

THE PENCIL DRAWING COURSE



Course Handbook



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Introduction

Hello fellow artists and welcome to the "The Pencil Drawing Course".

This course is designed for absolute beginners and is intended to give you a good understanding of classical drawing methods and how to apply them.

I hope this course will improve your ability to examine what you see as an artist and to recreate this on paper.

In just eight weeks you will create a wealth of different drawings using many different styles and techniques. You are welcome to bring your own pencils, paper and sketchbook but there will also be supplies available for you to use.

This course handbook gives you a break down of what topics we are going to cover in the next eight weeks and what you will be learning each week. Throughout the course I will be around to give you feedback on everything that you draw and I'll also answer any questions that you may have. This is a practical drawing course so we will use the methods discussed each week both inside and outside of the class room.

If you have any questions before or during the course about what to expect or what you are learning then please feel free to get in touch with me by email at info@continuingart.com or through the course's private Facebook group.

Thanks,

Phil Robinson

Week 1 : Equipment and mark making

Learning objectives:

This first week is all about your toolkit. By the end of this first class you should have a good knowledge of drawing equipment and why different pencil and paper types are used. You should also have an understanding of different types of mark making and the effects they can produce.

Topics covered:

- Pencils, grading system
- Paper, tooth, weight, size, colour, sketchbooks
- Drawing aids
- Holding a pencil, writer's and painter's grips
- Making marks, shape, length, speed
- **Class Exercise: Expressive mark making**
- Difference between sketching and drawing
- **Class Exercise 2: Pushing and pulling lines**
- Simplifying shapes in art
- **Class Exercise 3: Gestural lines**



Homework:

- Record your week with simple lines, you can focus on a single day or do something every day. Draw any shape or edge that you find pleasing. It doesn't have to be identifiable just representational.

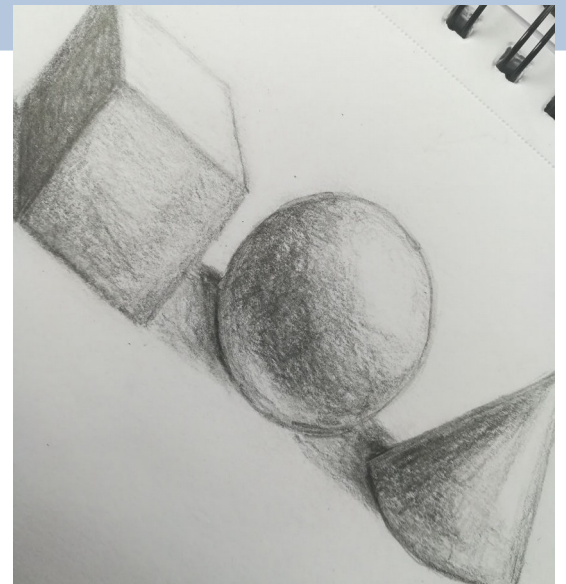
Week 2 : Perspective

Learning objectives:

In week two you will learn the different types of perspective and how these are used to construct scenes and objects. You will use this knowledge to draw perspective correct 3D objects which can be used as the building blocks for any other drawings.

Topics covered:

- Class Exercise: Straight lines, horizontal, vertical, diagonal
- Class Exercise 2: Primitives: square, triangle, circle
 - Vanishing points
 - Single point perspective
 - Two point perspective
 - Four point perspective
 - Multiple vanishing points, classic examples
 - Camera perspective, references
- Class Exercise: Cube, cone, sphere



Homework:

- Collect paper samples for next week
- Draw more 3D primitives

Week 3 : Lighting and shading

Learning objectives:

This week you will learn about how light interacts with objects in a scene. You will also learn how to represent lighting with a pencil to create depth in your drawings. You will then apply this to the objects we drew last week.

Topics covered:

- Ambient light
- Directional light
- Shadows
- Bounce light
- Coloured light, Highlights, mid-tone, shadow
- Hue and saturation
- Shading with a pencil
- ° [Class Exercise: Shading blocks using homework paper](#)
- Highlight, mid-tone, shadow
- Sphere studies broken down
- ° [Class Exercise: Shading 3D Primitives](#)



Homework:

°Produce a sphere study, if you want a challenge you can create a textured study. Reference photos will be provided.

