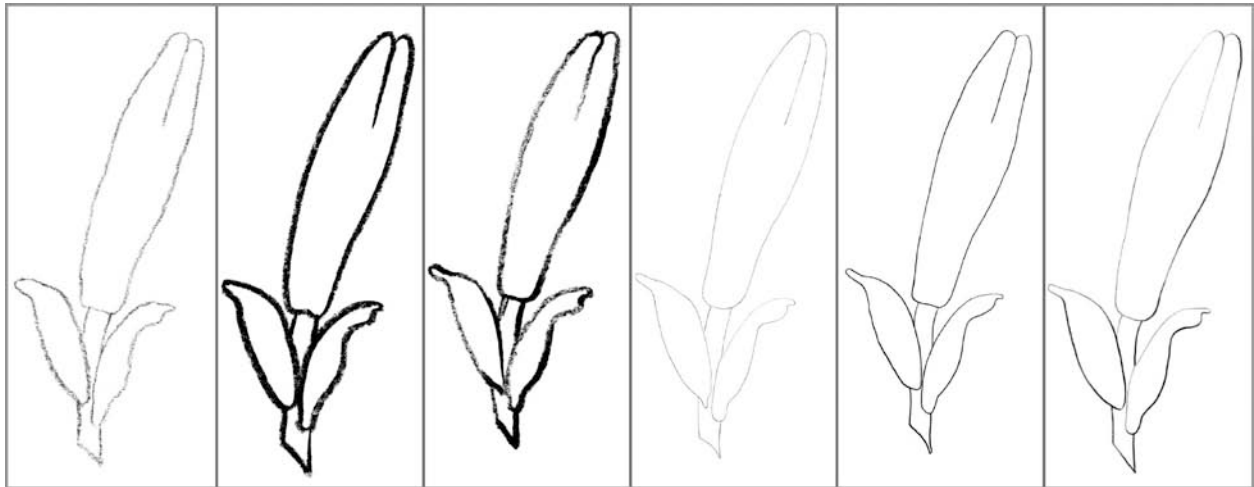


VARIATIONS OF BUD

Brenda Hoddinott



C12 BEGINNER: DRAW WITH LINES

Line drawings can look very different from one another even when the subject is identical. In this project, you draw six different versions of a simple flower bud based on a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci (of course, I named it Bud).

This project is divided into the following four sections:

- ✓ **Introduction**
- ✓ **The Process of Drawing Each Bud**
- ✓ **Soft Grades Create Light and Dark Lines**
- ✓ **Hard Grades Create Light and Dark Lines**

Suggested supplies: paper, 6H, 4H, 2H, HB, 4B, and 6B graphite pencils, 2B and 4B charcoal pencils, kneaded and vinyl erasers, sandpaper block, and pencil sharpener

This project is recommended for artists from age 10 to adult, as well as students of home schooling, academic, and recreational fine art educators.

7 PAGES – 11 ILLUSTRATIONS



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INTRODUCTION

When you know several different ways to draw lines, your drawings can evolve into more intriguing artworks that engage viewers for a longer period of time.

For instance, you can draw lines of different thicknesses and values by simply varying the pressure used when holding a pencil.

Also, using a variety of grades of pencils provides you with a whole new exciting selection of potential lines. You can draw outlines with only hard grades of pencils, only soft grades, or a combination of both. Your choices greatly influence the overall appearance and impact of your drawings.

My sketch of a flower in Figure 1201 (based on a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci) is a combination of light, dark, thick, and thin lines.



Figure 1201: The shapes of a flower are outlined with various types of lines that are rendered with different techniques.

ArtSpeak

Drawing (noun) is an image created on a drawing surface with a drawing medium.

Drawing (verb) refers to the process of applying a medium to a surface to create an image.

Grade refers to the softness or hardness of the mixture used in the manufacture of drawing mediums.

Graphite is a soft black form of opaque (non-transparent) carbon found in nature. It is often mixed with clay to make various types of drawing tools for artists.

Line is the visually identifiable path of a point moving in space. Straight, angle, and curved lines can vary in width, direction, and length, and are used in drawings to visually separate and (or) define the forms of the various components of a drawing subject.

