

# Skill building Sketchbook Assignments

# Requirements:

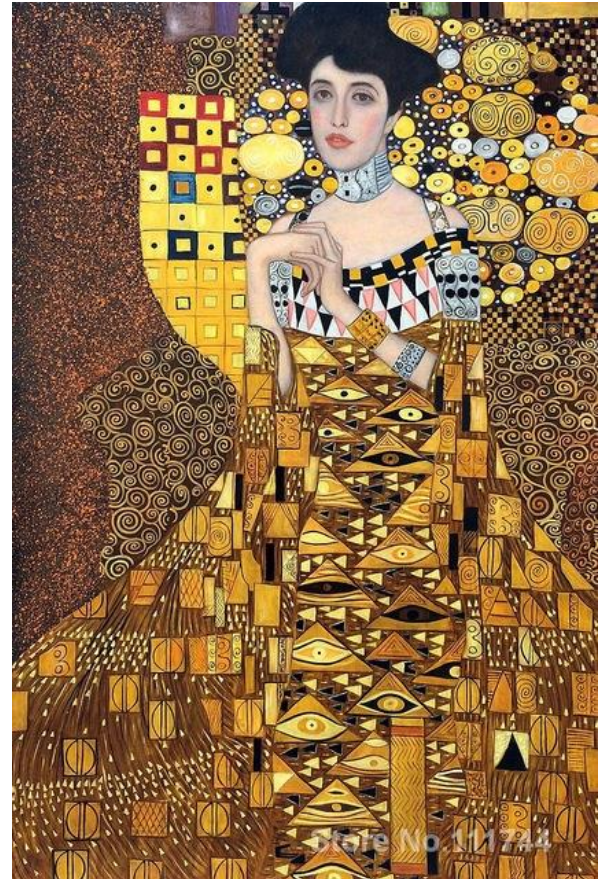
- Must be in your sketchbook – loose paper will not be accepted
- Must be at least 1 FULL page unless otherwise specified. Each composition should touch the edges of your paper.
- Composition is KEY!
- Majority of the negative/empty space filled up, i.e. no white space!
- Must include at least 50% observational drawing meaning you should look at the actual object while you are drawing it whenever possible, photos should only be used if actual object not possible
- At least 2 different materials used unless otherwise specified
- Spend AT LEAST ½ hour per assignment
- Must be your original work – not a copy of my examples or something you found online.
- Challenge yourself, try new stuff, push out of your comfort zone! This is the chance to experiment without worrying about mistakes! You will be a better artist for it!

Chose from the following assignment options for free choice journals.





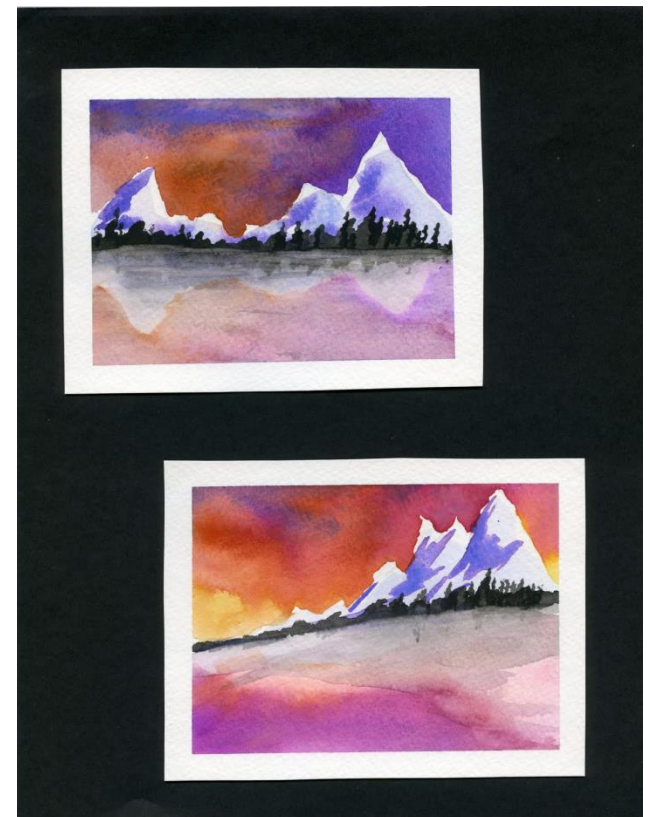
Create a collage using different patterns. Can include photographs as well. Must incorporate drawing as well. Try creating your own patterned paper!



Gustav Klimt, *Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer*




Create a landscape with 4 different  
horizon line views  
2 full pages



# Crete a photo transfer using gel medium, draw paint, embellish it!

## 2 full pages



## Here's how it works!

## Art Journaling Image tranfer and ink





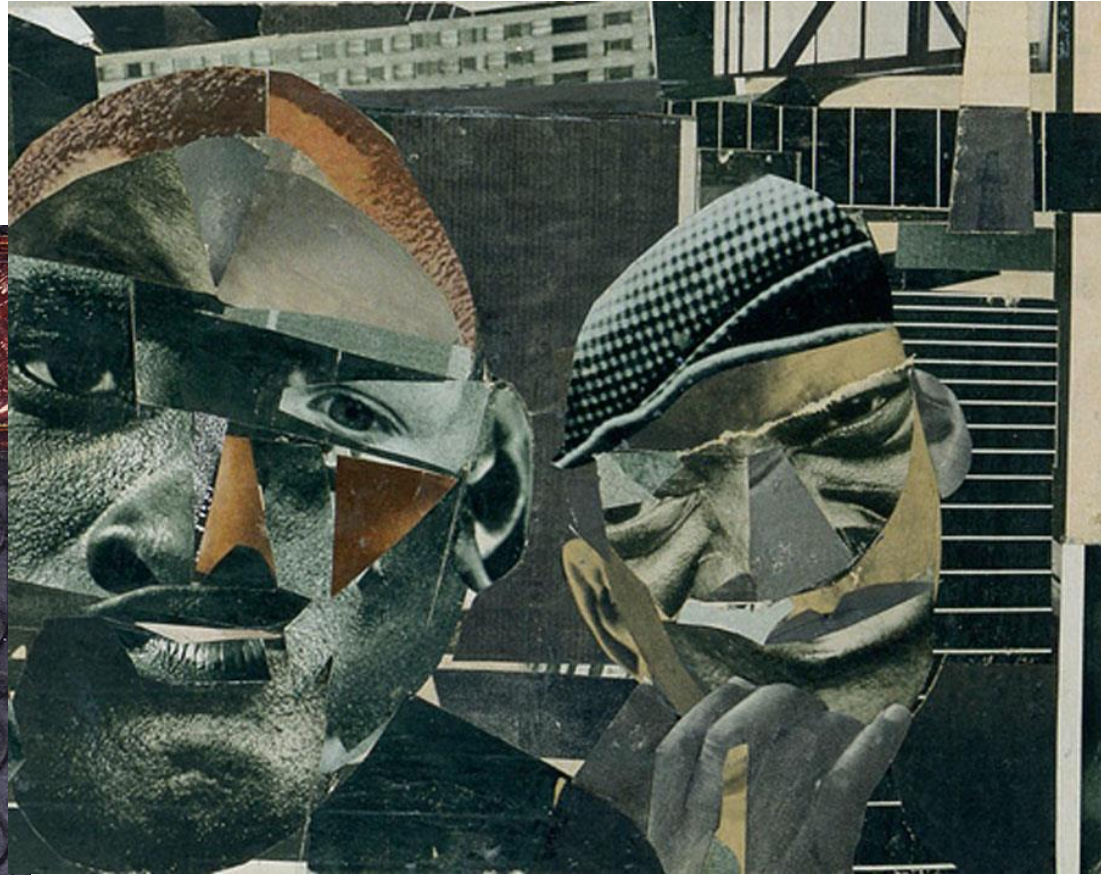
# Artist Inspiration: Dominique Fortin

Draw a realistic black and white face with graphite or charcoal, then collage or paint colorful, surreal or unusual imagery around the figure.

\*2 full pages



Portrait Collage – combine features from different magazine images to create at least 1 person. Must have background 2 full pages



Romare Bearden



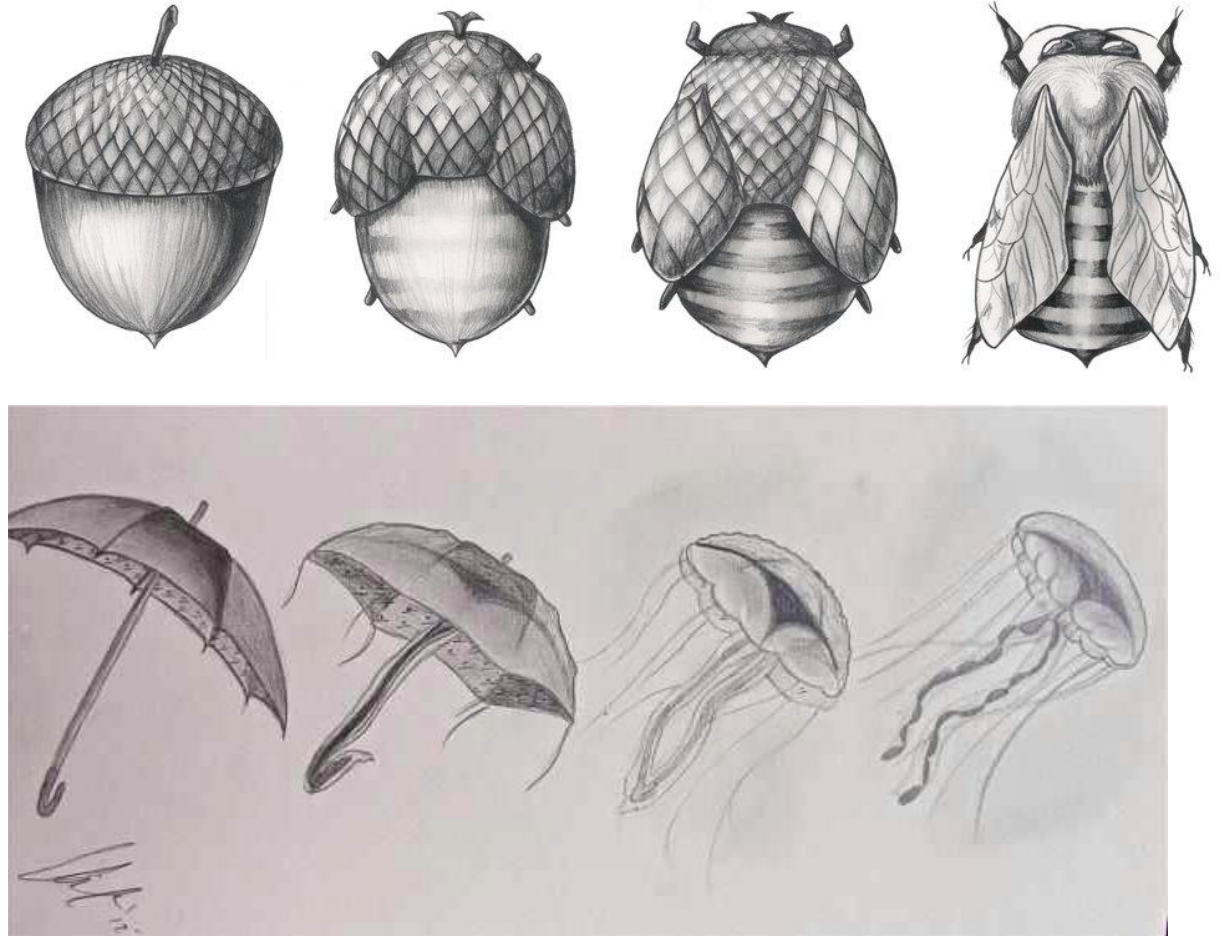
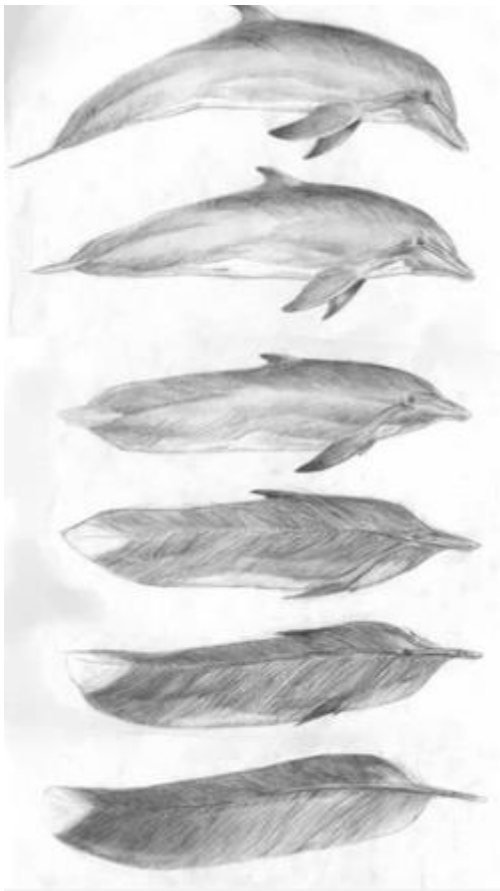
Draw a superhero inspired by Picasso & Cubism...this must include "multiple perspectives" and a background.



METAMORPHOSIS in art refers to a form transforming or changing into another form that is similar. The gradual transformation between the two forms should be depicted.

Create a metamorphosis drawing. Must include a wide range of values and detail.

Must be an original idea – not one of these!





# Typology Study

## 2 full pages

- Typology: a classification according to general type

Series of 6 different sketches or drawings of a type of thing drawn from observation

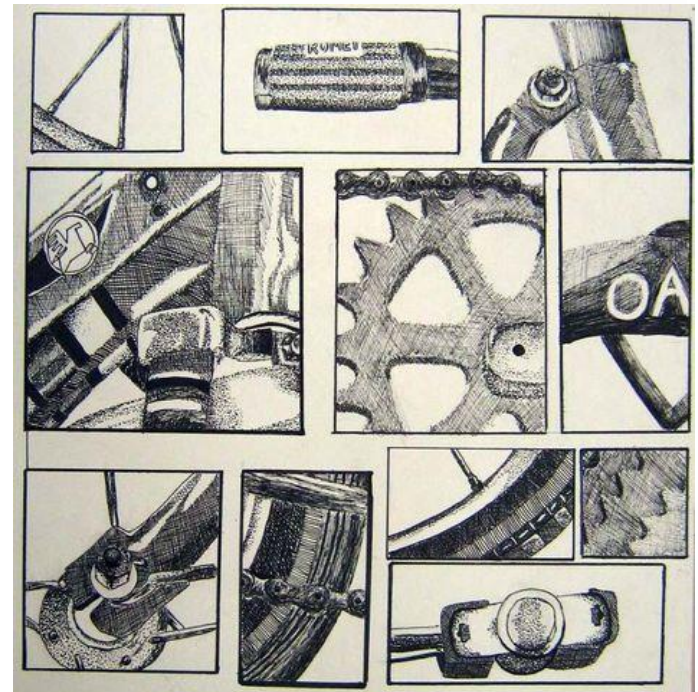
Feathers, birds, eyes, flowers, houses, shoes, fruit, beards, cats, etc.

Minimum size for each drawing: 2" x 2"

- Must show variations of the object itself or different views

Render realistically, any medium.

Think about how to arrange them in an interesting way on the page.

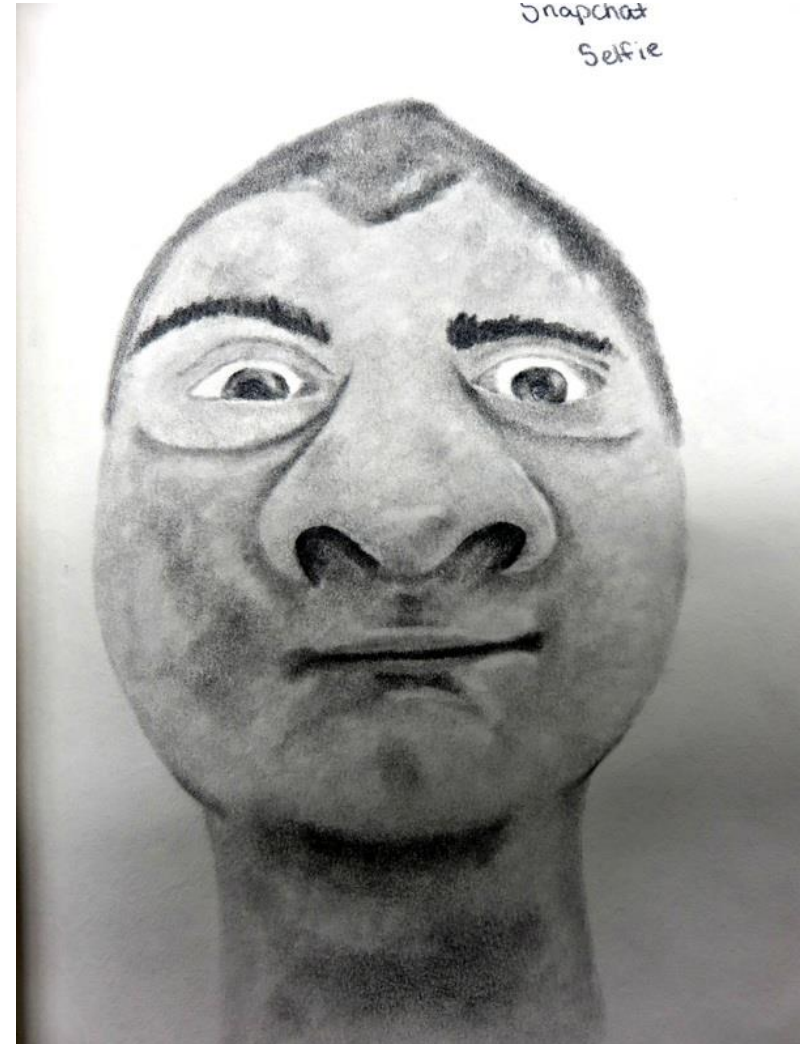


## Snapchat Selfie Caricature

Take a selfie and alter yourself using a snapchat app or other photo editing filter/app/program.

Draw and embellish using your own choice of medium/media!

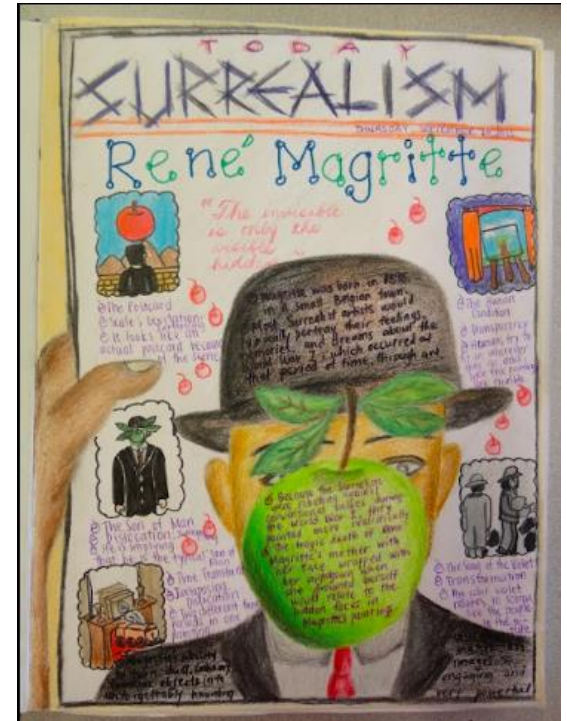
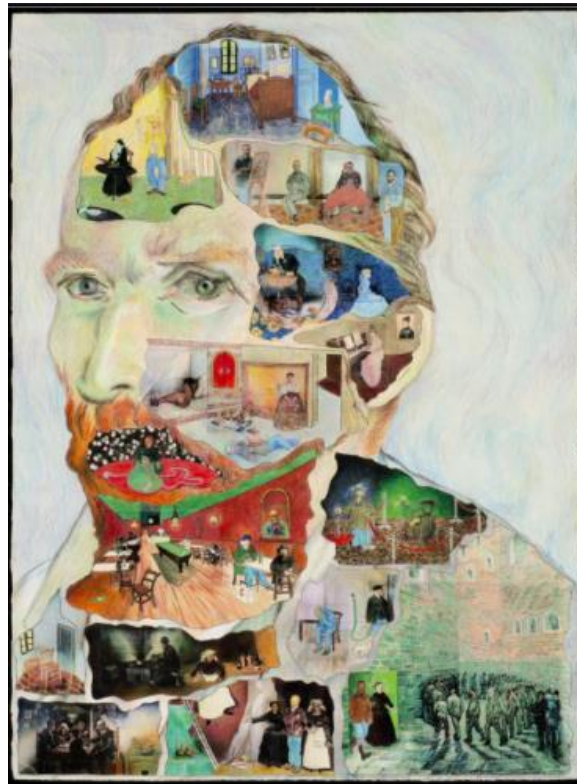
Must show a large range of values in whatever media you choose



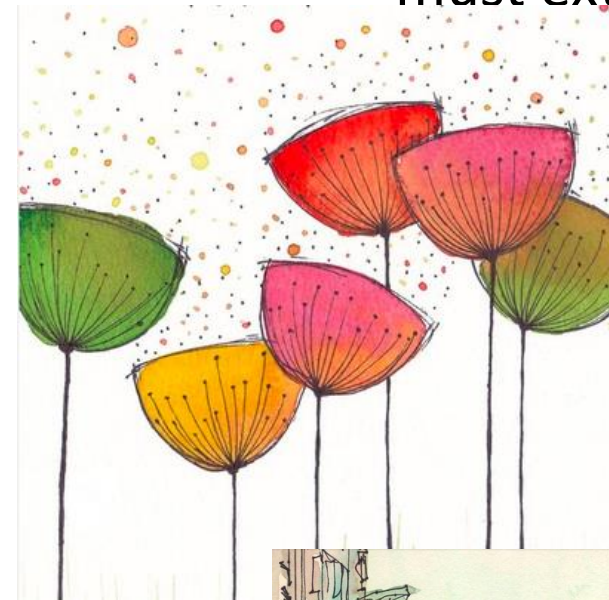


# Artist Study

Dedicate one page in your sketchbook to one artist of your choosing. Include their name, examples of their work (drawn or collaged) and notes about them.



