



Drawing and Design

Students are introduced to the primary concepts of drawing and design using exercises and readings designed to enhance artistic skills and appreciation. These drawing and design principles develop a student's capacities to think creatively and to develop an eye for aesthetics. Exercises include gestural drawing, contour drawing, the use of values to add dimension, portraits, visual composition, and proportion. Students gain experience drawing with pencil, charcoal, colored pencils, soft pastels, and oil pastels.

Materials needed for this course include:

Oak Meadow Drawing and Design Syllabus

The Art of Seeing (Prentice Hall)

Drawing & Design

Oak Meadow Syllabus

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Part I: Introduction

This course is the first course in Oak Meadow's Fine Arts series. It introduces students to the basics of drawing, the language of art, and the primary concepts and elements of visual organization and design. Students will build visual thinking processes, learn techniques of drawing, explore uses of color in pastels and pencil work, and develop their artistic skills.

This course is a building block to further study that will develop a student's skills in both two- and three-dimensional design, but will also benefit students who do not elect to move forward into other visual arts classes. These concepts in drawing and design principles will develop a student's capacities to think creatively and to see the importance of aesthetics within their lives and other academic studies. Students should keep an open mind to these exercises and work hard at appreciating their own unique gifts of creative engagement.

The textbook for this course is *The Art of Seeing* by Paul Zelanski and Mary Pat Fisher. You will find this book a rich resource as you develop your artistic skills. While we reference only a small part of it in this course, feel free to peruse it at length. When you are assigned passages to read, make sure to study the artwork that accompanies each section. When you see a work of art referenced, take the time not only to study the art itself, but also to read the description of the work, which includes the artist's name, date, medium, actual size, and other interesting notes.

If you continue to develop as an artist and take other art courses in the future, you will no doubt find *The Art of Seeing* to be an invaluable resource. The sections on painting, mixed media, printmaking, photography and film making, sculpting, architecture, and much more may be of interest to you as your explorations in creative expression unfold. Keep this text handy and refer to it often, and it will inform and inspire your art.

Introduction

(continued)

FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS

Work Submission

As you complete each lesson, it is important that all your completed artwork be photographed or photocopied, and then sent, either as an email attachment or through the postal mail, to your Oak Meadow teacher for assessment. You may also want to photograph the artwork in progress and to share the different stages of the artwork with your teacher. Please remember to send all written work, including self-assessments and essays, to the teacher, as well.

Materials List

- drawing pencils (any type, ebony pencils are excellent)
- drawing paper, two sizes, notebook size and larger
- watercolor paper or a textured paper
- kneaded eraser
- charcoal sticks or pencils
- black, white, and gray construction paper
- color pencils
- soft pastels (any number of colors)
- oil pastels (any number of colors)
- painter's tape

Optional

- watercolors

Unit 1

Understanding the Gestural

Drawing is intimidating for some students. However, it should never feel that way. While some great artists express their thinking in drawings in remarkable ways, such as the notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo, other artists see drawing as a means to capture and understand visual forms. In this unit, we will explore the gestural line, which will become the foundation of all your drawings.

Support Your Understanding: Artistic impulse comes from within and is outwardly expressed by creating something. Read about this “Creative Impulse” on pages 13-14 in *The Art of Seeing*.

What Is a Gestural Drawing? Gesture is a motion you make with your hands or body to express a feeling or convey an emotion. If you see someone who gestures in a conversation, you might observe that the hand and body movements are fast and communicate just as much meaning as what that person could be saying in words.

In gestural drawing, this is also true. Gestural drawings are **expressive**. They are also **fast** in the way the gestures are expressed. Lines are rapidly sketched onto the paper by the artist.

Gestural drawings are **not always representational**. This means they do not always look exactly like what is being represented on paper. The beauty of these drawings has much more to do with their energy and their motion.

Gestural Drawing

A drawing created with light flowing lines, often used by artists as the preliminary sketch for any piece of art.

Understanding the Gestural

(continued)

DRAWING TIP

Gestural Drawing:
All about the line!

energy

motion

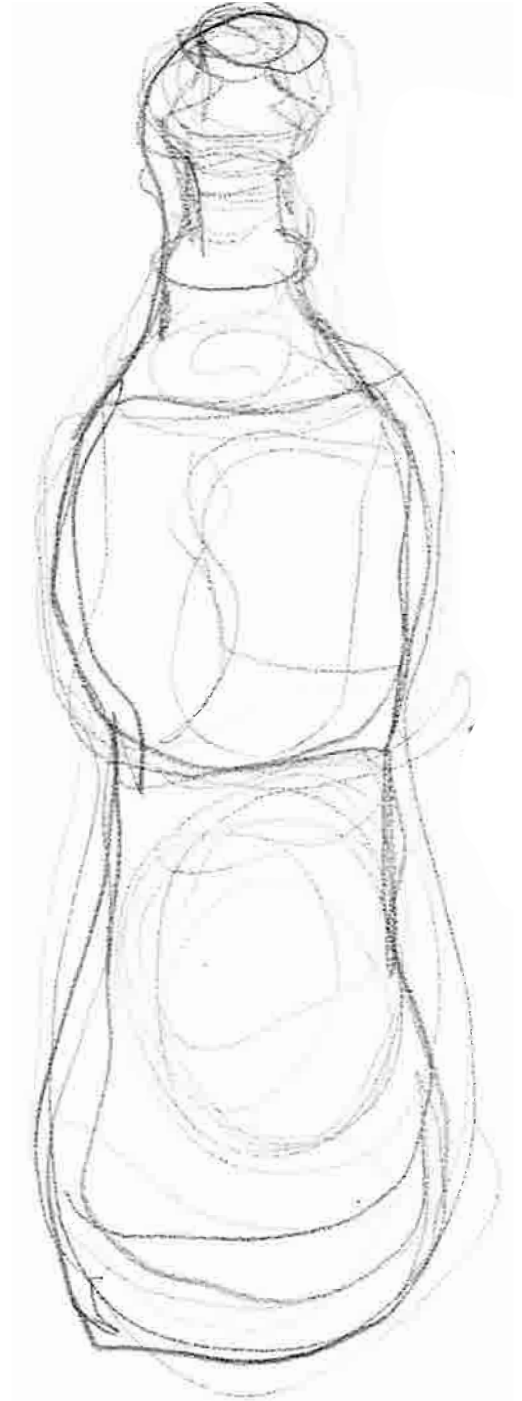
speed

gentle, light lines

drawing continuously

Gestural Drawing Guidelines

1. You must work fast. **TIME YOURSELF** through these first five lessons.
2. When you have objects in front of you, keep your eyes **MORE** on the objects than on your paper. This will feel uncomfortable at first because you will want to look at what you are drawing to make sure you are “doing it right.” But don’t worry about that! Stay focused and force yourself to look at the objects, only glancing at your paper occasionally just to make sure your lines are going where you want them.
3. Draw lightly on your paper. Gestural lines are fast and light.
4. Draw continuously. This means do not take your pencil off of your paper.
5. Do **NOT** judge your ability on how it looks. Strive to feel the form in front of you and express it in gesture.
6. Work all over your paper. Do not work in one tiny corner. Instead, keep the lines and energy all over the page.



Capture overall shape with fast gestural lines—shape emerges!

Lesson



Three-Minute Gestural Drawings

Lesson Goals

You will complete five, three-minute gestural drawings for Lesson 1.

Three minutes may not seem like a lot of time to complete a drawing but frankly, it is. You will set a timer to keep you on track. This lesson will help you become familiar with a few things:

- Working swiftly
- Timing yourself
- Drawing continuously
- Keeping your eyes on the object you are drawing

Support Your Understanding: The line is the fundamental building block of drawing. Read about “Line” on pages 57-58 and “Implied Line” on pages 63-66.

Preparation

Locate five objects around your house. Kitchen items work well, such as cups, mugs, bowls, vases, salt and pepper shakers, teapots, and teacups. (Avoid plates and silverware as these may pose proportional difficulties during this first lesson.) Other household objects that work well include books, telephones, computers, and knickknacks, as long as they are not too detailed.

Step by Step

1. Take out your paper and soft lead pencil. You will **NOT** use your eraser.
2. Choose one of the objects and place it in front of you.
3. Start the timer and begin drawing. Focus your eyes on the object, keep your pencil **GENTLY** on the paper, and keep lines light and fast.

Every artist was first an amateur.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

DRAWING TIP

For the gestural drawing, **THINK SPEED**, not accuracy!

Lesson 1

(continued)

Keep your pencil moving at all times. Do NOT take your pencil off the paper, and do not look at your paper, except to glance. Study that object, even if it is a simple mug. Feel the energy of the lines outside, inside, and all around the object.

4. When the time is up, get a fresh piece of paper and place the second object in front of you. Restart your timer.
5. Repeat this process with all five objects.

Lesson



Assignments

1. Locate five household objects.
2. Create five gestural drawings.
3. Complete each drawing in three minutes.

Lesson



One-Minute Gestural Drawings

Lesson Goals

You will continue to develop your skill with the gestural line by completing five, one-minute gestural drawings.

These first five lessons are all about gestural drawing. Just as an athlete prepares for an athletic event by training or a dancer prepares with rehearsals, an artist becomes skilled at techniques through drawing practice. Lesson 2 works on increasing your speed by setting your timer at ONE MINUTE for each gestural drawing. These drawings should still have only one or at most two objects as the subject, but the time for capturing them on paper will be shorter. You must force yourself to draw faster, moving your pencil more rapidly across the paper and studying the objects with intense focus.

Support Your Understanding: On pages 198-201 in *The Art of Seeing*, read the introduction to Drawing and the section on “Approaches to Drawing.” Pay particular attention to the gestural drawings by Michelangelo.

Preparation

Choose five to ten objects. You will draw one to two objects at a time, so clear a space where you can display one to two objects in front of you.

Step by Step

1. Begin just as you did with Lesson One, but set your timer for one minute.
2. Repeat this exercise until you have five drawings.

Lesson 2

(continued)



Assignments

1. Locate five to ten household objects.
2. Create five gestural drawings.
3. Complete each drawing in one minute.



Your Doodle Space

