



10 Drawing Truths

**A GUIDE TO
BETTER DRAWING**

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Number 1

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS CHEATING

FOR CENTURIES, TRACING ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE RENAISSANCE, ARTISTS HAVE FOUND “TRICKS” AND “SHORTCUTS” TO HELP THEIR ART. THEY EVEN COPIED EACH OTHER TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILL! USING A GRID, MEASURING EXTENSIVELY, AND WORKING FROM PHOTO REFERENCE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO TODAY TO HELP CREATE YOUR BEST ART. USE THE TOOLS AVAILABLE TO YOU AND SHARE YOUR VOICE WITH THE WORLD.



Number 2

YOUR TOOLS DON'T MATTER

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT PENCIL YOU USE, OR IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL KIND OF ERASER OR PEN. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE THE TOOL AND DEVELOP YOUR SKILL THAN IT IS TO HAVE A FANCY SET OF PENCILS. WHO CARES HOW EXPENSIVE YOUR PENCILS OR PAPER ARE IF YOU AREN'T YET SATISFIED WITH YOUR ABILITY TO DRAW?!



Number 3

DON'T COMPLETE EVERY ARTWORK

NOT ALL OF YOUR CREATIONS ARE MEANT TO BE FINISHED ARTWORKS. THERE IS VALUE IN EXPLORING NEW IDEAS AND EXPERIMENTING WITH TECHNIQUES AS YOU CREATE. THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE MISTAKES. SOMETIMES THERE WILL BE THINGS YOU CAN'T FIX. THIS IS A NATURAL PART OF CREATIVE PROCESS. GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO MAKE MISTAKES. GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO CELEBRATE THE LESSONS YOU LEARN BY MAKING MORE ART.



Number 4

USE ALL THE TOOLS YOU NEED

A SINGLE PENCIL CANNOT ALWAYS GIVE YOU THE VARIED MARKS OR GRADATIONS OF VALUE YOU SEEK IN FINISHED DRAWINGS. IT IS NOT CHEATING, NOR IS IT WRONG, TO WORK WITH A SET OF DIFFERENT PENCILS, OR TO INCORPORATE MIXED MEDIA TO ACHIEVE THE RESULTS YOU WANT FOR YOUR ART. ADD A BIT OF WHITE GOUACHE WHERE YOU NEED A STRONGER HIGHLIGHT. USE BLACK INK. WHY NOT?



Number 5

GET BIG RESULTS: FOCUS ON VALUE

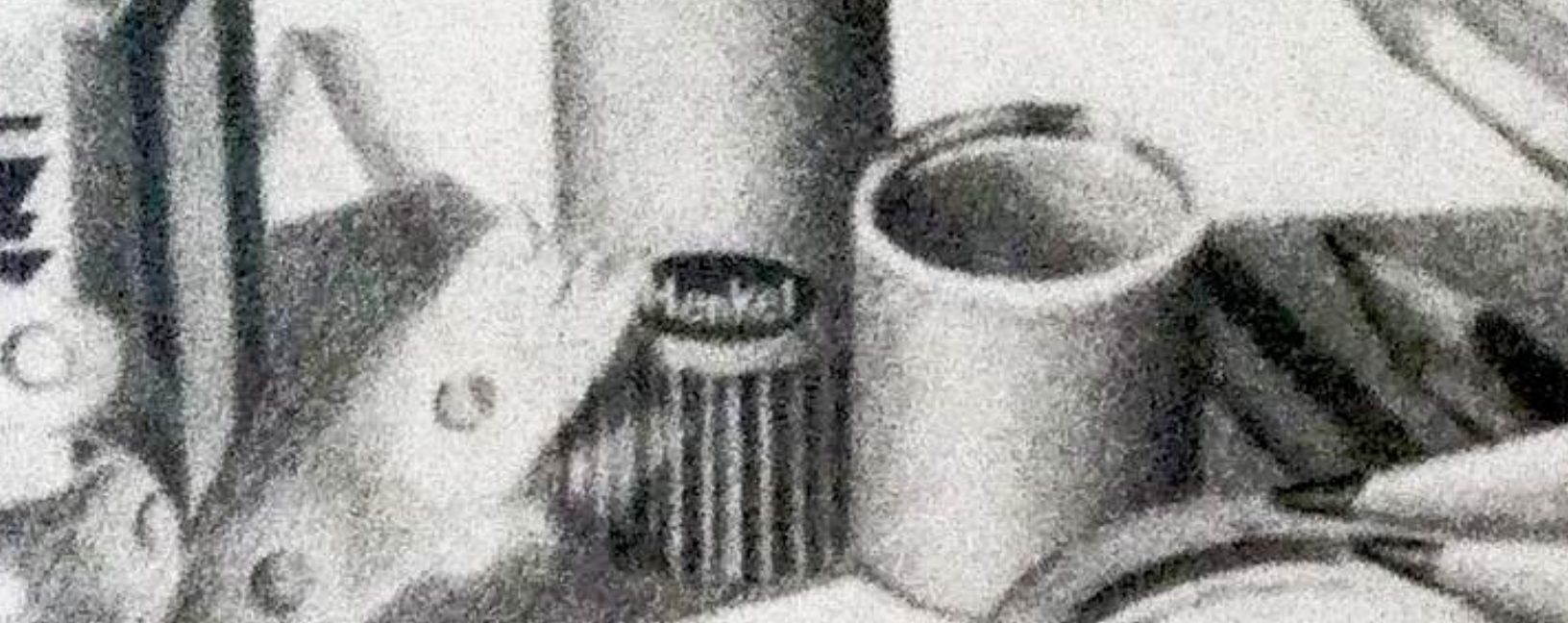
IF YOU WANT BIG RESULTS IN YOUR DRAWING BUILD ON YOUR VALUES. SO MANY ARTISTS LEAVE DRAWINGS WAY TOO LIGHT! MANY LEAVE MORE OF THE WHITE OF THE PAPER SHOWING THAN THE MARKS THEY MAKE. OTHERS ARE AFRAID OF MAKING THEIR DARKEST VALUES DARK. PUSH THE LIMITS OF YOUR PENCIL. USE SOFTER PENCILS. COMBINE YOUR MARKS WITH INK! DO WHAT YOU CAN TO ENSURE A TRUE VALUE SCALE OF WHITE TO BLACK IS EXHIBITED IN YOUR DRAWING.



Number 6

MEASUREMENT IS EVERYTHING

WE TALK ABOUT ART BEING ALL ABOUT FLOW. YES, THERE IS FLOW. BUT THERE IS ALSO MEASURED, STUDIED OBSERVATION. IF YOU WANT TO DRAW FROM PHOTOGRAPHS OR FROM OBSERVATION, REGULAR AND CONSISTENT MEASURING IS ABSOLUTELY KEY TO AN ACCURATE DRAWING. FIND AN OBJECT, LIKE AN EYE IN A PORTRAIT, FOR A BASELINE MEASUREMENT FOR THE REST OF YOUR DRAWING. HOW MANY EYES IS THE HEAD WIDE? HOW MANY EYES FIT THE WIDTH OF THE MOUTH?



Number 7

GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

MANY STUDENTS HAVE TOLD ME "BUT PEOPLE ARE SO HARD!" YES. AND NO. PEOPLE ARE ONLY HARDER THAN LANDSCAPES IF YOU THINK THEY ARE MORE DIFFICULT. LANDSCAPES ARE ONLY HARDER TO DRAW THAN STILL LIFES IF YOU THINK THEY ARE MORE DIFFICULT. STOP LETTING MIND GAMES HOLD YOU BACK FROM THE MEASURED, STUDIED OBSERVATION EVERYONE IS CAPABLE OF DOING. YES. THAT INCLUDES YOU, TOO! EVERYONE CAN LEARN HOW TO DRAW WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS AND TRAINING.



Number 8

MINDFULNESS IS EVERYTHING

THE MORE WE CAN CONSCIOUSLY MAKE CHOICES IN OUR ART AND ASK OURSELVES QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR IMAGE REFERENCE AS WE WORK ON OUR DRAWINGS, THE MORE ACCURATE THEY WILL BE. OUR BRAIN IS TRAINED FOR GESTALT: WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD DOG A SPECIFIC IMAGE POPS IN YOUR HEAD. BUT THAT MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU WANT TO DRAW. ASK YOURSELF: WHAT SHAPE ARE THE EYES? HOW IS THE HEAD ANGLED? BE MINDFUL AS YOU DRAW AND SEE YOUR SKILL GROW.



Number 9

CHOOSE A FOCUS

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DRAWING AND PRACTICING DRAWING. CHOOSE ONE THING TO FOCUS ON WHEN YOU PRACTICE AND SEEK TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILL. LOOK AT ONLY NEGATIVE SPACE, OR VALUE RELATIONSHIPS, OR CONTOURS AND USE THAT AS A TOOL TO HELP YOU BE MINDFUL AND CONSCIOUS OF WHAT YOU DRAW. IT IS ALL ABOUT TRAINING YOUR EYES TO REALLY OBSERVE AND SEE. CHOOSING ONE FOCUS EACH TIME YOU PRACTICE WILL IMPROVE YOUR SKILL.



Number 10

CONSCIOUSLY PRACTICE

ANDERS ERICSSON COINED THE TERM DELIBERATE PRACTICE TO DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC FORMULA EXPERTS USE TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILL. WHEN YOU USE DELIBERATE PRACTICE, YOU SEE RESULTS AND YOU SEE THEM FASTER THAN WHEN YOU CREATE WITHOUT A GAME PLAN OR GOAL. READ THE BOOK "PEAK" TO LEARN MORE, OR SIGN UP FOR MY FREE CHALLENGE CALLED DRAWING DRILLS. I OUTLINE HIS FORMULA TO IMPROVE YOUR DRAWING SKILLS. ****CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE****