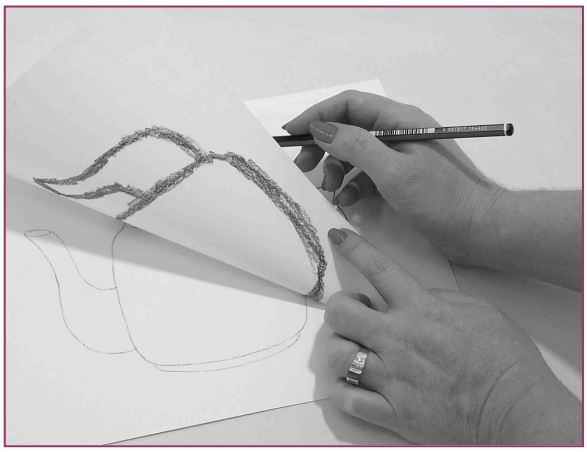
Transferring

AN IMAGE

By *Cindy Wider*

Art educator, art curricula designer, award-winning gallery-represented artist, and author of *Paint in Your Pyjamas*



J-04 INTERMEDIATE: SKILLS & SECRETS

A telltale sign of a professional artist is the ability to render a neat, clean artwork. Yet, quite often in early stages of the creative process, a potential masterpiece becomes irreparably smudged, soiled, or damaged. This wonderful simple technique shows you how experienced artists transfer the primary components of a drawing (or other image) to a fresh clean sheet of paper.

As an aside, this technique is unknown to many students of art, but is certainly not new; in fact, it can be traced (pun intended) back to the great masters of the Renaissance.

This exercise is divided into two sections:

- **SETTING UP FOR A TRANSFER:** All you need is an image to use for testing this technique, a good quality sheet of drawing paper, masking tape, and an HB, 2B, or 4B graphite pencil.
- **TRANSFERRING YOUR IMAGE:** In this section, you transfer the important parts of your image to a new sheet of paper.

6 PAGES – 3 ILLUSTRATIONS

This lesson is recommended for artists of all ages and skill levels, as well as students of home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators.

HODDINOTT PUBLISHING
DRAWSPACE.COM

Published by Hoddinott Publishing for
Drawspace.com, Halifax, NS, Canada - 2008

SETTING UP FOR A TRANSFER

Many students of art are in awe of a professional artist's ability to turn out neat clean drawings. However, in addition to many years of experience, professional artists also know a few artistic secrets. The technique taught in this lesson is unknown to many students of art, but is certainly not new; in fact, this technique can be traced (pun intended) back to the great masters of the Renaissance.

Most artists use rough sketch lines, marks, and measuring devices during the process of decision-making in the early stages of creating an artwork. Many artists even prefer working out potential problems such as proportion and perspective on inexpensive paper before beginning a masterpiece. In addition, drawings can be easily smudged, soiled, or damaged. Erasing all these markings can be very difficult (and sometimes impossible).

The good news is that you can easily transfer your initial rough sketch (or damaged drawing) onto another surface. Transferring a drawing to a fresh clean sheet of paper allows you to restart with all the important aspects, such as proportion already in place. You are then all ready for the fun parts such as shading and final details.

ARTSPEAK

Technique refers to a well-defined procedure, such as a particular way of rendering shading, used to accomplish a specific task. Quite often, more than one technique is suitable for successfully completing a task; hence, the artist's selection of a technique is generally based on individual preferences and personal style.

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

Perspective is a visual illusion in a drawing in which objects appear to become smaller, and recede into distant space, the farther away they are from the viewer.

Shading (noun) refers to the various values within a drawing that make images appear three-dimensional; (verb) the process of adding values to a drawing so as to create the illusion of texture, form and/or three-dimensional space.

Rough sketch is a quickly rendered drawing that illustrates the important elements of a subject with very few details.

Graphite is a soft black form of opaque carbon found in nature, often mixed with clay in the manufacture of graphite pencils.

Medium refers to a drawing tool, such as a graphite pencil, used to make marks on a drawing surface.

Texture refers to the surface detail of an object. The properties of a texture can be identified with vision, a sense of touch, and a general knowledge of the subject.

AS AN ASIDE

The word Renaissance, derived from the French word rebirth, refers to the diverse changes that occurred within European culture from the early twelfth century to the late sixteenth century.

Between 1480 and 1527, during the period known as the High Renaissance, many of history's most renowned artists created some of the greatest masterpieces our world has ever known.

During this short period in history, visual art developed more than at any other time since the beginning of mankind. Today, this rebirth, also referred to as new birth, continues its growth with a resurgence of the learning and teaching of traditional drawing techniques in home schooling, recreational, and academic learning environments.

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Time to take this technique for a test drive! You need:

- An image to use for testing this technique. Maybe you already have a rough sketch with the potential to become a great drawing. If not, print an image that you like from your computer files. This technique works best when the image to be transferred is on thin paper.
- An HB, 2B, or 4B graphite pencil.
- A sheet of good quality drawing paper.
- Masking tape

TIP!

Do not use graphite transfer paper! It does not erase easily and also stands out as quite a different texture than that created by graphite pencils.

TRANSFERRING YOUR IMAGE

In this section you transfer the important parts of your image to a new sheet of paper.

1) Use the side of an HB, 2B, or 4B pencil to rub the back of your image.

You can rub the entire backside of the image (by holding your pencil almost flat to your paper) or only the sections you want to transfer. Refer to Figure 401.

If you can see your drawing clearly enough through the page when you flip it over, you can rub the picture at your desk. However, if you can't see the image and do not wish to shade the entire back of the page, simply take your drawing over to a window, place it picture side out, and press it against the glass (so the sun allows your image to show through). If you want, you can tape the corners of the paper to the glass.



Figure 401: View of the backside of a sheet of drawing paper. A graphite pencil is used to rub the important parts of a drawing of a teapot.

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2) Flip your drawing back over so it's right side up.

3) Place it onto a fresh new sheet of drawing paper with the rubbed surface facing down.

4) Attach the image to the new paper with a small piece of masking tape on either end of the top of the page.

5) Press firmly (but not so hard that you indent your page) with an HB pencil or pen, and follow around the lines of your image that you want to transfer onto new paper.

Refer to Figure 402. Remember; be very careful not to indent your page! Test a small area first and check to see that it is working. The lines should be barely visible, just dark enough to see.) This process will transfer the image onto your new page ready for shading.

TIP!

2B and 4B pencils tend to make very dark transferred lines. If you are transferring an intricate image, an HB may work better.