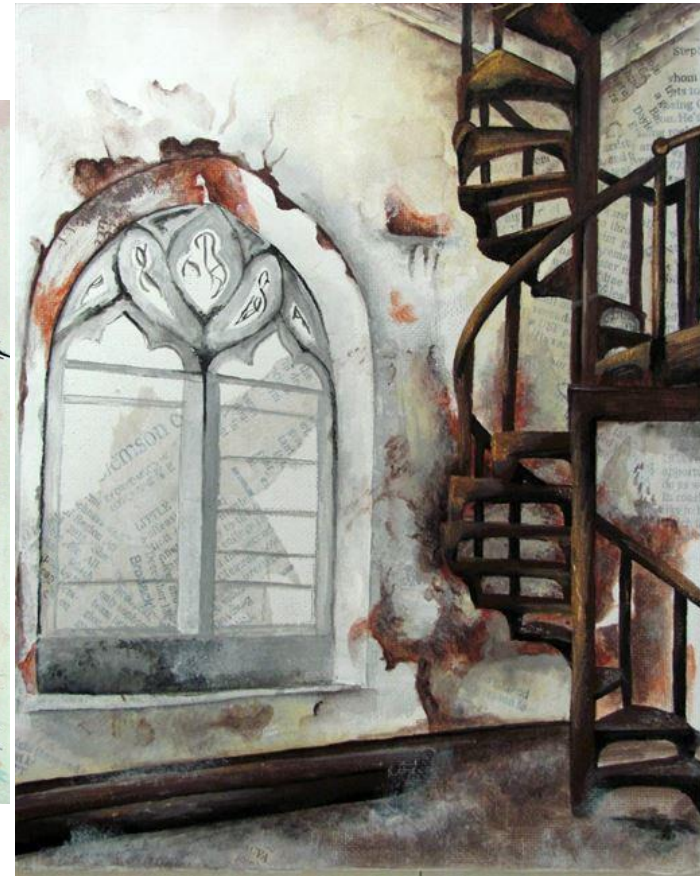
Combine watercolor with a drawing. You can draw in sharpie first and watercolor on top or around. You can also watercolor first then draw on top of the dried watercolor with any dry medium (charcoal, pen, pencil, colored pencils, etc.). Objects and color must extend off at least 3 sides of the page.





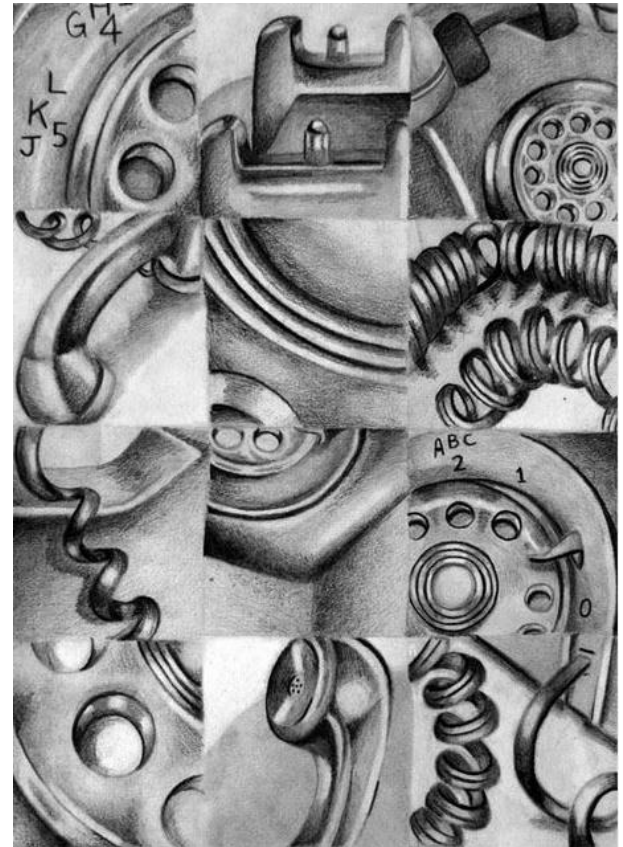
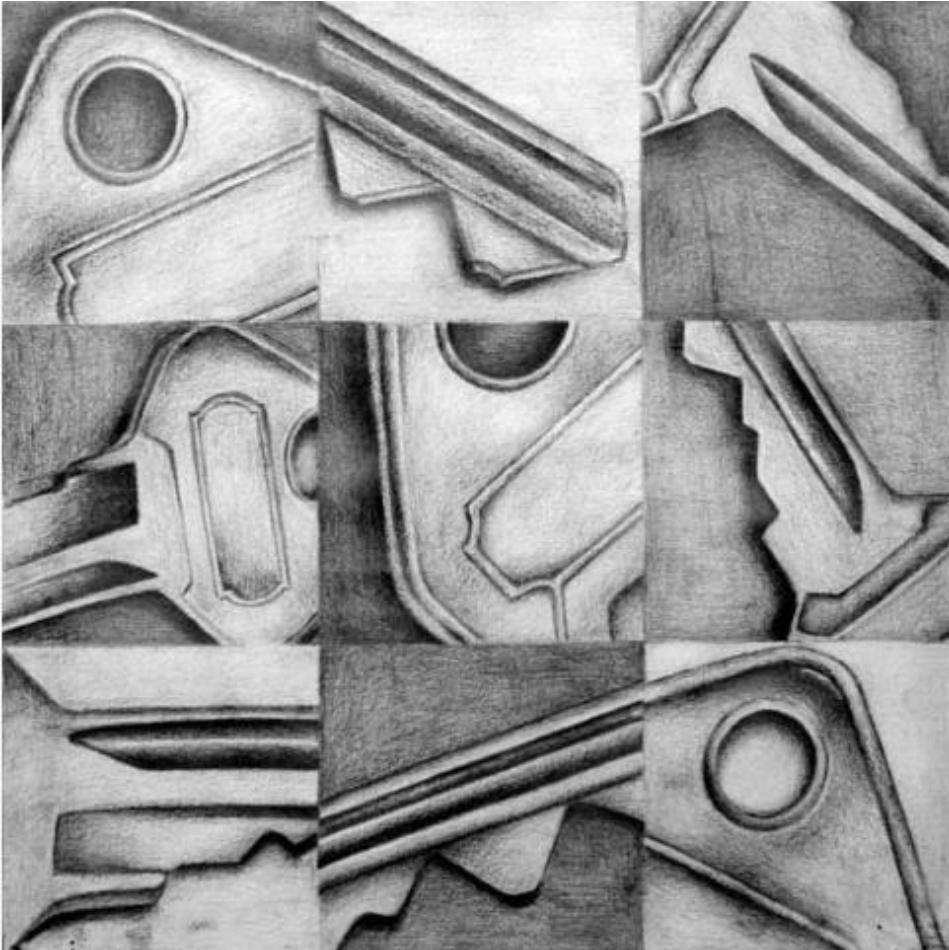
# Architecture Study

- Find an interesting building or piece of a building. Draw and/or paint it from observation or a photo using a variety of different media.



# Repetition and Variation

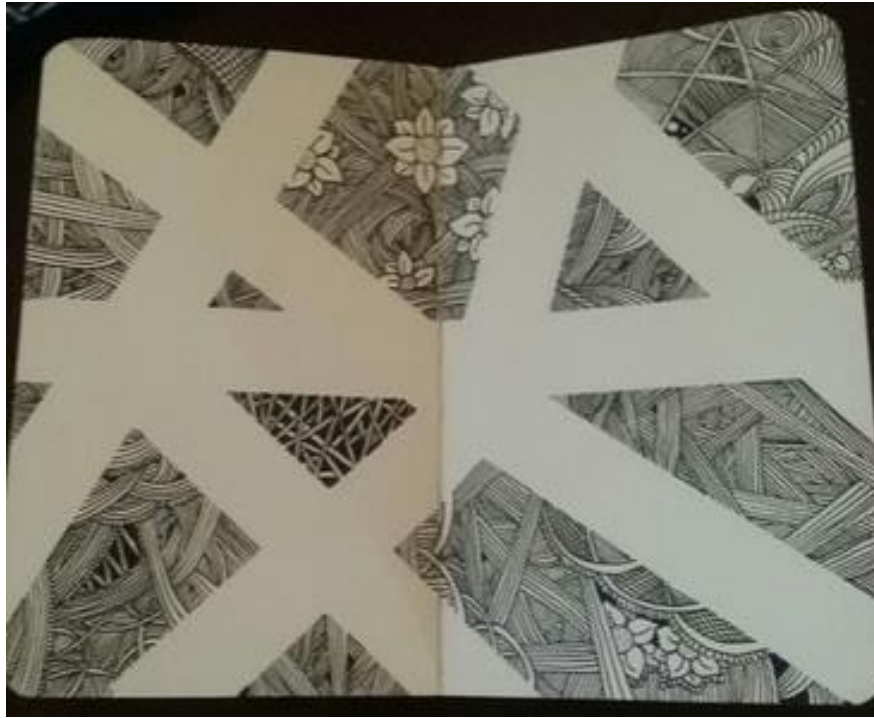
Draw or paint the same object (at least 6 times) using variation within each sketch.



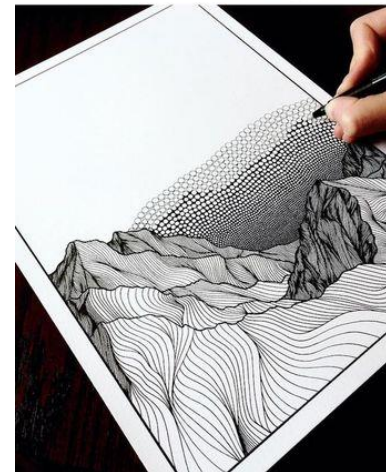
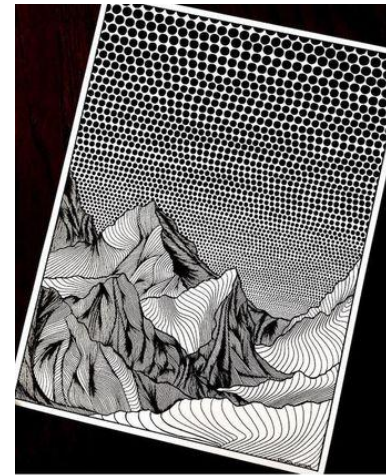


Lay down a few pieces of masking tape. Fill  
in all the spaces with doodles. Remove the  
tape!

2 full pages

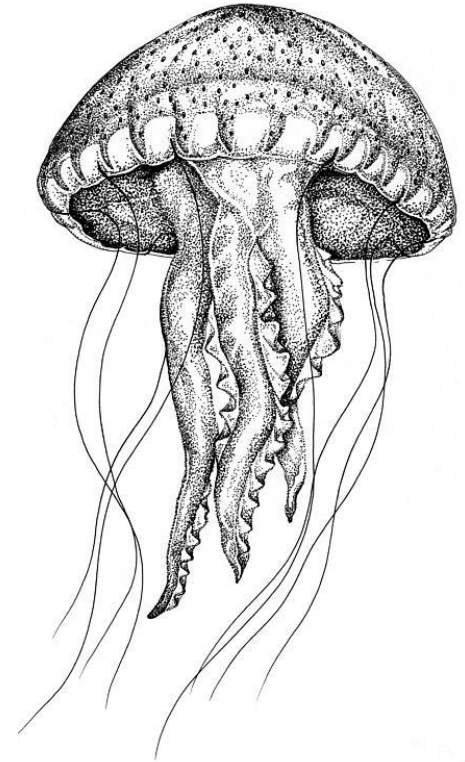


Draw a landscape or architecture and do something different in the background like paint pouring, watercolor/salt technique or stippling (dots!).  
Experiment!

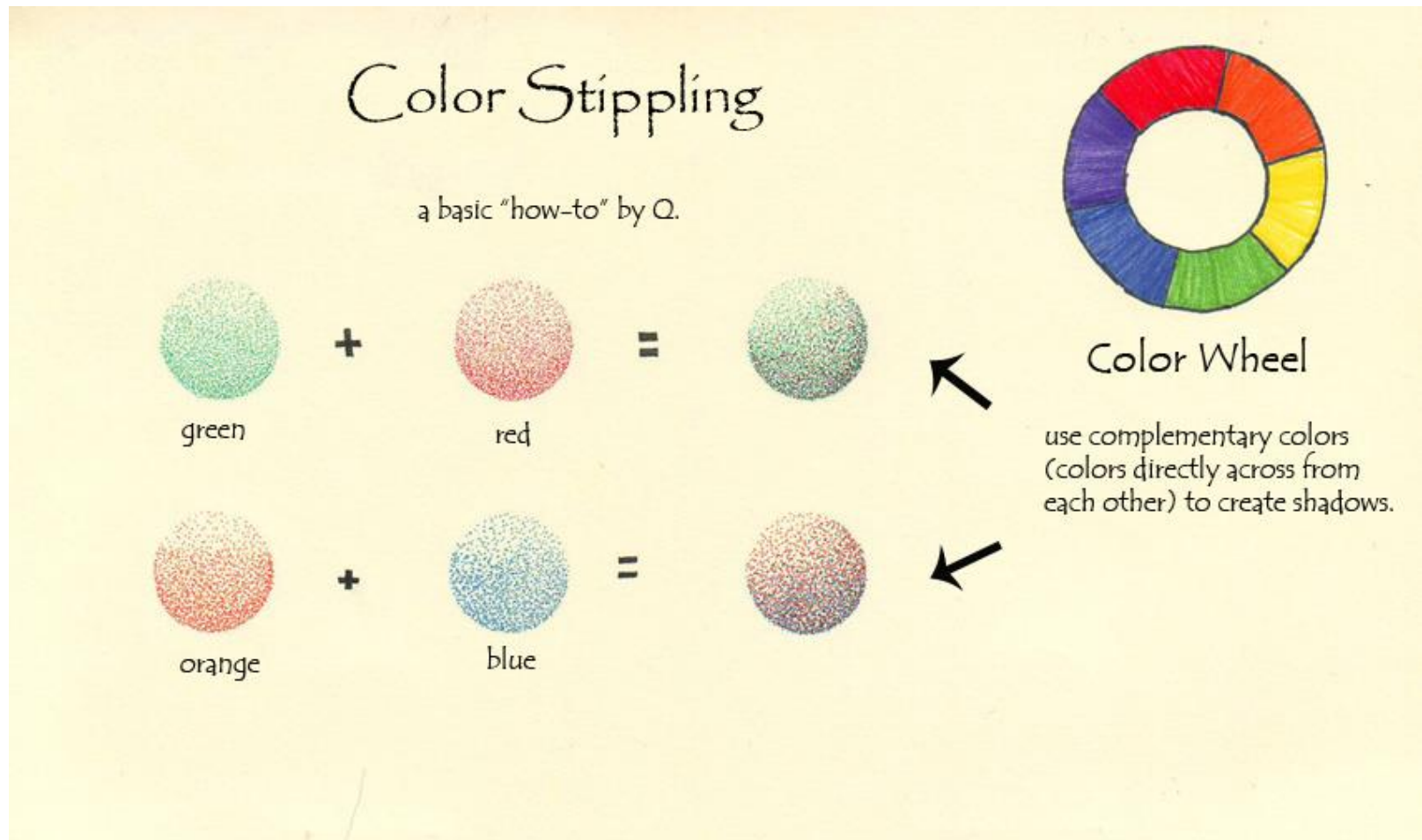




Stippling – shading with the use of dots  
create a drawing of an organic object using stippling.  
Some white space is ok here but object should fill at  
least 50% of the page and there should be a large range  
of stippled values



Practice Stippling with Complimentary color shadows. Start with spheres and then try something a little more difficult like a still life of fruit.





# Automatic Drawing

- French artist, André Masson began automatic drawings with no preconceived subject or composition in mind. Like a medium channeling a spirit, he let his pen travel rapidly across the paper without conscious control. He soon found hints of images—fragmented bodies and objects—emerging from the abstract, lacelike web of pen marks. At times Masson elaborated on these with conscious changes or additions, but he left the traces of the rapidly drawn ink mostly intact.
- Create an automatic drawing by letting your hand guide a pen through your pages and then adding details, doodles, and conscious creative choices to turn it into an interesting work of art.. 2 FULL PAGES



Masson, Automatic Drawing, 1924



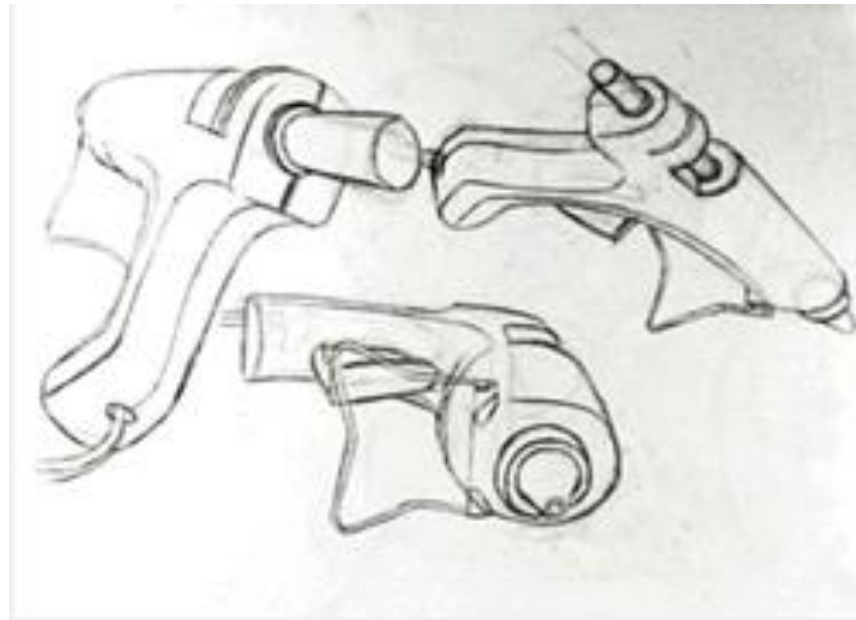
# Automatic Drawing Part 2

- Create an automatic drawing as mentioned before. Enhance it with watercolor, paint, collage, or try an ink wash by mixing liquid ink with water



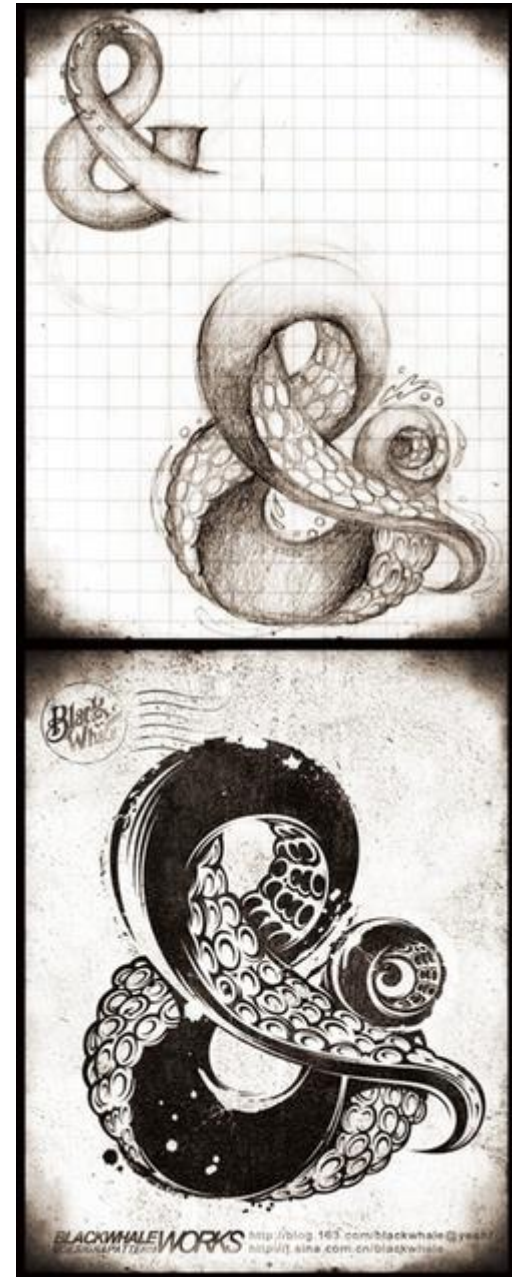


Draw the same object three times from three different angles. Must include shading and fill the page.



