

College Guild

PO Box 6448 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Drawing From the Inside Out

Unit 2 of 7

UNIT 2: Seeing With A Lover's Eye, Contour Drawing

*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking
new landscapes, but in having new eyes."*

~ Marcel Proust



If you took Precision Drawing, you have tried contour drawing. However, most students have not been able to do this assignment -- it's just too hard not to look at your paper when drawing. So, I challenge you here to follow the instructions exactly.

As children, we use the left side of the brain to categorize and name things. That side does not need to have details, just general symbols that allow us to distinguish one thing from another. When we learn to read, it does the same thing. So, we don't have enough information to draw something as it truly is. We tend to draw it as we learned to imagine it while naming things. So, this exercise is very important to bypass the left side and get to the right side of the brain which wants to get all the details.

While you are doing this exercise, your left brain will want you stop and you will have a hard time not looking at your paper. If you do look you will now help the brain to adapt as it needs to draw well. So, don't cheat!!!!

Assignment 1:

Look at any object that you find interesting or have an emotional feeling about. Or if nothing grabs you, look at the top of your shoe. Put your non-drawing hand and turn so that you cannot see it. Turn your head instead to the object you are drawing.

Take your pencil or pen and place the point on the paper on the place where you want to start drawing this object. **THEN**, do not look at your paper again until you are finished drawing. Start moving your pencil slowly looking **ONLY** at the outside line of the object you are drawing. Remember, do not give in to that strong desire to look and see how you are doing. If you look, you will no longer be mastering this lesson. Sometimes it is easiest to not take your pencil off the paper. You may want to look down to find out where to place it, but do **NOT** do that. Keeping your point on the paper may make it easier for you.

1. Do the above with two different objects.

The purpose is for you to see the object distinctly from the way you have ever seen it before. You may be unable to really recognize the object on the paper in any real sense when you are finished. But if you have not cheated, you will have begun to see better, the first step for drawing well in the future.

Practicing this on your own while you await the next Unit would really help you more. Plan to take at least fifteen minutes with each drawing, more if you can, so move your hand and eye slowly. It is important to have your eyes and hand coordinated at exactly the same place.

Assignment 2:

The purpose now is to create new pathways in your brain that allow you to have better eye hand coordination. This works if you do it repeatedly. So...

2. Do two drawings on each of the next four days. DO NOT CHEAT, for if you do, the lessons will not help you in any way. If you do look, discard the drawing and start again. This will all take discipline, but you can do it.

Assignment 3:

Finally, make a drawing that is not copied from any other picture. It should be something you remember that is unpleasant and not to your liking. Do it as you feel it and see it in your mind's eye, not as you might think someone else would like. It's what you draw, not what someone else thinks you should draw.

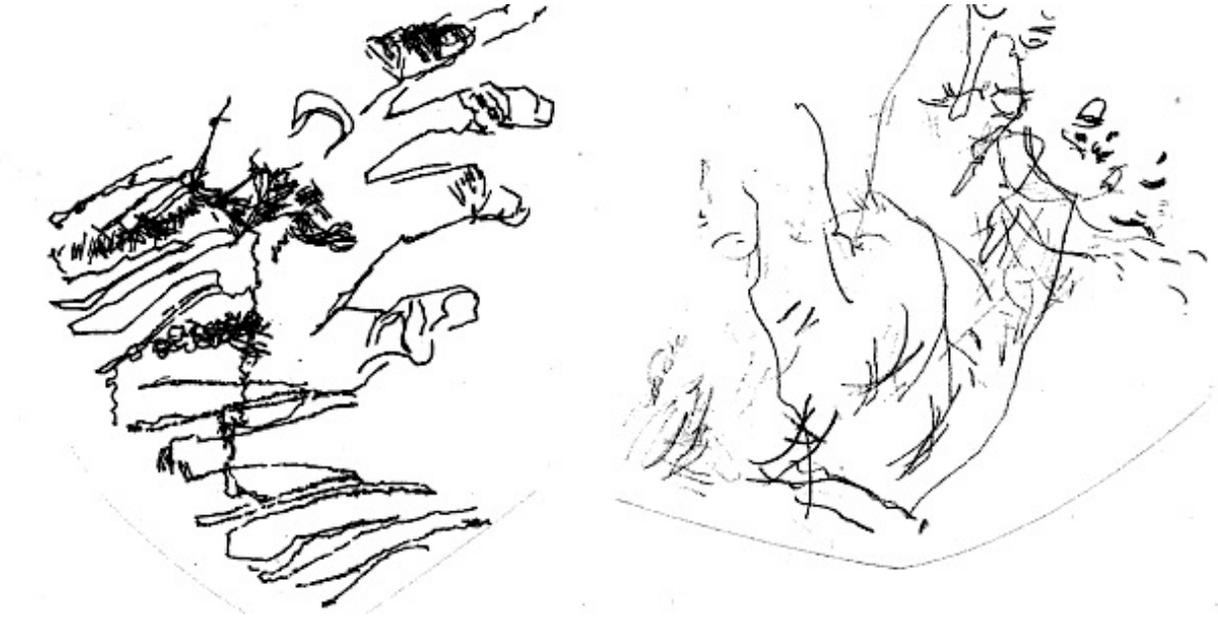
3. Send that drawing, or more than one if you wish.

Here is a drawing owned by the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. It might be a drawing of an unpleasant event in someone's life.



Shown below are pure contour drawing examples of the student's hand. We recommend your foot because if you do not hold your paper with your non-drawing hand, it will move without taping it to the table. Also, you need to really look away from your paper where you cannot see what you are doing even from the side of your eye.





Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes