

Contour Drawing

Don't lift that pencil!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A drawing implement! - This tool can be a pencil, a colored pencil, a brush and ink, a crayon, etc... anything that will make a mark on a piece of paper.

A surface! - any piece of paper in what ever size you have. A sketchbook works too!

SOME LEARNING GOALS:

- **SLOW LOOKING!** There is so much to see. When you become interested in something, it's important to study it. Take time to notice things you wouldn't notice in one quick glance. As an artist, sometimes you have to help your viewer notice things they would not normally notice.
- **YOU ARE A TRANSLATOR!** As an artist, you are taking what you see in the world, translating it onto a piece of paper, or whatever material you've chosen, and then offering it to your viewer.
- **DRAWING IS AN EVENT!** Drawing is not just recording what you see, but it is performative. You gain something from the experience of drawing itself. Drawing is not just about making a "good" looking picture.

You can make this drawing anywhere! I use to do this on the train a lot, because there were a lot of "models" sitting and standing still for a long time. You can also do this at your desk, on your couch, etc. Whenever you need a good art break!

Set up your drawing surface. This could be a sheet of paper on a hard surface, or maybe it's in your sketchbook.

Prepare your drawing implement and have it ready on your drawing surface.

Choose your subject, it could be a person napping, it could be a house plant, it could be a tree in your backyard. This is a **OBSERVATIONAL** activity, so it's best if your subject is not moving for a while.

Practice **SLOW LOOKING!** Pick a spot to start on your subject. For example, the tip of your subject's collar. With your drawing implement, mark the place on your drawing surface where you want to start. With you eyes, slowly follow the edge of your subject's collar. What ever you are tracing with your eye on your subject, record that on your paper. **DO NOT LIFT YOUR PENCIL!** You are recording where your eye is traveling on your viewer. It's best to follow edges of clothing or the edge of the body's shape.

BONUS CHALLENGE: DON'T LOOK DOWN AT YOUR DRAWING SURFACE! Just keep your eyes on your subject and move your hand slowly. Look slow! Draw slow! Practice slow looking!