Shape refers to the outward outline of a three-dimensional object.

Sketch (noun) is a simple drawing of the important parts of a subject. A sketch is usually done quickly with simple lines and (or) shading.

Sketch (verb) refers to the process of doing a sketch.

Proportion is the relationship in size of one component of a drawing to another or others.

Technique is a well known method (such as a specific way to do shading) that is used to accomplish a particular activity or task. For example, more than one shading technique may be suitable for a specific drawing. Hence, an artist's selection of a shading technique is generally based on his or her skill level and what works best to capture the subject.

THE PROCESS OF DRAWING EACH BUD

In this project, you draw six different versions of bud by simply using different grades of pencils and methods of drawing lines. Following is the four-step process you use for each of the six drawings:

Step 1: Draw the bud as a long oval shape that splits into two sections at the top.

Step 2: Outline the leaf on the left.

Step 3: Outline a second leaf on the right.

Step 4: Add the stem.

Figure 1202:
Step 1



Figure 1203:
Step 2



Figure 1204:
Step 3

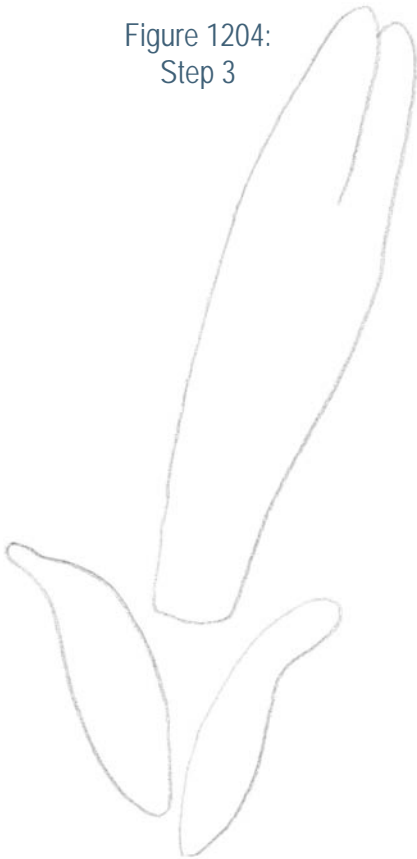
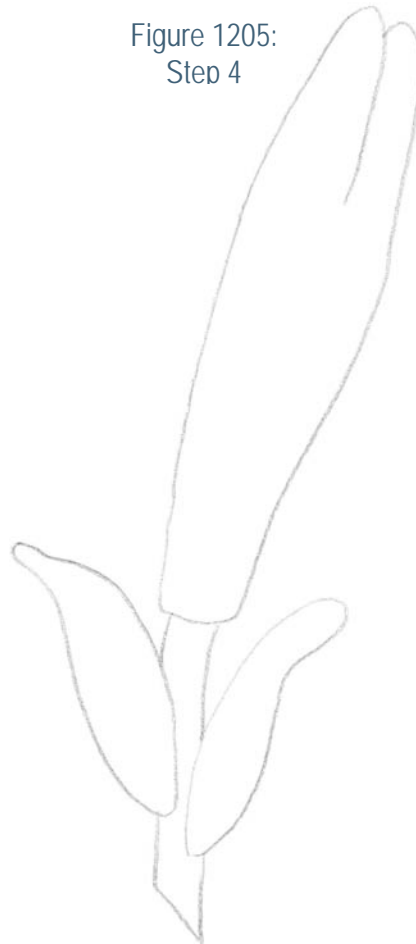


Figure 1205:
Step 4



When you complete each of the following six drawings, mark the grade of the pencil (or pencils) used on the back of the paper. You can then refer back to your drawings and notes at any time to duplicate a specific technique.

Don't worry about sketching accurate shapes or proportions. Your goal is to simply create a slightly different drawing with each of the techniques discussed.

SOFT GRADES CREATE LIGHT AND DARK LINES

The following three exercises challenge you to create three different drawings of Bud by varying the pressure used when holding a soft grade of drawing pencil. All three techniques are perfect for sketching anything; from figure studies and portraits to landscapes and still life.

