

Materials:

8 ½ x 11 paper
Black Perm Marker,
Pencil & Soft Charcoal
Still Life arrangement

Advance Contour Drawing

LAB 1

Contour Drawings

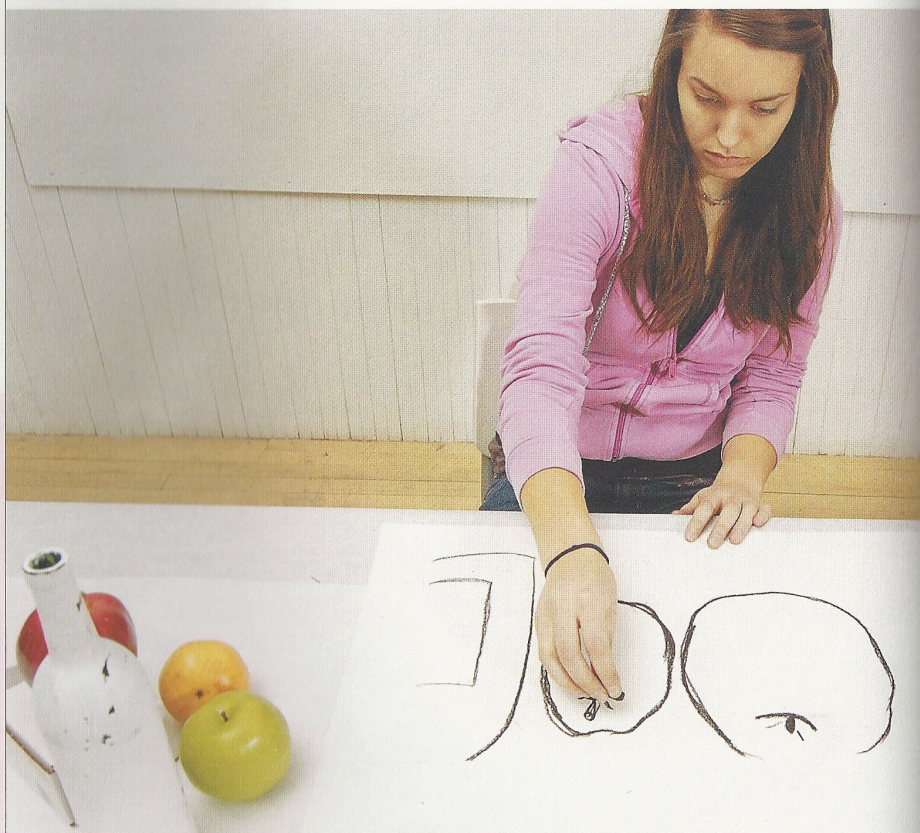
Materials

- drawing paper
- permanent black marker, thin or thick point
- soft pencil
- charcoal
- still life made up of simple objects, such as fruit, bottles, bowls, vases, and boxes

Think First: Contour drawing is one way to begin any two-dimensional artwork. Arrange your objects so some of them overlap and some have spaces between them. Take a few moments to look at the edges of each of the objects you have placed in your composition. Trace your finger around them in the air to get a feel for their edges. Starting an artwork with a good contour drawing can be very helpful!

Go Further

- Perform this exercise in your sketchbook each day for a month, using different objects
- Make a "blind contour" drawing by looking at the objects only, not the paper, while you are drawing. This is a great way to improve your ability to "see" the object and train your hand with your eye.



Let's Go!

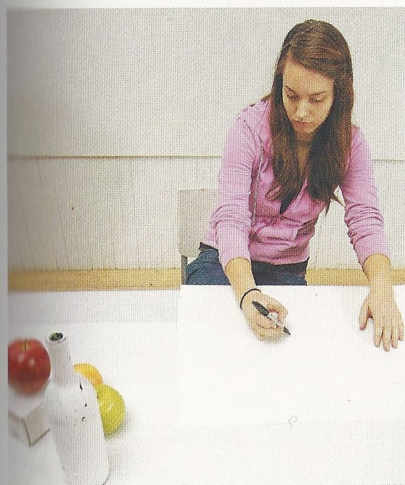


Fig. 1: Follow the edges with your eye to draw them.

1. After studying the edges of the objects, begin drawing them with the permanent marker, from one side of the composition to the other. Some people like to work from the back-ground to the front. Try both ways to find your favorite (fig. 1).
2. Remember to eliminate all of the extras—just outline the objects.

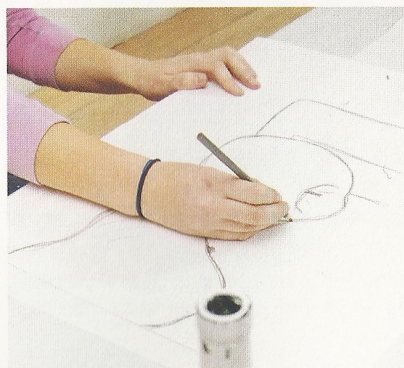


Fig. 2: Leave out details and draw just the outline.

3. Continue to draw all of the objects until they are all sketched in (fig. 2).
4. Draw the same still life with the soft pencil and then with the charcoal (fig. 3).

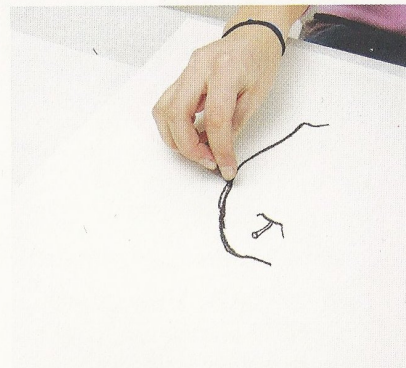


Fig. 3: Try the same drawing with charcoal.

5. Enjoy the process of getting to know your composition through contour drawing with three different materials. You can finish off your artwork with color if you desire.

Meet the Artist: Rose Sielian Theriault

Rose Theriault, an artist from New Hampshire, has taught high school art for more than thirty years. She works in a variety of media and loves still life drawing and etching. *Pears Squared* is an etching showing the essence of contour drawing. Rose uses this technique often in her bold and beautiful work.

Pears Squared by Rose Sielian Theriault