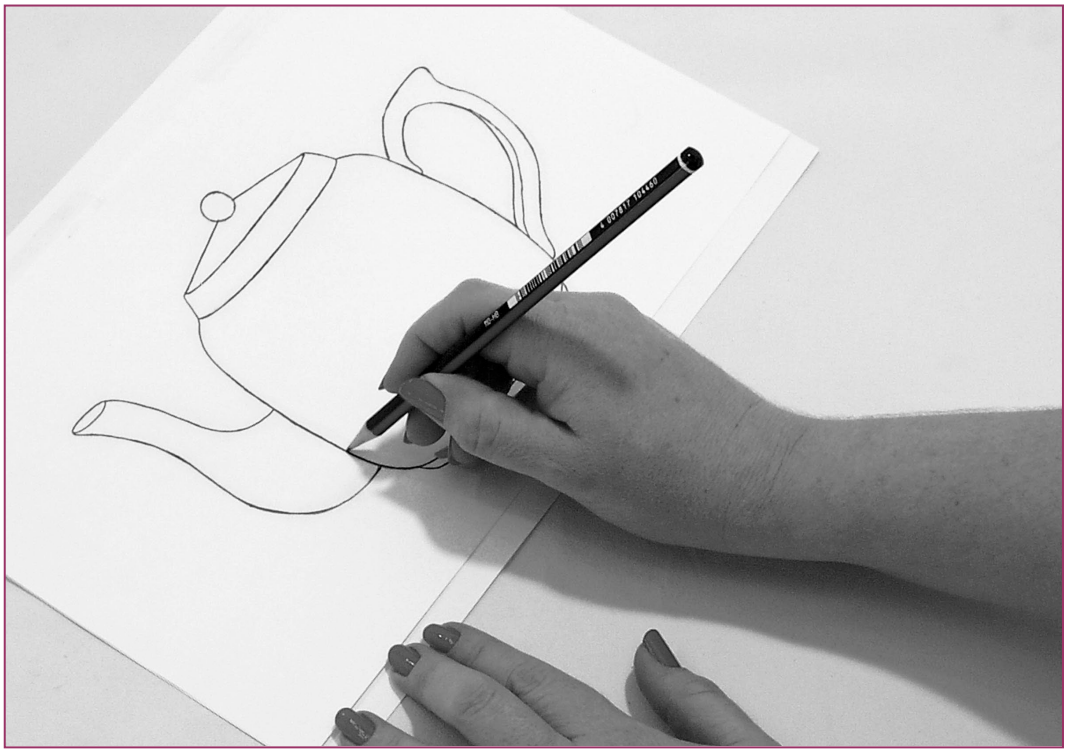


Figure 402: The image being transferred is on top of the new sheet of paper. A pencil is used to go over all important lines.

TIP!

Occasionally, you might see some indentation marks as a result of transferring your image. These show up as tiny white lines once you begin to shade the area. You can correct these sections by gently filling in the white area with the very tip of your HB or 2B pencil. Press super softly and stroke the area with gentle feather-like strokes.

Indentation marks pose more of a problem in the dark shadow areas. As you become more confident with your drawing skills, you can choose to draw the shadow shapes directly onto the newly transferred image (you will still have to draw super-soft to avoid indentation marks.)

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6) Gently lift up and remove your image to expose the transferred drawing underneath.

Refer to Figure 403. Your drawing is transferred. The image may not be as dark as in my illustration; I used a 4B pencil so that the transferred image would be dark enough for you to see clearly.

You are now ready to gently sketch your shadow and highlight shapes before you begin the shading process.