Drawing 1: Soft pencil makes light outlines

Use a 4B graphite pencil or a 2B charcoal pencil with a slightly worn-down point, to sketch the bud with continuous lines. Hold the pencil loosely so only its weight touches the paper (Figure 1206).

Drawing 2: Soft pencil makes dark outlines

Press firmly with the well-worn point of a 4B graphite pencil or a 2B charcoal pencil to sketch the flower bud with dark, continuous lines (Figure 1207). Be careful not to press so hard that you dent the paper!

Figure 1206:
The soft charcoal of a 2B charcoal pencil sits on the tips of the peaks of a paper's surface, resulting in a light outline.

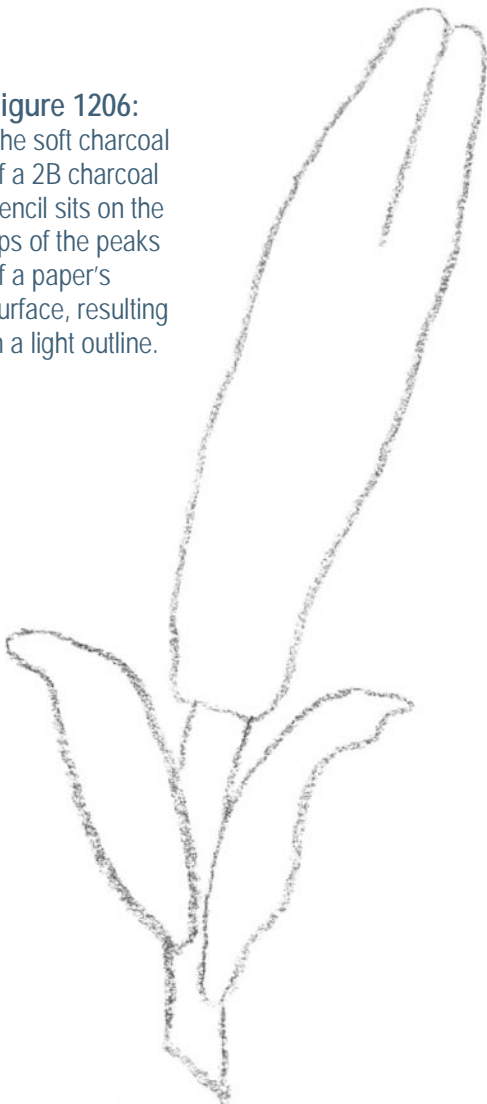


Figure 1207: A dark outline is rendered by pressing firmly with a 2B charcoal pencil.



Drawing 3: Soft pencil makes dark and light outlines

Draw Bud again by continuously changing the pressure you apply to the 4B graphite pencil or a 2B charcoal pencil (Figure 1208). Press hard when you want a dark line; gradually ease off to make the line lighter, and slowly build up the pressure to go darker again. You can also draw darker lines over sections of light lines.

HARD GRADES CREATE LIGHT AND DARK LINES

The process of using hard pencils to draw shapes is similar to using soft pencils.

However, by keeping the pencils freshly sharpened, the resulting drawings look very different.

The following three exercises provide you with opportunities to draw three additional sketches of Bud.

