



Drawing from Line to Life

online workshop

Beginners Course

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to this course for the Beginner artist. I'm assuming you have a little experience, a lot of desire and probably at least a few bad habits! Of course, you and your fellow participating artists will also have varying levels of ability, so we'll all start at the same point and journey together. Initially at least, I'll prepare the guideline drawings for you, which will remove a major headache and speed up the drawing process. And it means you can concentrate on techniques rather than the ability to draw accurately.

I promise to be gentle with you – but there will be times when I push you out of your comfort zone and make you stretch your current ability. That's good! There's little to be learned from always drawing what you know you can achieve, so embark on this course with an open mind and a full box of pencils.

WEEK ONE

Exploring pencils and what each can do

- The pencils you'll use for this course and why they were chosen,
- An explanation of the composition of different grades of pencil, which to use, and when.
- Pencil points
- Exercise: A simple drawing that will help me to help you.
- Exercise: Using your pencils to discover what marks each can make.
- Exercise: Comparing the relative darkness of each pencil grade.
- Exercise: Shading with each grade for comparison.

WEEK TWO

Shading techniques using tone

- A lesson on the benefits of drawing with a wide range of tones
- Exercise: Applying tone using multiple grades
- Burnishing
- Blending
- How to shade correctly
- Exercise: Shading and blending from dark to light
- Layering tone
- Exercise: Using layers to shade from dark to light
- Exercise: Using your new skills to shade a Lily (line drawing provided)

WEEK THREE

Shading techniques using line

- Hatching
- Cross-hatching
- Exercise: Hatching and cross-hatching from light to dark
- Understanding shape and form
- Learning to see tone (also known as value)
- Exercise: Exploring contour hatching and cross-hatching
- Exercise: Blending the previous exercise
- An introduction to other methods of shading with line and mark.
- Exercise: Using your new knowledge to shade a 'house' from a supplied B&W reference photograph (line drawing provided).

WEEK FOUR

Erasing techniques

- The five types of eraser, which to discard, and which to use
- An introduction to Blu-Tack and kneadable erasers
- Exercise: How to take black graphite back to white paper
- Uses for the eraser
- Exercise: Using a vinyl eraser to “draw” white lines
- Exercise: Exploring the uses of kneadable erasers and Blu-Tack
- Exercise: Further exploration of kneadable erasers and Blu-Tack

WEEK FIVE

Indenting methods

- Learn how to produce sharp white lines and dots.
- Exercise: Exploring indented marks.
- The uses of indenting.
- Exercise: Using indenting in drawing environment.
- Indirect indenting explained.
- Exercise: Indirect indenting practice.

WEEK SIX

Methods of dividing and simplifying your drawings

- How to break down and simplify any drawing.
- Ways to divide your work into manageable sections.
- Exercise: Dividing foreground, midground and background.
- Concentrating on a single texture or surface
- Layering detail and tonal shaping.
- Exercise: Using detail and shaping layers.

WEEK SEVEN

Preparation methods and the secret ingredient

- The grid method explained.
- Exercise: Grid single section of a line drawing.
- Exercise: Grid part of a supplied drawing.
- Introducing the Two-Step method.
- The Untold Secret of gridding.
- Optical illusions and other problems solved.
- Exercise: Grid from supplied photograph.

WEEK EIGHT

The final drawing

- Adding additional features to the grid.
- Final transfer to your drawing paper.
- The drawing begins –where to start and where to move next.
- Assistance with each section you will encounter.

EQUIPMENT and PAPER required

You will need the following for this course:

- 4B, 2B, HB, 2H and 4H pencils (H = hard; HB = neutral; B = black). Any make will do but Staedtler, in my opinion, contain the least impurities and the best consistency.
- Vinyl art eraser
- Kneaded eraser or, if possible, Blu-Tack
- Staedtler, Pentel, Alvin, or similar “click” eraser (with cylindrical vinyl core)
- Pencil sharpener
- Craft knife, scalpel or safety razor blade (not essential)
- Toilet tissue and paper kitchen towels
- Paper – about A4 or letter-size. Almost any medium to heavy weight paper will do but it will assist you if the texture is not pronounced – smooth is best. Watercolour paper is about as heavily textured as you might wish to use, and at least one exercise would benefit from having this paper to hand.

I’m looking forward to working with you.

Cheers.....



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