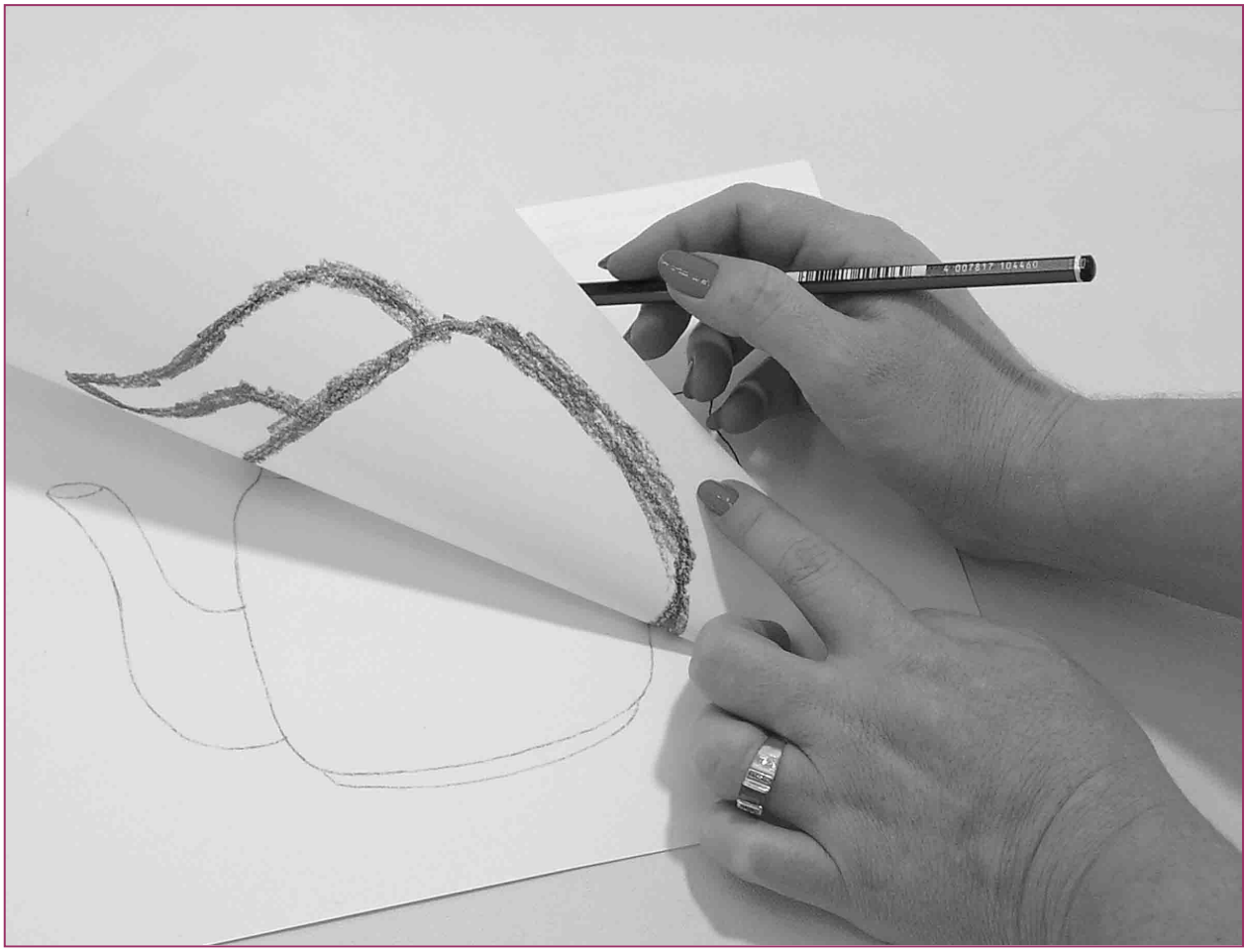


Figure 403: Your transferred lines should be very faint, much lighter than in this illustration. I have used a dark pencil so you can see the demonstration more clearly.

TIP!

If your image has come through darker than you wish, you can erase it back to barely visible. Use a kneaded eraser to gently pat the entire surface until the lines become very faint.

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Drawspace.com is proud to introduce

Cindy Wider

Art educator, art curricula designer, award-winning gallery-represented artist, and author of Paint in Your Pyjamas

Cindy Wider currently resides in Noosa on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, Australia with her husband Stuart, and daughters Isha and Sumaya.

Art philosophy

I believe that almost everyone has the natural gifts needed for learning to draw and paint, and that art has the ability to heal and help us to reach our full human potential. Art is the missing language that can bridge the gap in communication when words are not enough. It is my life purpose to share my love of art, through inspiring and motivating others to realize their natural gifts for drawing and painting.

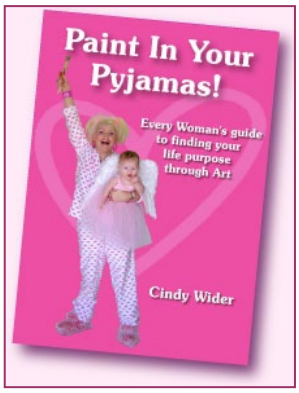
My passion for helping others to learn to draw and paint comes from the joy and excitement I experience through the process of creating art and my desire to share that feeling! I stumbled upon my natural gifts for art at the age of 23years and wished I had known about it sooner.

Professional accomplishments

After ten years of serious art study Cindy went on to become one of her community's leading artists with her artworks gracing the walls of many of the major hotels, corporate boardrooms and private homes as well as selling overseas. She began tutoring at the local Technical and Further Education College in 1988 and then went on to establish the largest on-going private art tuition school in Port Lincoln, then several years later in Noosa Queensland.

For many years Cindy worked as a part time freelance illustrator for the internationally renowned rubber stamp company, 'Annaleey crafts.' In 2005, along with her husband Stuart she was commissioned by the Microsoft Corporation to produce an original artwork for their Sydney headquarters, and limited edition prints for the annual corporate gift to their business associates.

You can view Cindy's paintings at: http://www.thecoopergallery.com.au/wider/wider.htm



Paint in Your Pyjamas

Have you been asking yourself, "Who am I and what do I really want out of life?" Perhaps you've been selflessly dedicating all your energy to your children or partner to help them fulfill their dreams and goals. Maybe you're working hard just to earn a living.

But now you feel the time has come to do something for yourself. If so, this book is just for you...

You can buy Cindy's book, 'Paint in Your Pyjamas – every Woman's guide to finding your life purpose through art' at:

http://www.paintinyourpyjamas.com/

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