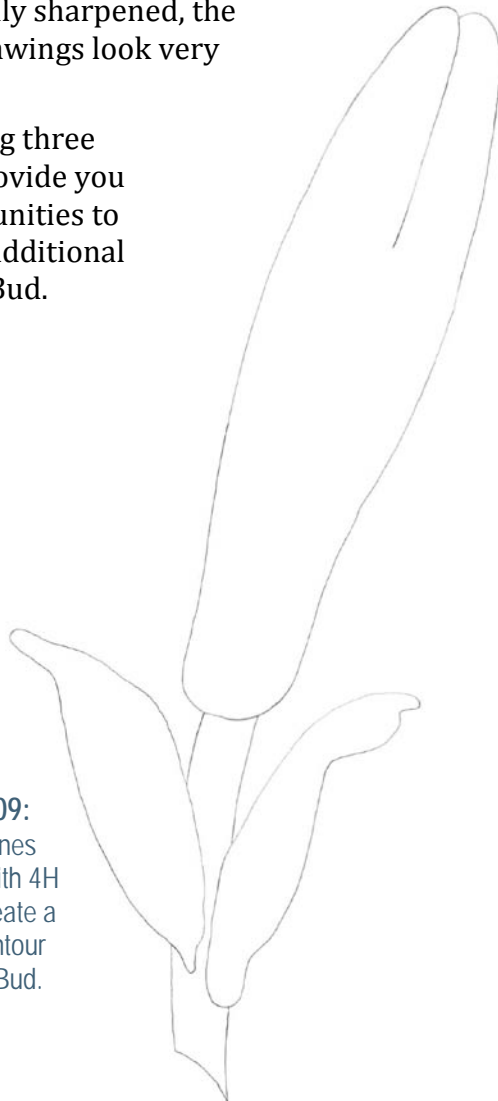


Figure 1209:
Thin, light lines rendered with 4H graphite create a delicate contour drawing of Bud.

Figure 1208: A combination of light and dark outlines adds interest to the drawing.



Drawing 4: 4H graphite pencil creates very light outlines

Apply very little pressure to a sharpened 4H graphite pencil to sketch Bud with continuous light lines (Figure 1209).

I used a 0.3 mechanical pencil and a 4H lead. To make your lines as thin as mine with a wood-encased pencil, you need to sharpen the point frequently as you work.

Drawing 5: HB graphite pencil creates dark outlines

Use a freshly sharpened HB pencil to sketch Bud with continuous dark lines (Figure 1210). Press firmly with the pencil. I used a 0.5 mechanical pencil and an HB lead. Use sandpaper to keep the point of a regular pencil sharpened.

Drawing 6: Two H graphite pencils work together to combine light and dark outlines

Outline Bud again with a 4H pencil, and then use an HB to darken some sections of the outlines (Figure 1211). Continuously sharpen the points as needed.

Figure 1210:
The shapes of Bud are outlined with dark, thin lines by using the freshly sharpened point of an HB pencil.

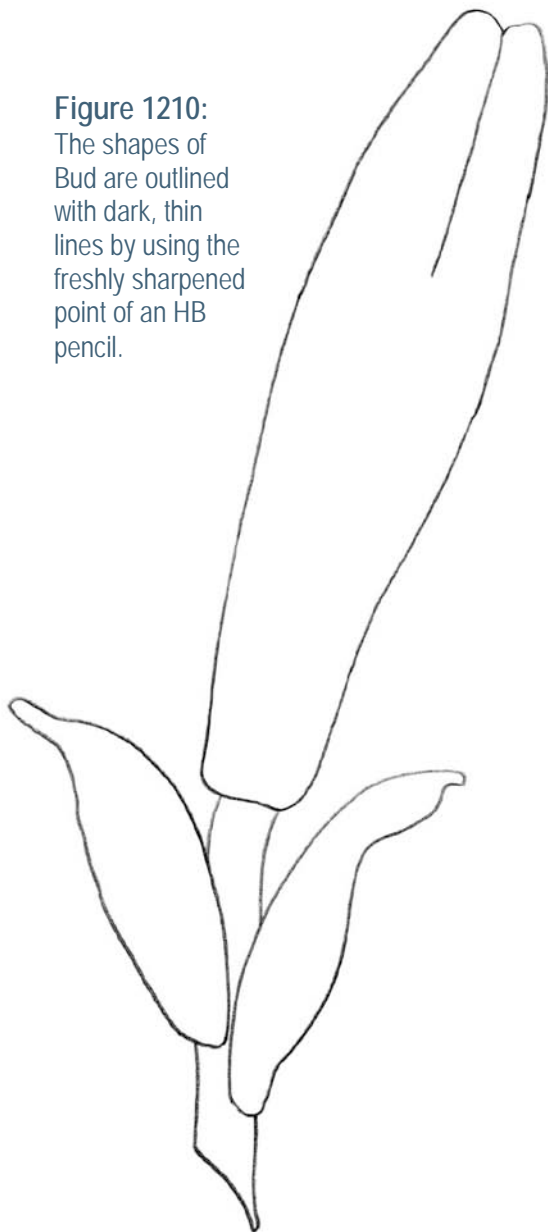
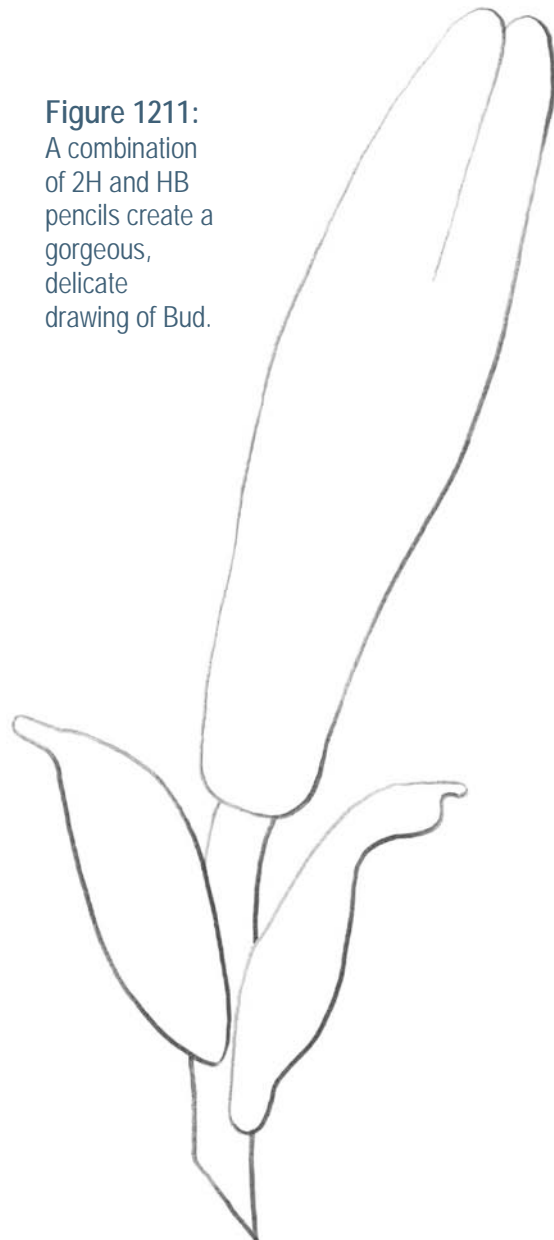


Figure 1211:
A combination of 2H and HB pencils create a gorgeous, delicate drawing of Bud.



CHALLENGE

Draw a variety of shapes with hard grades of graphite pencils (such as 6H, 4H, 2H, and HB). Then, use a combination of grades along with different techniques to sketch simple objects.

Draw several different shapes by using soft grades of pencils (such as 6B graphite or 4B charcoal) and a variety of different techniques. Sketch a few simple objects from life.



BRENDA HODDINOTT

As a self-educated teacher, visual artist, portraitist, forensic artist (retired), and illustrator, Brenda Hoddinott utilizes diverse art media including her favorites: graphite and paint.

Brenda is the author of *Drawing for Dummies* (Wiley Publishing, Inc., New York, NY) and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Drawing People* (Winner of the Alpha-Penguin Book of the Year Award 2004, Alpha - Pearson Education - Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN). She is currently writing two new books.

My philosophy on teaching art is to focus primarily on the enjoyment aspects while gently introducing the technical and academic. Hence, in creating a passion for the subject matter, the quest for knowledge also becomes enjoyable.

>Brenda Hoddinott<

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brenda grew up in the small town of Corner Brook. She developed strong drawing and painting skills through self-directed learning.

During her twenty-five year career as a self-educated civilian forensic artist, various criminal investigation departments have employed Brenda's skills, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1992, Brenda was honored with a commendation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Membership from "Forensic Artists International".

In 2003, Brenda retired from her careers as a forensic artist and teacher to work full time writing books and developing her website (Drawspace.com). This site is respected as a resource for fine art educators, home schooling programs, and educational facilities throughout the world.