

Sunflower

Brenda Hoddinott

V-07 ADVANCED: NATURE AND STILL LIFE

This advanced lesson has very few text instructions; rather, a series of illustrations takes you through the process of drawing a delicate sunflower. The overall values are low in contrast to depict the lights and darks created by the natural soft lighting of an overcast day.



This project is divided into two sections:

- **OUTLINING A SUNFLOWER AND ITS LEAVES:** You follow along with a series of illustrations to create a line drawing of a sunflower. The goal is to prepare a detailed contour drawing to serve as guidelines for adding shading.
- **ADDING SHADING WITH CROSSHATCHING:** Illustrations guide you through the process of adding shading to a sunflower and its leaves with crosshatching. The light source is from the upper right on a cloudy day; hence, the shadows are soft.

You need 2H, HB, and 2B pencils, good quality drawing paper, and erasers. If you plan to use regular wood pencils instead of mechanical, you also need a pencil sharpener and a sandpaper block. My drawing is rendered with mechanical pencils; 2H (very good for light values), HB (great for middle values), and 2B (works well for dark values).

11 PAGES – 15 ILLUSTRATIONS

This lesson is recommended for artists with advanced drawing skills and a lot of patience, as well as advanced students of home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators.



Figure 701



My sketches are much lighter than they appear here. I have darkened them in Photoshop so you can see them clearly.

OUTLINING A SUNFLOWER AND ITS LEAVES

In this section, you follow along with a series of illustrations to create a line drawing of a sunflower. Use a 2H pencil and keep your lines very faint. The goal is to prepare a detailed contour drawing to serve as guidelines for adding shading.

Figure 702



Figure 703



Sunflower Trivia

The scientific name of the sunflower, *Helianthus*, is derived from two words; *Helios* referring to the sun and *Anthos*, meaning flower.

Figure 704



Sunflower Trivia

When a sunflower is in the bud stage, its face usually follows the movement of the sun, from the east in the morning, to west in the evening.

Overnight, it turns to face the east as it awaits the morning sun.

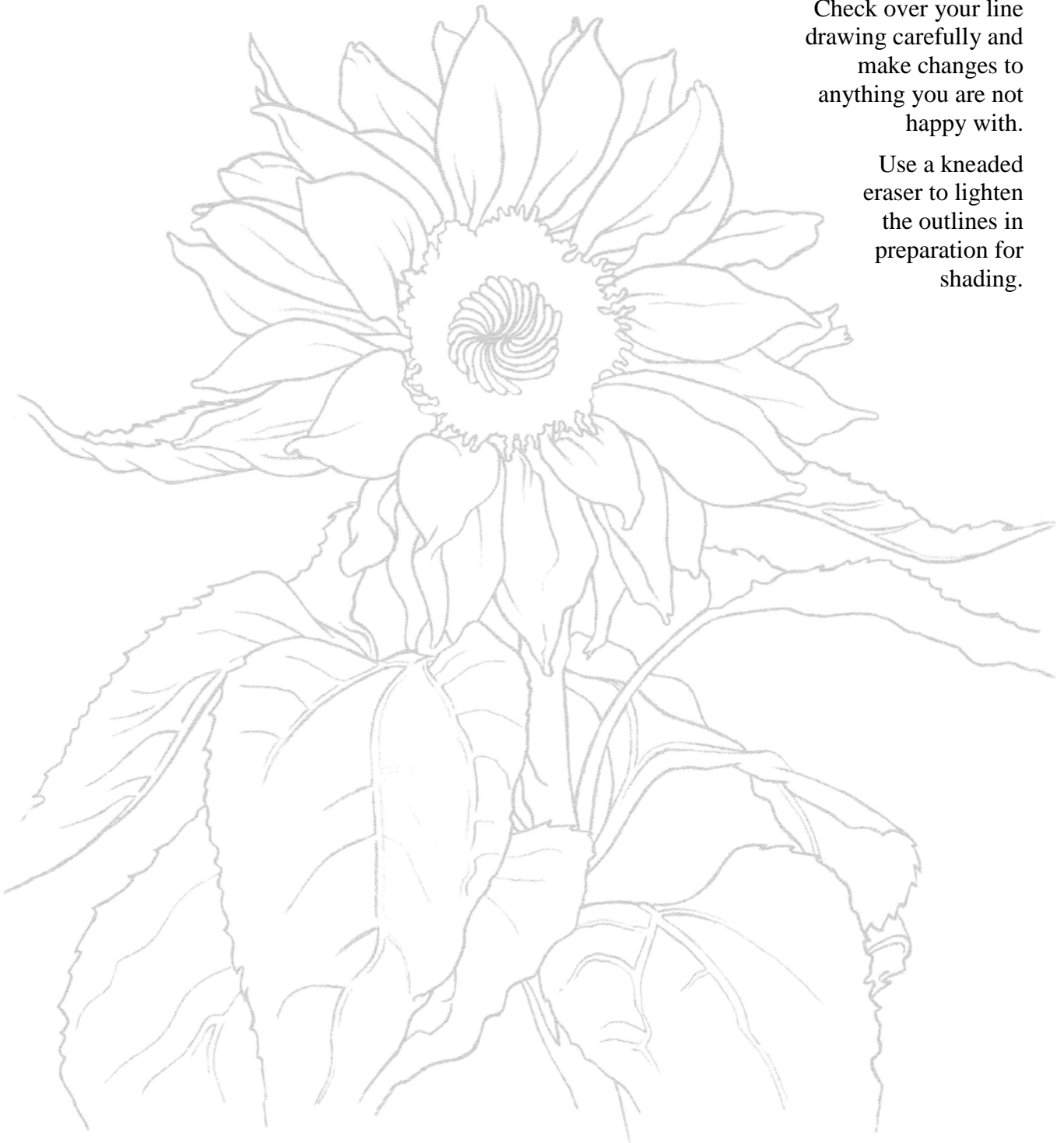
Figure 705



Figure 706

Check over your line drawing carefully and make changes to anything you are not happy with.

Use a kneaded eraser to lighten the outlines in preparation for shading.



ADDING SHADING WITH CROSSHATCHING

In this section, illustrations guide you through the process of adding shading to a sunflower and its leaves with crosshatching.

My drawing is rendered with mechanical pencils; 2H (very good for light values), HB (great for middle values), and 2B (works well for dark values). The light source is from the upper right on a cloudy day; hence, the shadows are soft. I began shading on the left, and for the most part, worked my way toward the right. Figures 707 and 708 show the tiny section on the far left where I began adding shading.

Figure 707



Before you begin shading, use a ruler to draw a rectangular drawing space around the sunflower (Figure 707).

Make sure your shading extends to this line in case you decide to frame your drawing. By the way, Figure 707 is much darker than the actual drawing.

Light values have very few crosshatching lines with lots of white space showing. In darker values, the lines are drawn more closely together, filling in most of the paper with crosshatching.

Figure 708



Sunflower Trivia

Floating rafts of sunflowers helped clean contaminated water after the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the former Soviet Union. Sunflowers' roots can remove radioactivity by drawing the contaminants from the water.

Figure 709



Remember, the less pressure you apply to the pencil, the lighter the values become. In my lightest shading, only the weight of the pencil itself makes the very faint values.

As you complete each section, continuously go back over your drawing and adjust the values and check for petals, leaves, or sections that you may have missed.

Sunflower Trivia

The earliest known sunflowers can be traced back to North and South America. Indigenous peoples planted sunflowers as a food crop for many centuries.

The seeds were eventually exported to countries all over the world. Even today, farmers plant and harvest sunflowers for their nutritious seeds and rich oils.

Figure 710



Figure 711



Sunflower Trivia

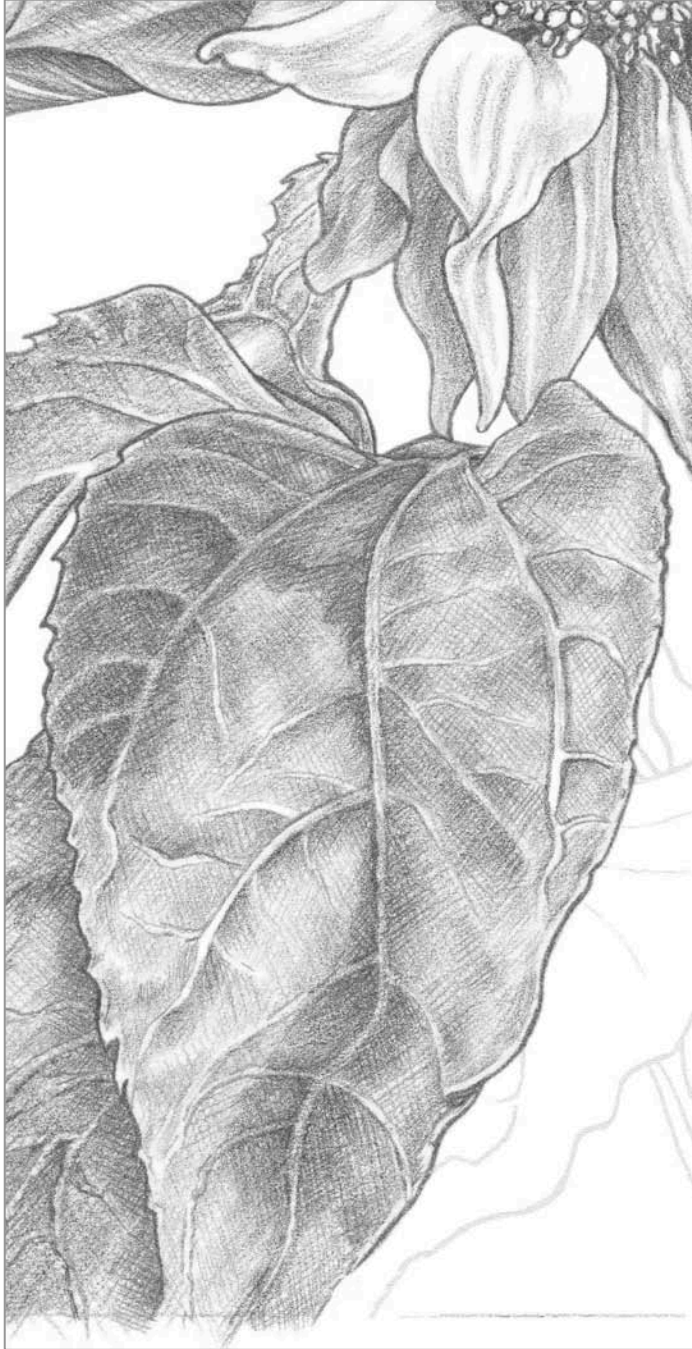
In fact, the sunflower is not one flower, but rather a cluster of up to 2000 tiny flowers growing together.

You can see these flowers by examining the perimeter of the sunflower head with a powerful magnifying glass.

Figure 712



Figure 713



Sunflower Trivia

In rare cases, sunflower heads have been known to reach more than 30 inches in diameter.

In Ontario, Canada, sunflowers have grown to heights of 25 feet.

Figure 714



Sunflower Trivia

An image of the sunflower was used by the Incas as their Sun God.

Figure 715



Sunflower Trivia

The sunflower is the state flower of Kansas.

Complete the shading of your sunflower. Check over your drawing carefully and adjust the values as needed. Refer to the final drawing in Figure 717.

Figure 716



Sunflower Trivia

The stems of sunflowers were used to fill lifejackets long before modern day materials were invented.

Figure 717



BRENDA HODDINOTT - BIOGRAPHY

As a self-educated teacher, visual artist, portraitist, forensic artist, and illustrator, Brenda Hoddinott utilizes diverse art media including graphite, technical pen, colored pencil, chalk pastel, charcoal, conté crayon, and oil paints.

My philosophy on teaching art is to focus primarily on the enjoyment aspects while gently introducing the technical and academic. Hence, in creating a passion for the subject matter, the quest for knowledge also becomes enjoyable.

>Brenda Hoddinott<

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brenda grew up in the small town of Corner Brook. She developed strong technical competencies with a personal commitment to self directed learning, and the aid of assorted "Learn to Draw" books. During Brenda's twenty-five year career as a self-educated civilian forensic artist, numerous criminal investigation departments have employed Brenda's skills, including Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal police departments. In 1992, Brenda was honored with a commendation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Membership from "Forensic Artists International".

Her home-based art career included graphic design, and teaching recreational drawing and painting classes. As supervisor of her community's recreational art department, Brenda hired and trained teachers, and designed curriculum for several children's art programs. In 1998, Brenda chose to end her eighteen-year career as an art educator in order to devote more time to writing, drawing, painting, and developing her websites.

Drawspace <http://www.drawspace.com> incorporates her unique style and innovative approach to curriculum development. This site offers downloadable and printable drawing classes for students of all abilities from the age of eight through adult. Students of all ages, levels and abilities have praised the simple step-by-step instructional approach. This site is respected as a resource for fine art educators, home schooling programs, and educational facilities throughout the world.

LEARN-TO-DRAW BOOKS BY BRENDA HODDINOTT

- ◉ **Drawing for Dummies:** Wiley Publishing, Inc., New, York, NY, this 336 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.
- ◉ **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Drawing People:** Winner of the Alpha-Penguin Book of the Year Award 2004, Alpha - Pearson Education – Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN, this 360 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.