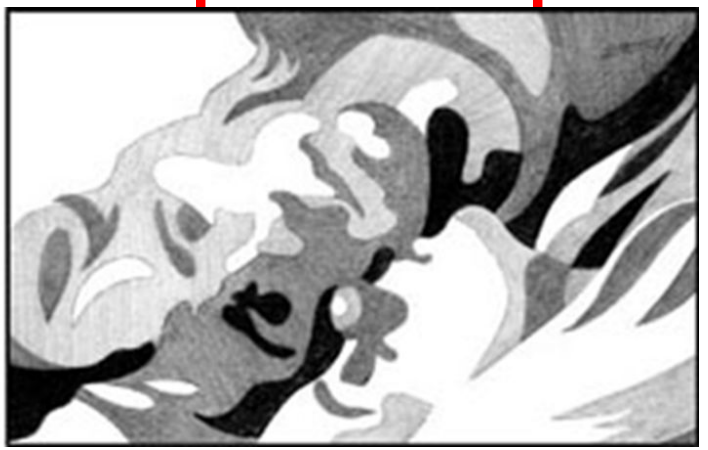
- A tried and true method of practicing your value exercise is to draw and shade a sphere, cone, cylinder and cube.
- **Many of the things that you draw will include these basic shapes.**







4. *Squint* your eyes to see values and simple shapes



- Many artists can visually simplify complex drawing subjects by simply squinting their eyes.
- Squinting helps you screen out details and see simple values and shapes.
- When you can see the shapes created by different values, you can draw your subject more accurately.

5. *Squint* to turn colors into values

Try to look around you at different objects. Focus on only the light and dark areas and not the actual colors. Concentrate on the light and shadows. Then squint your eyes until you see the values of that object.

- If your subject has, for example, light-pink and dark-red stripes, seeing two different values in the two colors is easy. You simply draw the dark red as a dark value and the pink as a light value.
- But, some objects have colors that seem to be the same in value. When this is the case, you simply have to rely on your own discretion to decide which colors should be drawn lighter or darker than others.