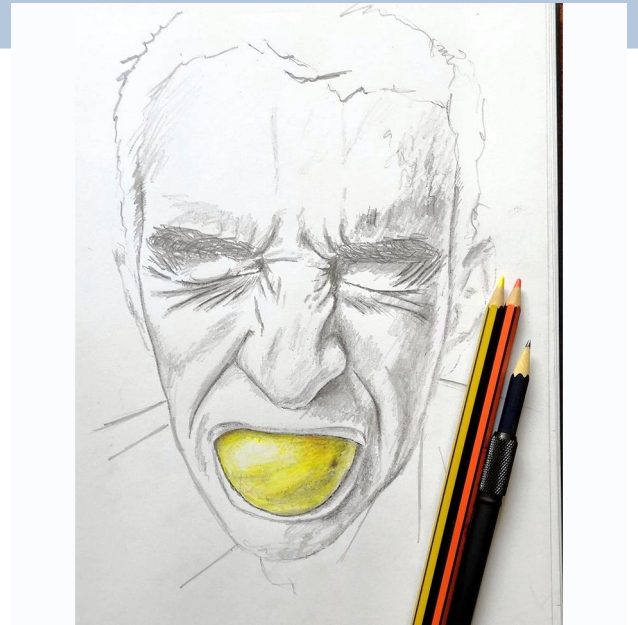
Week 4 : Composition

Learning objectives:

To gain an understanding of the importance of composition and the techniques used to ensure a good composition. You will learn how to apply this theory to your own drawings and sketches to make sure the viewer becomes engaged with your drawings.

Topics covered:

- What makes a good composition
- Why does composition matter in sketching
- Landscapes, rule of thirds
- Focal points, off centre, three points
- Editing scenes
- Creating depth, pathways, S-paths
- Golden ratio
- **Class Exercise: Arranging objects into a composition**



Homework:

- **Make an interesting still life. No fruit bowls allowed!**

Week 5 : Sketching techniques

Learning objectives:

You will learn how to make quick sketches to take visual notes. You will also learn how to break an object or scene down into its constituent parts and use this to simplify everything you draw.

Topics covered:

- Simplification, don't draw individual leaves
- Less is sometimes more, impressionism
- Breaking objects into large and small shapes
- Urban sketching
- Guerilla sketching
- Scribble, visual note taking
- ° Class Exercise: Turn a scene from a photograph into 2D primitives



Homework:

- ° Turn a scene from a photograph or from life into 3D primitives

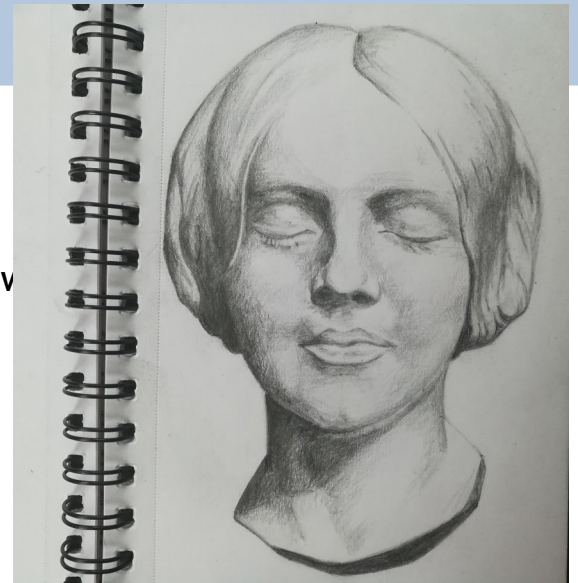
Week 6 : Bague Plates

Learning objectives:

You will find out about the Charles Bague drawing methods and methods using in the Atelier art schools.

Topics covered:

- What are Bague plates and why should we draw them
- Classical drawing, plumb line, centre, top, base
- Measuring with a stick, pencil, thumb etc
- Identifying key points
- Joining the dots
- Class Exercise: Drawing an sculptured eye
- Creating a shadow map
- Class Exercise: Starting a plate



Homework:

- Completing a Bague plate

Week 7 : Photo References

Learning objectives:

You will learn the best ways to take and use photographs for reference in your drawings. You will also understand classical and modern methods of image transfer which will allow your to create accurate drawing plans.

Topics covered:

- Taking reference photographs, angles, time of day
- Using classical drawing
- Using a grid assistance
- Rub down methods
- Projection
- Graphite transfer
- Portrait work
- ° Class exercise: Copy an image to a pre-prepared grid



Homework:

- ° Create a line drawing using any transfer method.

Week 8 : Drawing from life

Learning objectives:

You will learn about drawing out in the world. You will learn techniques that are important for capturing information for use in later drawings.

Topics covered:

- Simplify everything then add details
- Know when to stop adding
- Still life
- Moving life
- Fieldwork and collecting
- Sketchbook habit
- Buildings, trees, plants, people, faces
- [Class Exercise: Drawing interesting objects](#)
- Closing: Keep in touch, social media etc



Homework:

- [Create a new sketchbook](#)

Books mentioned in the course

Lessons in Classical Drawing, Juliette Aristides, Watson Guptill Publications

Classical Drawing Atelier, Juliette Aristides, Watson Guptill Group Publications

Drawing Course, Charles Bargue and Jean-Leon Gerome, ACC Art Books

Leonardo's Notebooks, Leonardo da Vinci (Author), H. Anna Suh (Editor), Black Dog & Leventhal

The Drawing Book, Sarah Simblet, Dorling Kindersley

Anatomy for the Artist, Sarah Simblet, Dorling Kindersley

Botany for the Artist, Sarah Simblet, Dorling Kindersley