# illustrate a symbol

- Select a computer symbol (\*&^%\$#@!/?+=-\_<>,. /) and draw it inspired by another form. Create two drawings as seen in this example.
- One shaded with values (using pencils) and another using black & white demonstrating contrast (using pen, marker or ink).
- Add creative details and elements to make it original. Must fill the page, ink and pencil drawings could be overlapped or incorporated together.





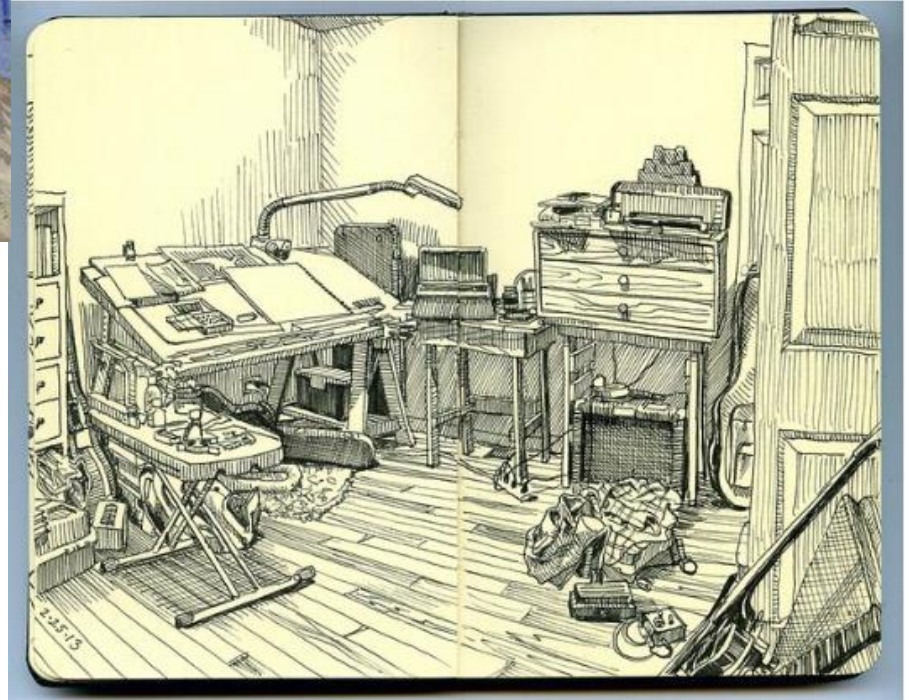
Draw a room! It can be where you work, your bedroom, kitchen, inside of your car, classroom, etc.



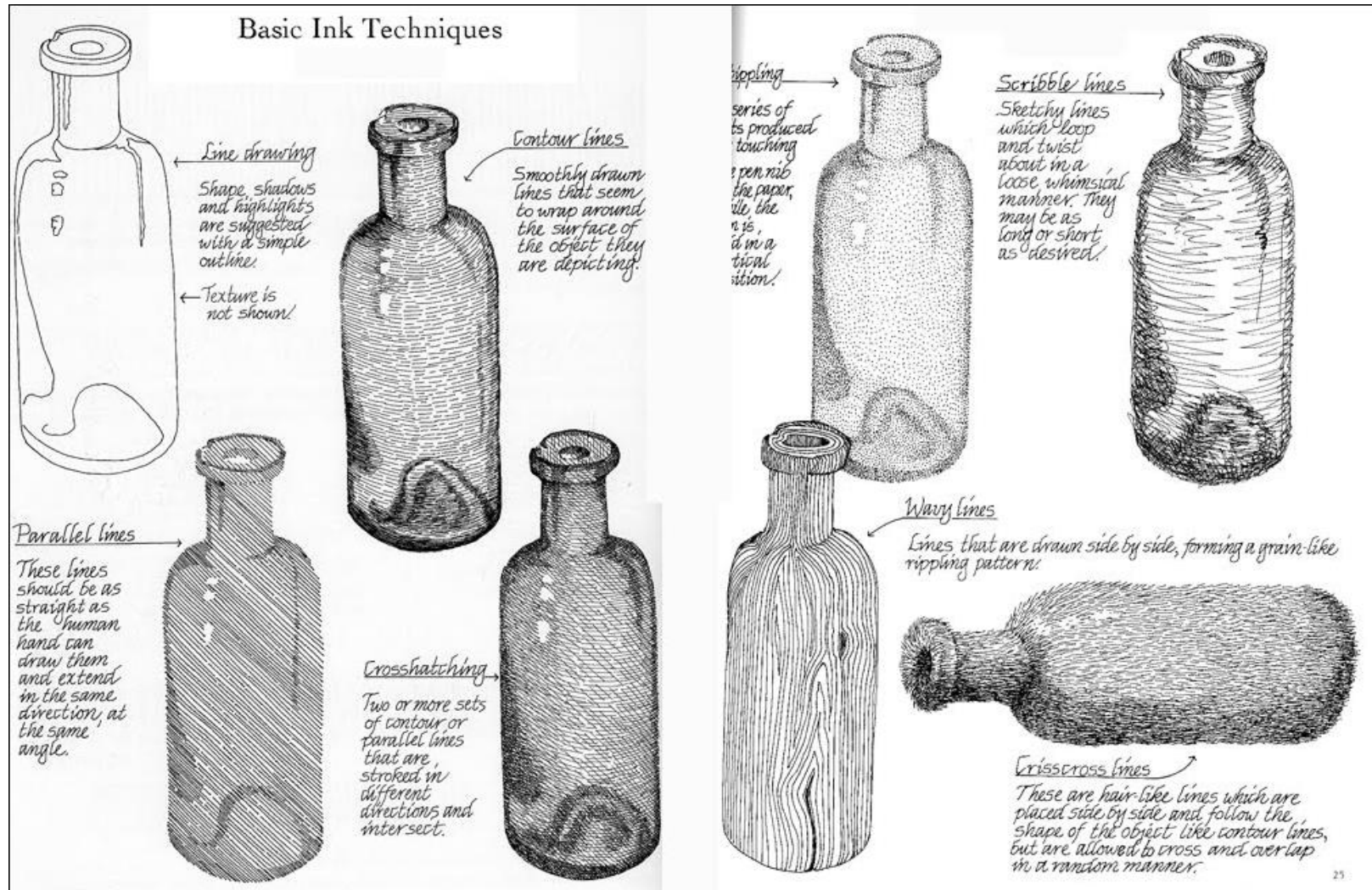
Must show 1 point perspective,  
texture, shading and detail.

Must fill the page.

Media is your choice

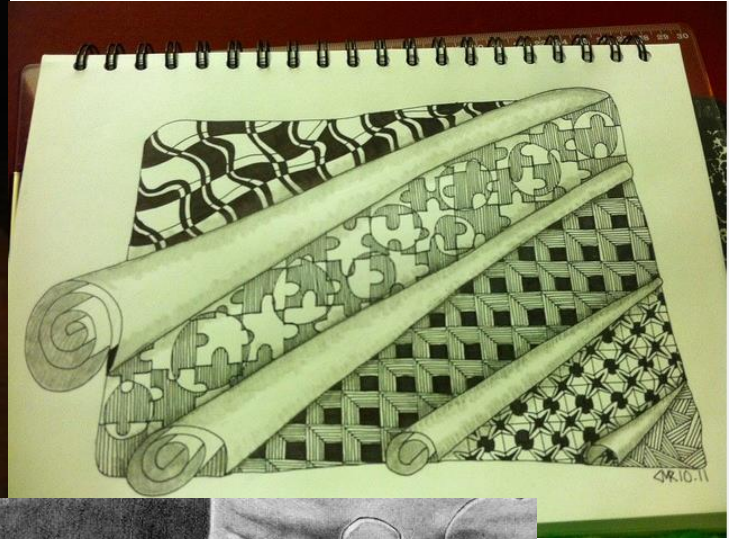


Draw the same object using *at least 3* different drawing techniques. Write the technique near the drawing.

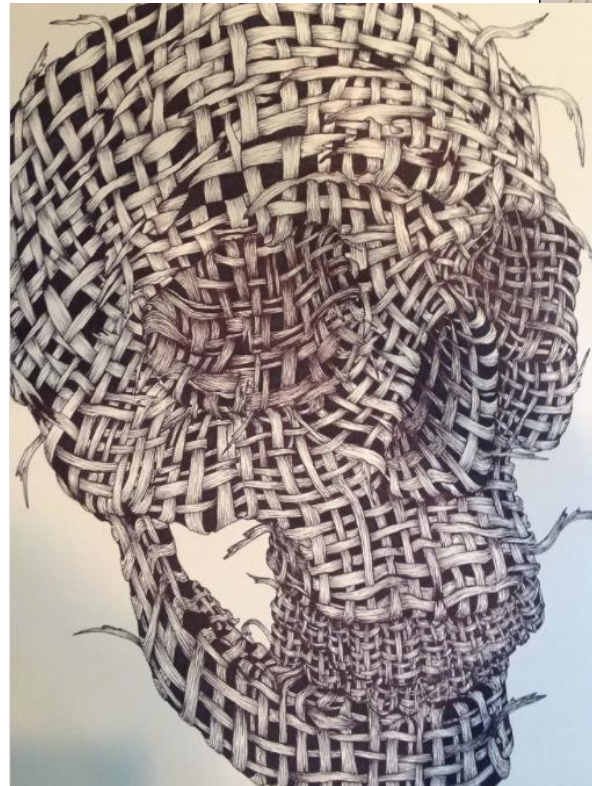
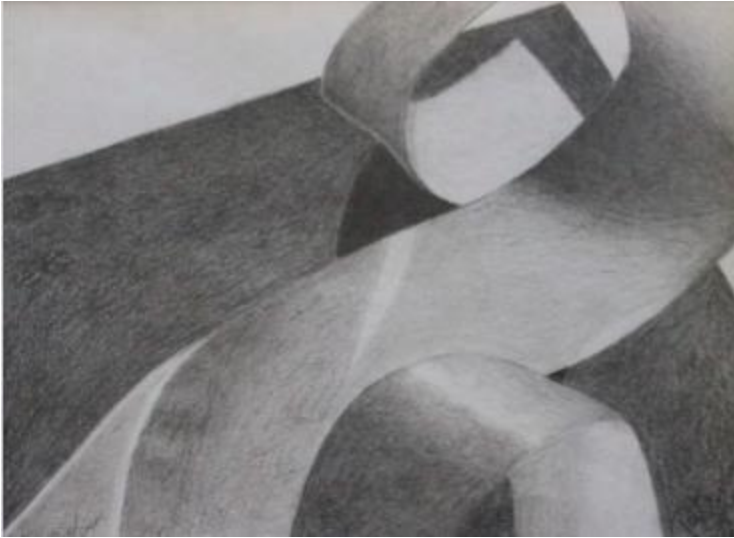




Create an optical illusion by drawing something looking like it is coming off of the page. Foreshortening, value and shading are the keys to creating this!

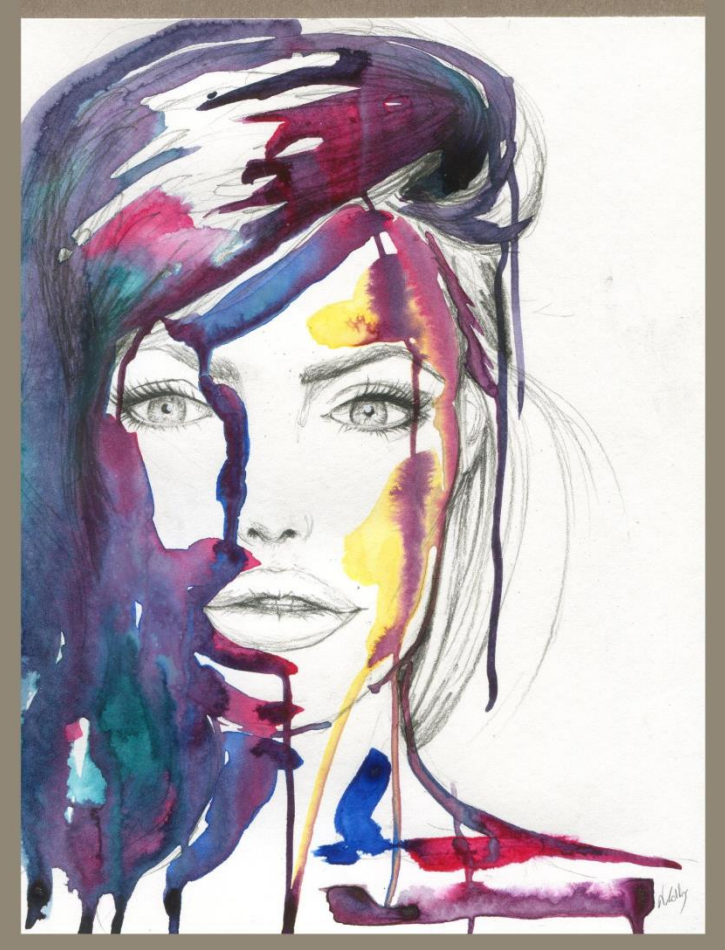


Draw or paint a full page of ribbons or weavings. Use value to give it form and make it look real





Draw a realistic portrait with ink or graphite that shows a strong emotion. Then use paint, either watercolor or acrylic, arbitrarily to create an abstracted effect



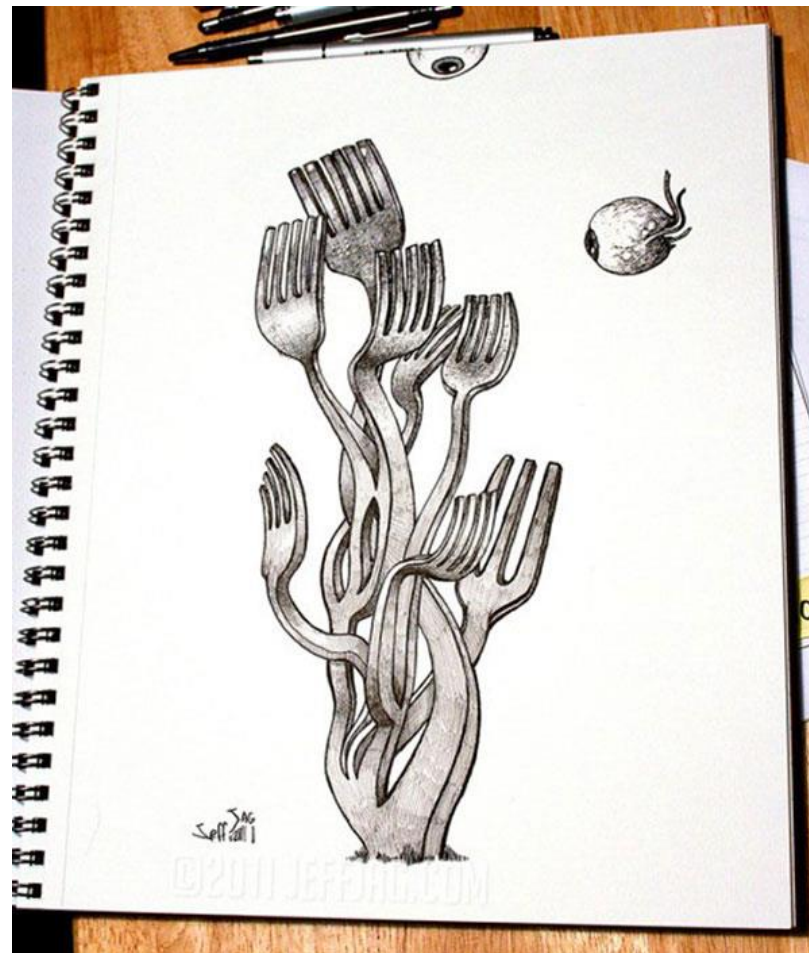
# What's in Your Trash? Self-Portrait

What we eat, drink, write on, read, buy and throw away all say something about ourselves. Create a work of art in a medium you feel comfortable with depicting what is in your trash.





Bring an inanimate object to life. Must include shading and a range of values. Background could be incorporated to make a very cool, creative piece!



Draw an object or objects in water  
from observation in graphite or  
colored pencil.

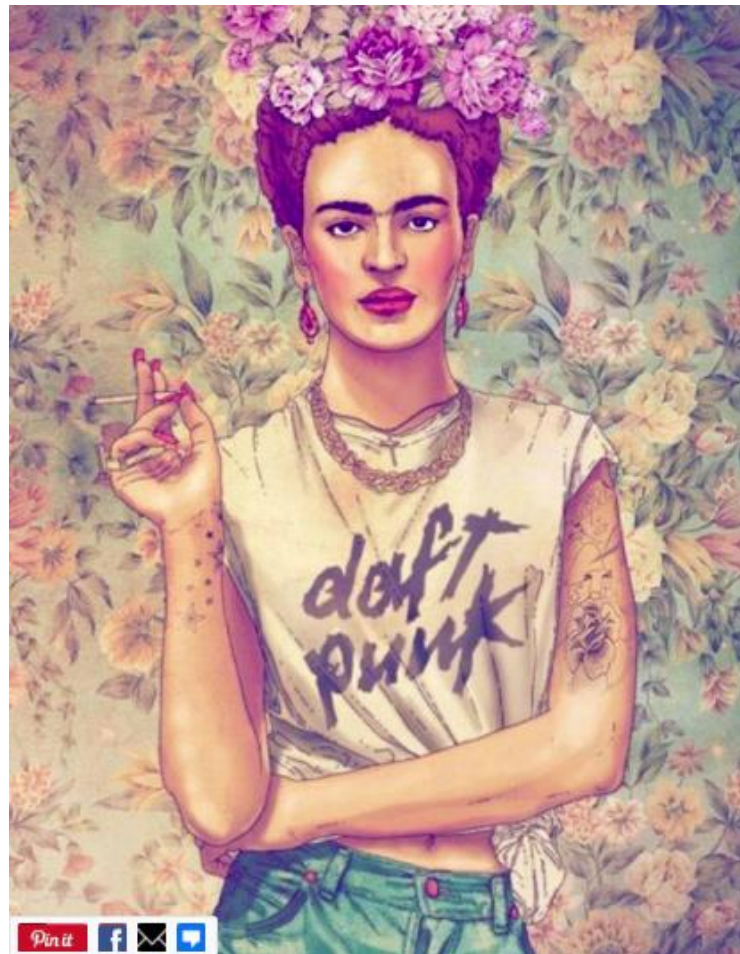




# Illustrate a grocery list pen and ink or graphite



Recreate a famous artist as someone else. The example here is Frida Kahlo as a modern day hipster.

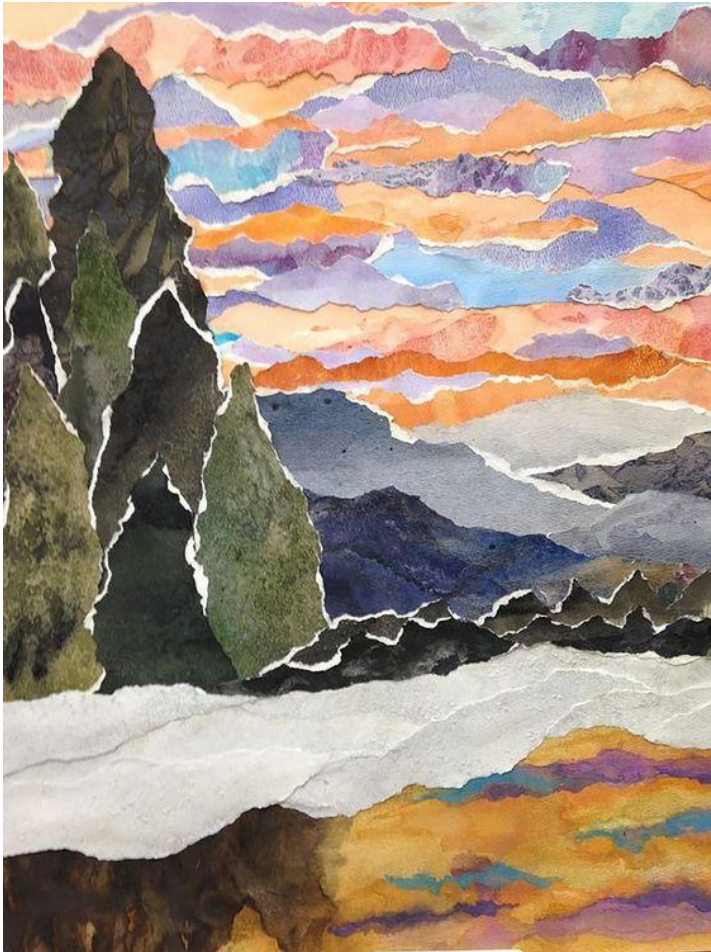




Draw a pencil splitting up into letters!  
Don't forget to shade the inside of the  
letters to make them look 3D.

