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Still Life Drawing - Working With Shading

Four templates with and without guidelines for
practicing pencil hatching



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PRINT SETTINGS

Please use Acrobat Reader to print and make sure that the settings 'Actual size' and 'Auto portrait/landscape' are selected.

SAVE PAPER & TONER

Only print out the pages you need.

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INTRODUCTION

Still Life Drawing - Working With Shading

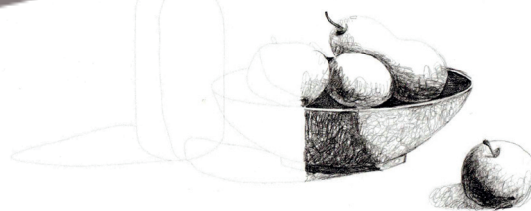
Hatching is a sequence of finely drawn lines with which you are able to produce gray tones when drawing. The closer to each other the lines are, the darker the shading. If you look at an area of hatching close up, it's easy to see the individual strokes. The further away you get, the more the hatching blends into a gray tone. The eye can no longer separate the individual lines and the hatching appears to be a continuous surface. You use this technique to create the illusion of light, shadow, and spatial depth in a drawing.

People have been drawing still lifes for centuries in order to practice this technique. A still life is a picture of inanimate objects from everyday life – often including flowers or fruit. Hatching can be done in different ways. For these drawing exercises the two following techniques are particularly useful:



Shading by hatching

Shading is created by drawing a series of lines that do not cross. The closer together the lines are drawn, the darker the shading will be. Another method of achieving even darker areas is cross-hatching. To do this you change the direction of the strokes, going back over the previous layer of hatching.



Scribble shading

With this technique shading is achieved by scribbling tiny overlapping circles and random squiggles. In this way you can create different tones of gray – the closer together the irregular lines are scribbled, the darker the shadows appear to be.

Working with shading enhances your spatial perception and refines the ability to effectively represent light and shade. Still lifes depict the quiet world of objects – without people or action – allowing the artist to concentrate on the interplay of light and shade... an awesome thing to practice!

Micha Labbé

EXAMPLE IMAGES

Still Life Drawing - Working With Shading

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