

User Manual to Drawing From a Picture

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Introduction

Drawing is a task that all people do when they write. When a person writes the letter “o,” then he or she should be able to draw a circle. If one can keep this in mind, drawing from a picture should not be impossible for the disbelievers. From a simple rose to a golden retriever, anything can be drawn. The amount of detail and patience is where drawing will vary. This manual will present guidelines in how to draw from a picture or photo.

Materials and Tools

Tools and materials for drawing vary from person to person. Some like to have all sorts of tools while others would just have the basic necessities. The list below provides what is mainly needed to draw for any picture:

- Drawing paper
- Eraser
- 1 inch paint brush
- Tortilla
- Shading pencil
- Pencil
- Kneaded Dough
- Two inch wide notebook binder

Note: A tortilla is used for smudging. Any other material that can smudge can be substituted for these tools. Kneaded dough is used for lighting areas on the drawing. If a certain area of the drawing is too dark, the kneaded dough can lighten that area without the need of redoing anything. It can also be used as an eraser. The last item is used to tilt the drawing so that the drawing paper is easier to draw on. All items can be found in any hobby or art store.

Procedure

There are three steps:

- Outlining the Subject
- Filling in the Detail
- Revising the Drawing

Outlining the Subject

To draw almost anything, an outline must be done first. This will layout the drawing so that its size will fit on to the paper. The outline does not have to be exact since it is just a guide for when the actual drawing will take place. Skipping this step can cause the drawing to be distorted and difficult to do. With enough practice, a drawer may not need to do an outline at all.

Filling in the Detail

Once the outline is established, the actual drawing takes place. This is the main step in the procedure. Make the drawing proportional to the picture or photo. Being able to do this will certainly produce a well-done drawing. Depending on the picture or photo selected, this step may take awhile.

Revising the Drawing

This final step will instruct how to finalize the drawing. When the “Fill in the Detail” step is done, the drawing is not done yet. Mistakes can still be found even when the drawing looks good at this point. There are other steps that must be done to improve the drawing.

Important: Before anything is done, one thing must be addressed. To be able to draw well, one must be able to “see.” A problem that everyone has with drawing is being able to draw what he or she sees. One can see a person in a photo, but when drawing that person, he or she can’t seem to get his or her pencil to draw correctly. When drawing from a picture or photo, do not interpret anything from the picture. Look at it as is. If you see a line, draw a line. If there is no line, don’t put one. Forget how one object looks closer than another; only notice how one is bigger than the other. Think like the picture or photo. It’s flat and not three-dimensional. Drawing is also flat. Keep that in mind.

Instructions

Note: This manual will refer to this picture as an example.



Outlining the Subject

1) Lightly draw an outline of what is to be drawn. If the outline is not placed where you want it, move the whole outline till it is.

2) Draw the outline so that it's proportional to the picture. To do this, use the pencil and approximate the length of two points on the picture, and compare that length to another two points on the picture that you have chosen. With the drawing, find the same area where the first length was found, and measure that length. Compare this length with second area of the drawing similar to what was done with your picture. If the lengths are not in proportion to the picture, correct this. Do this to other areas of the drawing until you are satisfied. Figure 1 and 2 demonstrates this. Lines that are of the same color are equal in length. Note: At this time, it doesn't have to be exact.

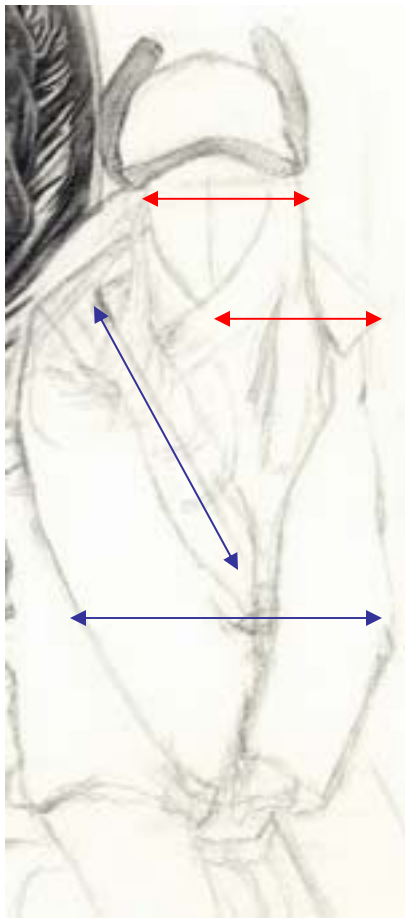


Figure 1

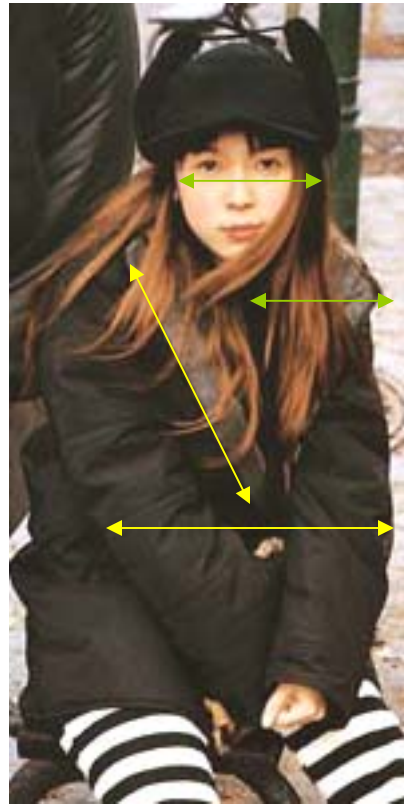


Figure 2

Filling in the Detail

Note: When drawing, watch where your hands are. You can accidentally smudge your drawing. Use another piece of paper to rest your hand on the drawing if you do. Do not

move this paper or else it will also smudge the drawing. If your hand moistens and warps this paper, use more paper so that this doesn't happen with the drawing.

1) Pick a place to start. Then, draw what you see.

Note: Use the paintbrush to sweep away eraser shavings. If you use your hands, you can accidentally smudge the drawing.

2) Keep in mind to be proportional at all times. Correct your outline if necessary.

3) Compare the relative darkness of one area to another. If an area is black, make it black. Use the tortilla or shading pencil at this time. The tortilla is used to smudge, but will not smudge away lines if it is used in the direction of the lines. The shading pencil is used for blending and should not be used like the tortilla. Or a paper towel or tissue is suitable. Practice these tools on a separate sheet of paper if needed.



Figure 3

4) If there is too much detail in one area, draw an outline of that area and fill in the empty space.

5) Use the Kneaded dough to lighten up areas. Since it can be molded into a small point, utilize this. It can also be used to erase areas that are difficult for an eraser to use.

Note: Drawing takes time. As you do more drawings, you will improve.

Revising the Drawing

- 1) When the drawing is finished, wait for a couple of days. Do not look at the drawing at this time. Then, go back and correct anything what you see wrong. Errors are hard to catch right after you have finished drawing.
- 2) If there are areas on the paper where nothing was drawn, take an eraser and erase in that area. This will reveal a cleaner area. Remember to use the paintbrush.
- 3) Once everything is finished, put in your signature. Include the year if you want to.

Conclusion

Concentrate on what you see. It's the most important thing about drawing. Control of the pencil is easily accomplished in time. As more drawings are done, your concentration level and level of detail grows. With patience and dedication, drawing can become an awarding activity.