

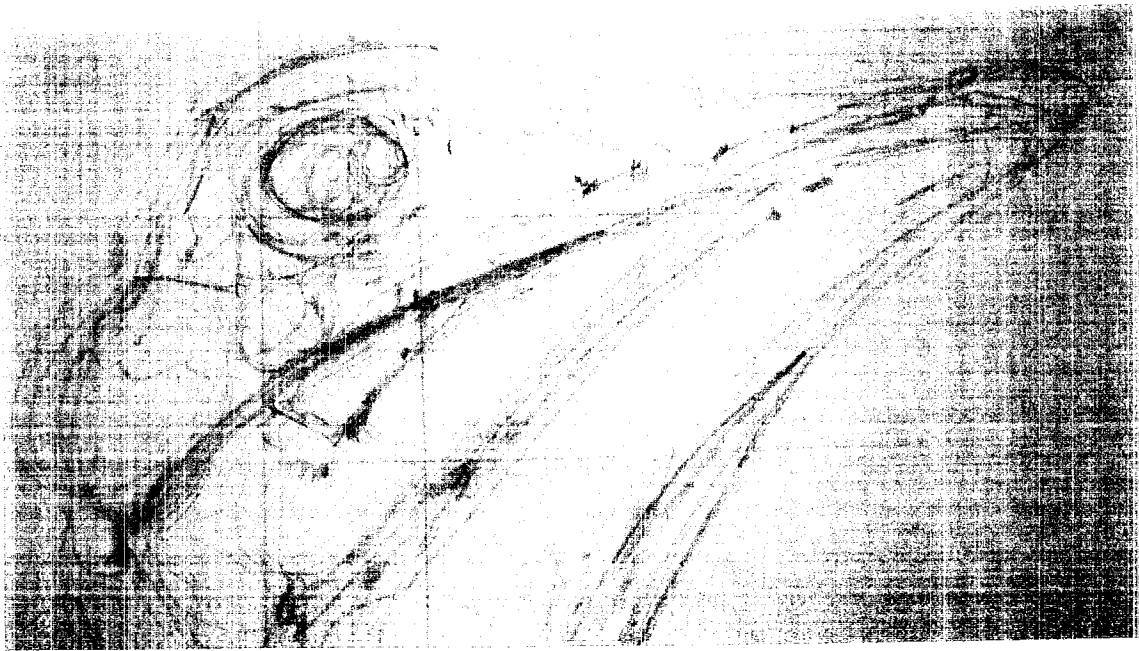


To draw what you see accurately, you have to do three things at once:

The first skill is *contour drawing*, the second *establishing location*, and the third is *measuring relationships*.

Here is a fast summary of how I draw an ostrich, the largest of the living birds. The ostrich inhabits African savannas and deserts as shown on the shaded areas of the map above. It can run 70 kilometers an hour for short periods.

I begin by doing a light *contour drawing* of all the edges of the subject. I go very slowly.



After contour I begin to *crawl*, making my line move from each little detail or bump to the next. The arrows on the drawing below show how I moved from the eye downward. Crawling is doing contour on the inside of your subject.



Next I *establish location* of the important parts. On the drawing below, I drop a line **down** from the front of the eye and it shows me where the mouth starts. I also draw a line **across** the top to the eye and this shows me that the beak is as high as the top of the eye.





Next I begin to do the three things at once. You can see that my line has gotten darker.

I am slowly going over each contour (edge) of my subject. Whether it is important (an eye) or not (a bump) I **slowly** correct each contour.

And lastly I am *measuring and checking relationships*. The eye to the tip of the beak is the same as the top of the head to the beginning of the neck.

Modeling is making shadows. I will cover this in later lessons

This must seem confusing to be doing all these things at once. That is why I am breaking the lessons down into the various skills and in future lessons, we will try to put these skills together.

PART 2: CONTOURS

In the first lesson we will concern ourselves only with contour drawing. We will practice contour drawing until we understand it. Then we will move on to the other skills and finally put them all together.

The idea of contour drawing is to look at an object slowly and carefully and follow its contour or edge with your eyes and draw a line on your paper which corresponds to this contour.

It does not have to look like the object you are drawing. To do contour drawing right you only have to concentrate on the object and draw its contour very slowly. You are trying to look carefully and slow down. You will get lost and make things out of proportion. This is O.K.

You will get correct positions and lengths later. The longer you take to draw the object and the more you can slow down and concentrate, the better you will become at contour drawing.

I had a student use his own hand for this **example. Do not trace your hand, just look at your hand and not at your paper very much. You can peek down at your paper every so often.** You can travel inside the object over bumps and curves, the point is to make the pencil move as slowly as possible and look at everything!

ASSIGNMENT 1: spend three minutes drawing your hand. Try again and this time try to spend 5 minutes. Finally spend 10 minutes drawing your hand. Think of every bump and vein as worth something.



ASSIGNMENT 2: Contour drawing of your shoe.

Put your shoe on the floor or bed and sit about three feet away from it. Begin at the top-center of the shoe and slowly draw a line all around the shoe. Go as slowly as you can. You can peek at your paper occasionally just to check where you are. But don't worry about what the drawing looks like. Begin with a 5 minute shoe drawing. Take another view and try to spend ten minutes. This time feel free to go inside the shoe, drawing all the contours you see.

Did you feel yourself slip into the art zone and forget everything but the task at hand? Did it happen with the short contour drawing? Or longer one? Write a sentence about how this felt.

EXTRA CREDIT; Pick another object in your cell, your shirt for instance, and do a ten minute contour drawing.



ASSIGNMENT 3: For every unit in this course, the final assignment will be to draw a picture of anything you choose.