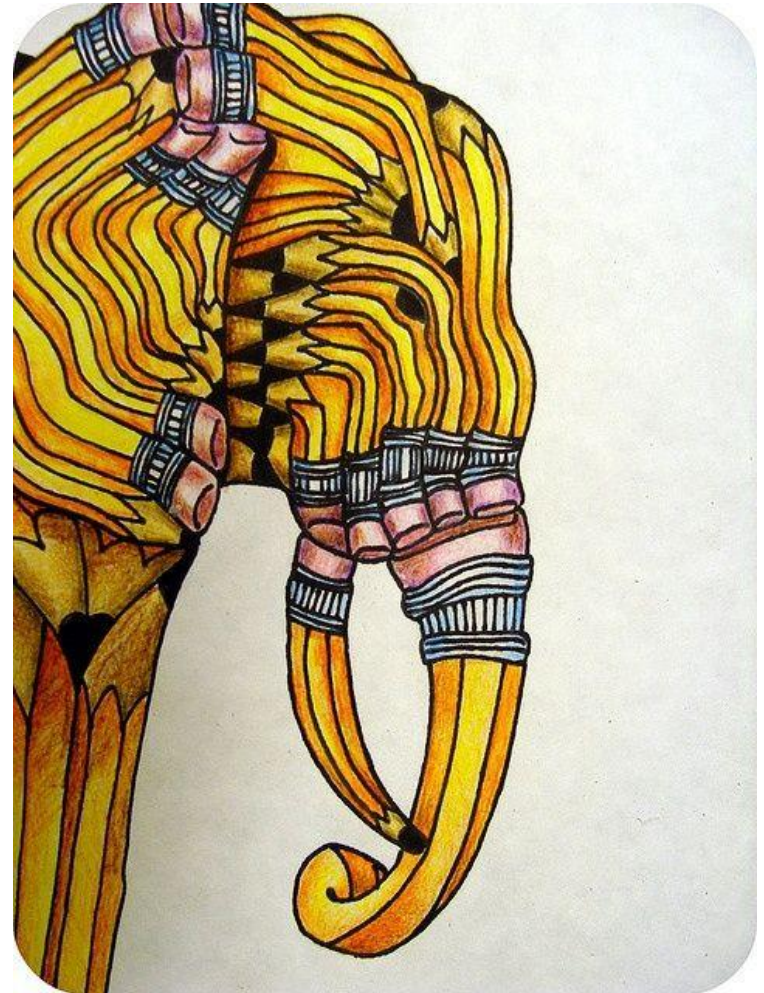


Create a torn paper layered landscape collage – for an added challenge try making your own colored or textured papers first





More with pencils – create a drawing of an object entirely out of pencils.

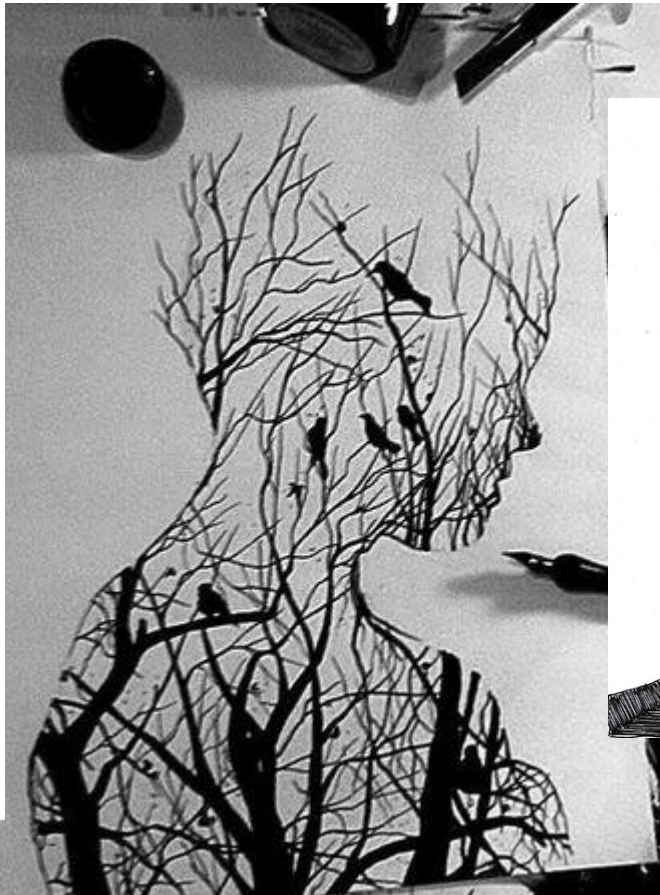
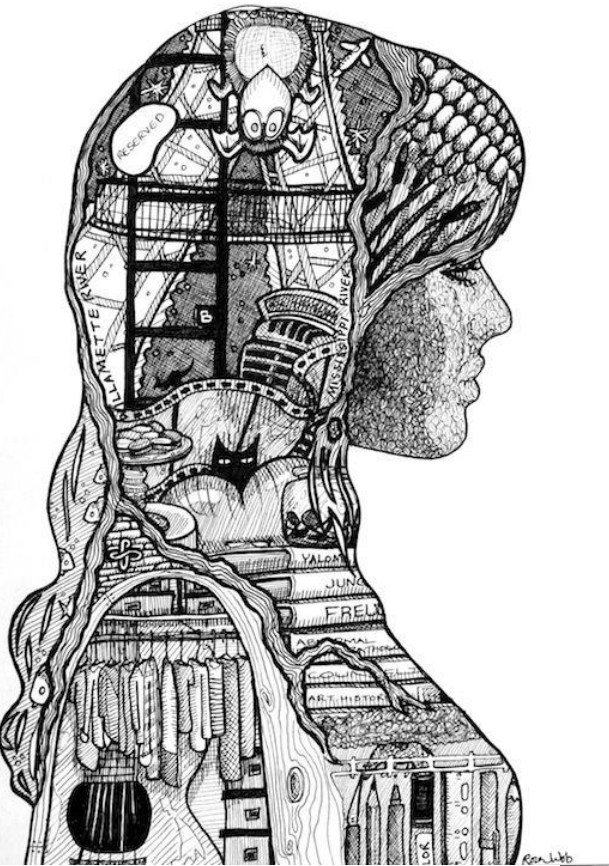


Create a negative space design using a word. Sketch out the letters first in pencil and fill in the space around the letters with a design in pen. Erase the pencil when finished. 80% of the page should be used





Trace or draw the outlines of a figure  
in profile. Fill the shape in with  
something interesting and  
unpredicable!



Create a "figure" by juxtaposing different creatures top of the head- eyes- nose- mouth- and chest together.  
Use this format of strips to look like a cut-photo collage.





Create a Positive-Negative space collage using a page from a magazine.  
Must use 80% of the page.



Use graphite, colored pencil, or conte crayons to shade and draw a leaf. FILL IN BACKGROUND!!  
Must fill the page!





Create a contour drawing of your room. Must fill the page! For an added challenge – make it a blind contour drawing by only looking at the room and not at what your hand is drawing.



FILL a page with contour drawings of portraits.  
They can fit next to each other or overlap in  
places. Fill it with color.

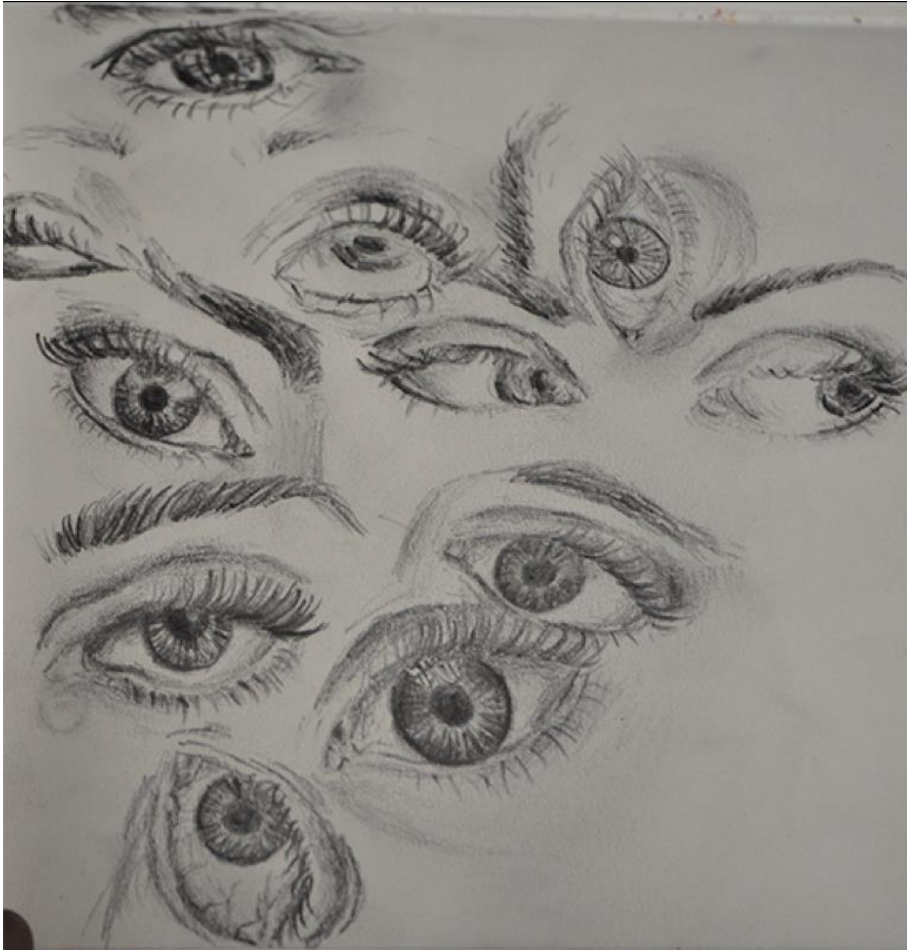




Fill a page with overlapping leaves.  
Color each leaf using any medium but  
experiment with mixing or blending  
colors together

