

A World of Shapes: Drawing by Learning to See Objects and Places Broken Down Into Simple Forms

A World of Shapes is an hour-long drawing lesson for beginning artists in how to simply draw a subject from life or print. While expression and innovation is key to advancing as visual artists, drawing skills can provide the tool set for conveying ideas to the world. The lesson begins by reviewing basic shapes and discussing how to find them in seemingly more complicated forms in the world around us. The students are then provided with a printed photo of an animal and a step- by- step illustration showing how to draw the likeness of that animal one simple shape at a time with pencil and paper. Each student will end up with a complete drawing that may be colored and embellished freely and may also choose from a selection of other photos provided to attempt more drawings using shapes. Students will also go forth with the confidence that anything she or he wishes to draw is possible when broken down into simple shapes.

Key Terms

Step Drawing: Step by step illustrated instructions for how to draw a subject

Positive Space: The parts of a drawing where a solid form fills the space, (e.g., A puppy is a depiction of a solid form and, therefore, occupies positive space in a drawing.)

Negative space: The parts of a drawing surrounding the forms that may also be considered empty space, (e.g., The space between a puppy and a tree in a drawing)

Composition: The way elements are arranged on the paper to make an attractive and interesting scene. Both negative space and positive space should be considered.

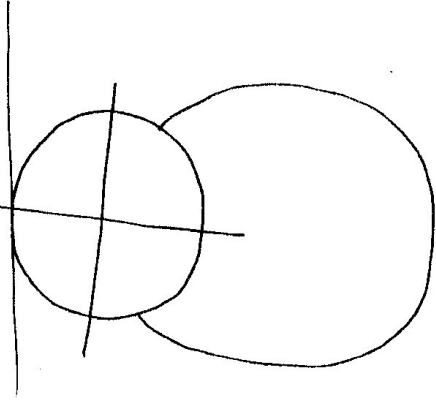
Working from Big to Small: Starting with the biggest, most general shapes you recognize in a form and work your way towards the smaller details.

Instructions

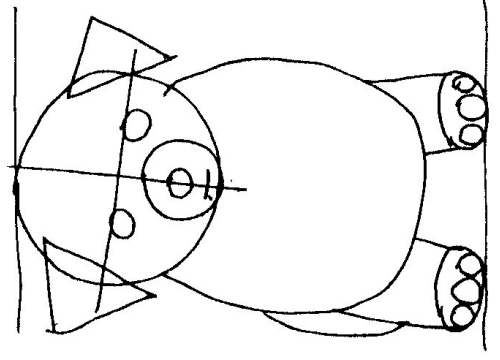
1. Introduce the project by explaining that drawing the likeness of something is easier when you start with a loose, general shape that resembles the referenced form rather than beginning with one point or detail. This helps you decide what size you'd like the form to be and where you want it to sit on the paper. For example, if you want to draw a bird, start with an oval for the general shape of it's body rather than starting with the eye or beak. **Hint:** *Alert students that drawing lightly and loosely will help allow them to make changes easily and erase or cover unwanted pencil marks.*

2. Show the printed photo of the puppy to the class and then show the corresponding step drawing of the puppy and have students identify what the biggest shape is that should, therefore, be step 1 in the drawing.
3. Spend a few minutes using the other photos provided asking students to identify what big shapes they see in the forms.
4. Distribute blank drawing paper, pencil and eraser and also the step drawing and the puppy photo that corresponds with that step drawing.
5. Emphasize to students that they should be creative in deciding how big they want to draw their puppy and where it is placed on the page.
6. Allow students to follow steps 1-4 in the step drawing to draw their own puppy on the blank sheet of paper.
7. Encourage students to then refer to the photo of the puppy to make their drawing look more naturalistic.
8. As students finish their puppy drawing, distribute the remaining photos and encourage students to try drawing from them by identifying the simple shapes on their own. Students may add their new drawings to the same page, the reverse side, or fresh sheets of paper may be distributed.

By the end of the lesson students will have increased confidence that he or she can draw a likeness of any subject from a photograph and even from life



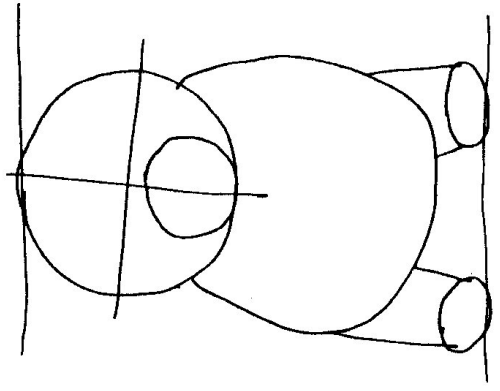
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4.



1.



3.



























