Level: Beginner (for absolute beginners and experienced artists)

Duration: 6 weeks

Teacher: Mike Sibley

Credits: Shading 4

Traditional realism is a style of art in which living beings and objects are represented in an artwork as they appear in real life – without stylization or distortion. Traditional realism suggests the edges (contours) of drawing subjects with shading rather than outlining the edges with lines (as in a coloring book).

Course Content

This course is designed to enable absolute beginners and experienced artists to:

• discover how highlights, shadows, reflected light, and cast shadows help create the illusion of a three-dimensional reality on a flat sheet of paper

• prepare five grades of pencils with a chisel point for traditional shading, and then use them to shade value scales

• outline straight-sided shapes and add shading with four grades of pencils

• examine values on drawing subjects to find clues that identify the direction of a light source

• learn a four-step process to help you plan an appropriate method for adding shading to a drawing
• outline three shapes and their value maps, and then use graduated shading to turn a circle, cube, and rectangle into realistic three-dimensional forms

• use traditional shading techniques and five grades of pencils to render a three-dimensional form

• sketch the proportions of a plant, practice a step-by-step process used to add traditional shading, and then add realistic textured and patterned shading

Supplies Needed

• Drawing paper and/or a sketchbook
• 2H, HB, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5B, 6B, and 7B graphite pencils
• Pencil sharpener
• Fine sandpaper and/or a sandpaper block
• Vinyl eraser
• Kneaded eraser
• Ruler
• Small, soft paintbrush for blending
• Scanner or camera that can make high-quality jpg files (300 dpi) of your assignments to upload to your virtual classroom

Before You Begin

This tutorial is available in your classroom as soon as you register and provides fundamental information to help you:

• understand the differences between H and B grades of graphite
• select the right graphite pencils for learning how to draw
• choose the right size, quality, and weight of drawing paper
• select the best sharpeners and erasers for artists who draw
• discover your natural hand movements for drawing straight and curved lines
• learn how to rotate your paper as you use your natural hand movement
• find out how to use a three-step process for transferring the outlines of a drawing or a photograph to a new sheet of drawing paper
• gain an understanding of commonly used art terms
**Week 1**

**Identifying Light and Shadow on Forms**
Discover how highlights, shadows, reflected light, and cast shadows help create the illusion of a three-dimensional reality on a flat sheet of paper.

**Shade Simple Value Scales**
Prepare five grades of pencils and then use them to shade two value scales: from light to dark and from dark to light.

**Shade an Optical Illusion**
Outline straight-sided shapes and add shading with four grades of pencils.

**Week 2**

**Identifying Primary Light Sources**
Examine values on drawing subjects to find clues that identify the directionality of the dominant light source.

**Shade Graduations of Values**
A four-step process to help you plan an appropriate method for adding shading to a drawing.

**How to Use a Value Map**
Outline straight-sided shapes and add shading with four grades of pencils.

**Part 1: Use Shading to Create Forms**
Outline three shapes and their value maps in preparation for adding shading next week.

**Week 3**

**Part 2: Use Shading to Create Forms**
Use value maps and graduated shading to turn a circle, cube, and rectangle into realistic three-dimensional forms.
Week 4

Turn a Shape into a Form

Use traditional shading techniques and five grades of pencils to render a three-dimensional form.

Week 5

Part 1: Shade the Realistic Forms of Leaves

Sketch the proportions of a plant and practice the step-by-step process used to add shading to its leaves and stem.

Week 6

Part 2: Shade the Realistic Forms of Leaves

Follow step-by-step illustrations to add realistic textured and patterned shading to a plant (adding a background is optional).