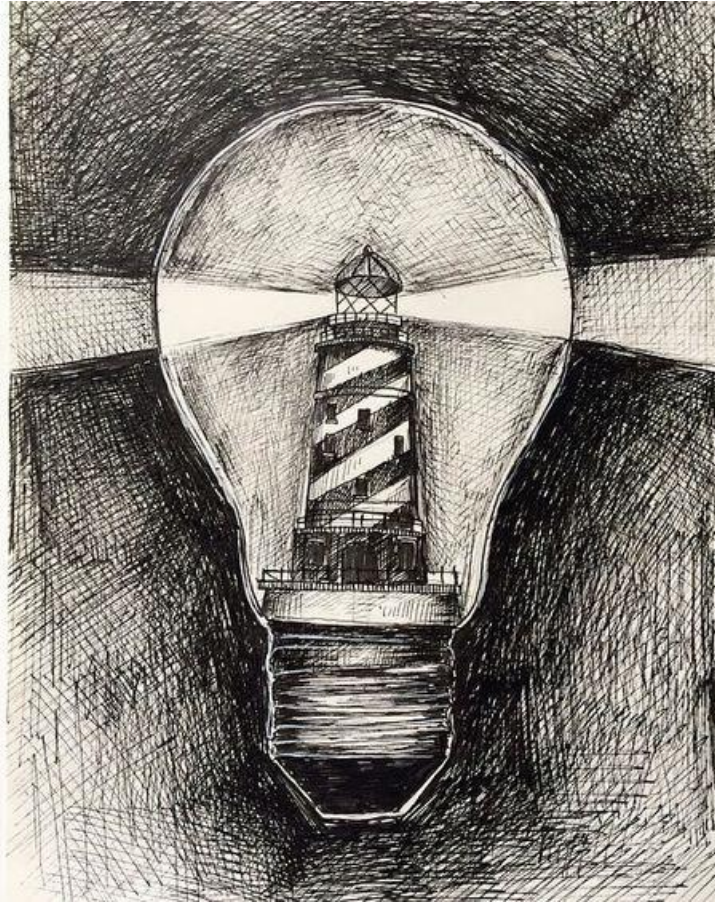
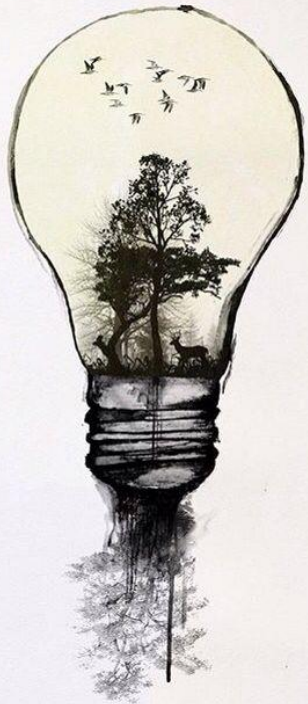


Select one facial feature and fill a page with multiple drawings of it





What "idea" would you put in a light bulb? You can use pen or pencil but must shade with graphite or if using a pen- stippling, cross-hatching, etc. Incorporate mark making in at least 80% of the background

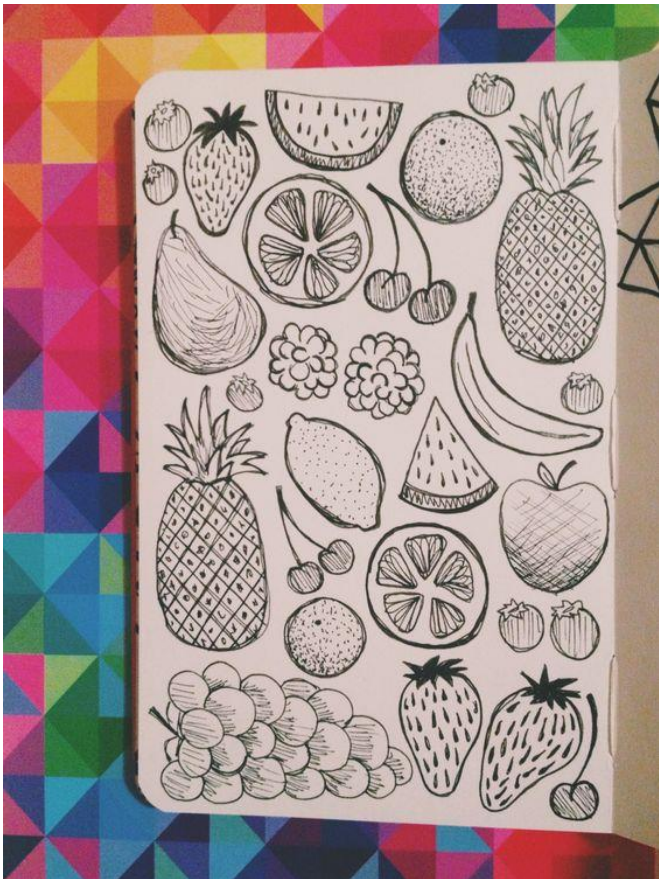


Create a double-page-spread illustrating a poem or a quote. Be sure to include the quote on one side and try to write the author of the quote.





Fruit Studies- Fill a page with fruit doodles or detailed color studies. If possible, look at real fruit to practice your observational skills. Can be black and white but must incorporate texture, line work, and shading.

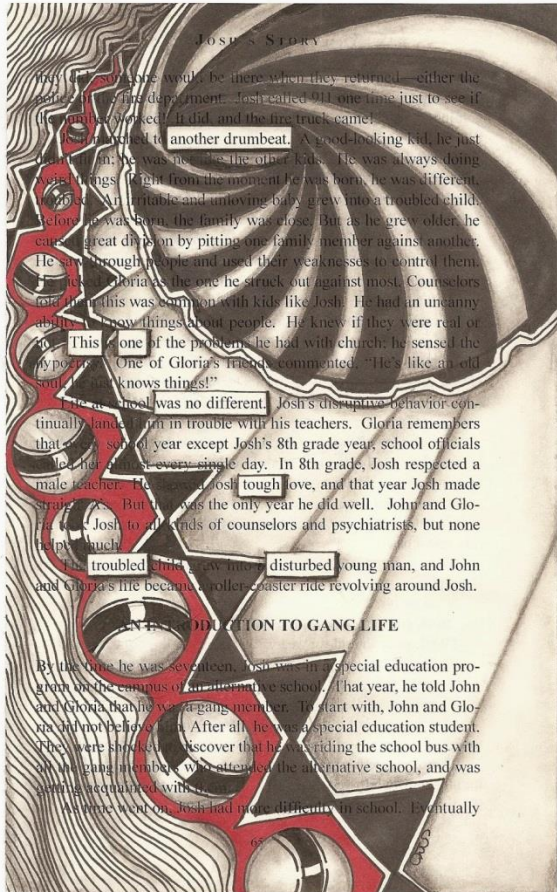




# Draw a Radial design or Mandala







JOSEPH'S STORY

They were all going to be there when they returned—either the police or the department. Josh called 911 one time just to see if the cops were working. It did, and the fire truck came.

Josh marched to another drumbeat. A good-looking kid, he just looked in; he was new like the other kids. He was always doing weird things. Right from the moment he was born, he was different, weird. An adorable and unloving baby grew into a troubled child. Before he was born, the family was close. But as he grew older, he came a great distance by pitting one family member against another. He saw through people and used their weaknesses to control them. He knew Gloria was the one he struck out against most. Counselors told him this was common with kids like Josh. He had an uncanny ability to know things about people. He knew if they were real or not. This is one of the problems he had with church; he sensed the hypocrisy. One of Gloria's friends commented, "He's like an old saint. He knows things!"

Life at school was no different. Josh's disruptive behavior continually landed him in trouble with his teachers. Gloria remembers that every second year except Josh's 8th grade year, school officials had had almost every single day. In 8th grade, Josh respected a male teacher. He loved Josh's tough love, and that year Josh made straight A's. But that was the only year he did well. John and Gloria took Josh to all kinds of counselors and psychiatrists, but none helped much.

The troubled child grew into a disturbed young man, and John and Gloria's life became a roller-coaster ride revolving around Josh.

INTRODUCTION TO GANG LIFE

By the time he was seventeen, Josh was in a special education program on the campus of an alternative school. That year, he told John and Gloria that he was a gang member. To start with, John and Gloria did not believe him. After all, he was a special education student. They were shocked to discover that he was riding the school bus with all the gang members who attended the alternative school, and was getting acquainted with it.

As time went on, Josh had more difficulty in school. Eventually

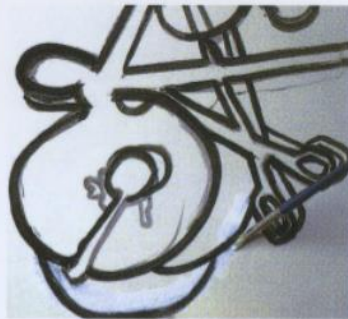
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[illegible]



## 160 The shapes in between

This exercise will help you become familiar with looking for the negative spaces between objects in a still life. Choose a few simple items and arrange them in a group.



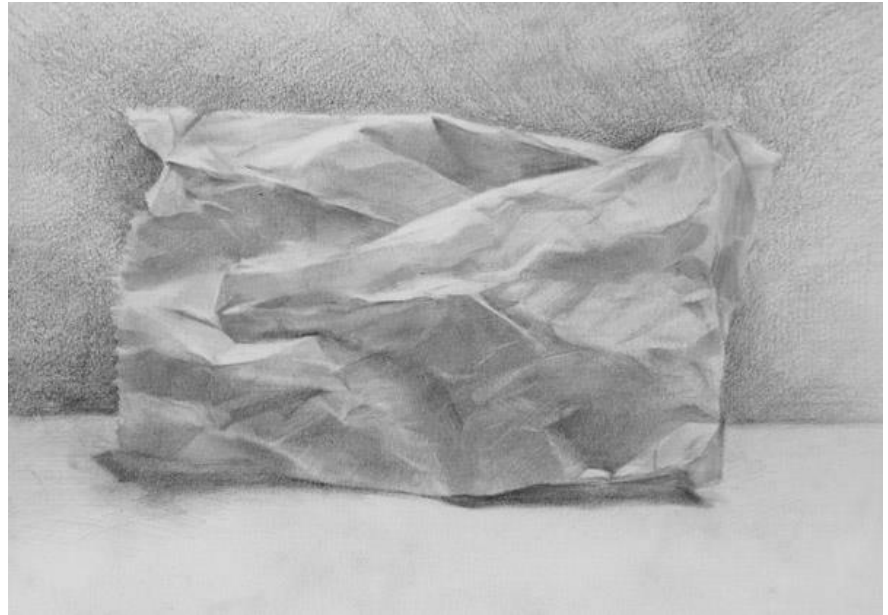
**1** Instead of drawing the items themselves, search for the spaces and abstract shapes between them. Draw or paint these shapes with thick lines and the objects in your still life will gradually start to emerge.

**2** Paint the negative shapes in a solid color. Your result is a semi-abstract drawing with strong outlines.



**3** You can recognize the objects in the finished painting but they form a flat pattern instead of looking 3D.

Draw a crumpled paper bag or folded fabric from life.  
Focus on rendering and on the values. Graphite or charcoal.





For an added challenge, try painting a paper bag or folded fabric from life.

