

Be Your Thing!

An Exploration in Form from a 2-D Shape to a 3-D Object
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Imagine inflating flat shapes with air. What do you get? Form! Forms are shapes in three dimensions, whether geometric or biomorphic, and is a major element of sculptural art. This workshop will teach you how to turn contour line drawings into three dimensional objects! Here is what you will need for this project:

- Paper
- Writing utensil: paper, pencil, crayon, marker, you name it!
- Wire or pipe cleaners

Part 1: Geometric and Biomorphic shapes

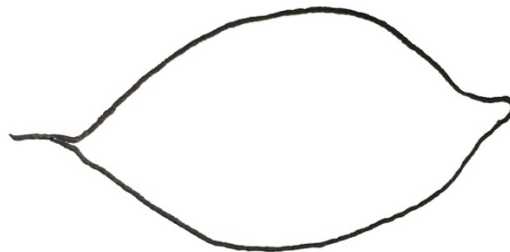
Geometric shapes are shapes that are defined by mathematics. They are shapes like squares, rectangles, circles, triangles. They have rigid straight lines or curves that follow the rules of geometry.

Biomorphic shapes are shapes that are often found in nature. Organic shapes like squiggles, curvy lines, and don't follow the rules! These are shapes like leaves, a lake, trees, and our own bodies!

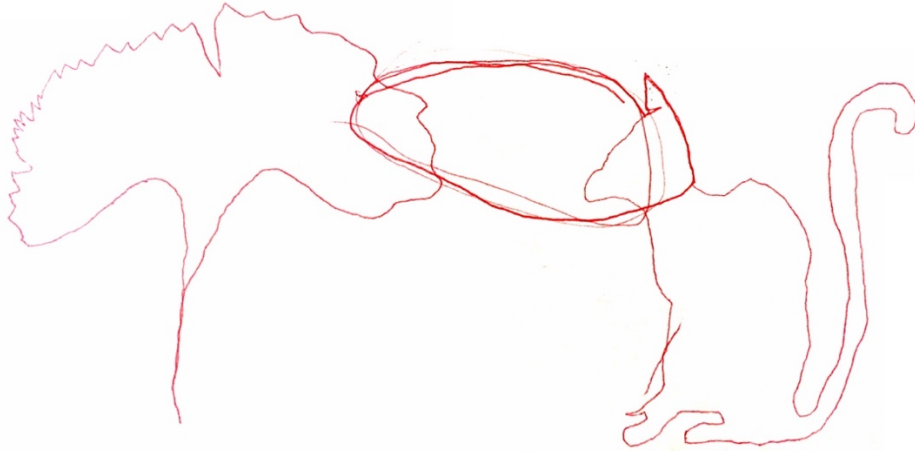
In this exercise you can try experimenting with both of these shapes. Start looking around your environment now and try to distinguish objects and shapes you see into either Geometric or Biomorphic categories.

Part 2: Get Drawing!

A contour drawing is a continuous line drawing, meaning it's a line that doesn't stop! This form of drawing helps to build your perception to following the outline of a shape. Take this leaf for example. Try drawing it by *slowly* tracing the edge of the leaf with your eyes, then try drawing it slowly with your pencil. It might look something like this:



Now try drawing more shapes you see around the room. Draw them on the same paper, it's okay if the shapes start to intersect. Once you have several drawings on your paper, you might even start to find new shapes on the paper and start drawing over those! Think of these drawings as practice, or sketches, for a larger drawing. Draw slow, and see how you can improve your eye to hand vision!



Step 3: Now to 3D

The drawings you've just created are what we call a 2-D thing. They are drawn on a flat piece of paper, they only have 2-Dimensions. Now we're going to make them have 3-Dimensions by making them into a pipe cleaner wire sculpture! Slowly take the wire and start tracing it around a shape you really like on the paper. It could be of a single object you drew or it could be a shape you drew from collaging together several shapes as shown above. It's ok if it's hard to keep the wire flat on the paper, remember, this is 3-D! So once you have the shape started, lift the wire off the flat surface, and try sculpting the shape in 3-D and see what new forms you can create in this dimension.



The forms are endless! You can keep going until you find a shape you really love. Simply unkink the wire back into a straight line and try again. You can also go back to the drawing phase and try new line drawings to sculpt from.

Afterwards, reflect on some of these questions to think about what you gained from this exercise.

- *What was challenging about the continuous line drawing?*
- *What was different about making the wire sculpture?*
- *What was similar between the drawing and the sculpture?*
- *What are some geometric or biomorphic shapes you can think about you encounter everyday? Like in your house, or something you like to eat?*