

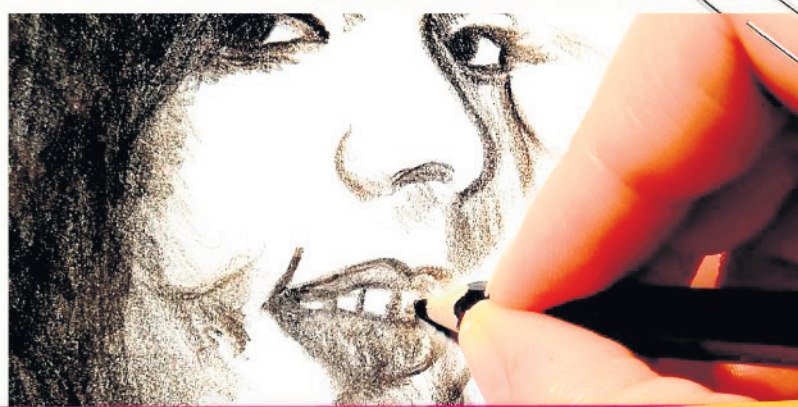
YOU'VE probably done and seen many examples of drawings – a form of two-dimensional visual arts made by applying a medium to create an image form or shape on a surface to represent something. Some drawings are of things you see in real life while others are abstract. Artists and draftsmen can use different techniques and various pieces of equipment. Just like anything you learn, drawing involves applying some basic principles and techniques and practising them to improve. Let's find out more so you can learn how to draw it.



ELEMENTS OF DRAWING

WHEN considering the overall composition of a drawing you need to understand the different elements that should be used.

- **Focal point:** A primary centre of interest (or focus) in a drawing.
- **Overlapping:** The visual separation of a drawing into foreground, middle ground, and distant space by overlapping (or layering) objects.
- **Negative space:** The space within your drawing not occupied by a focal point, important subject, or area of interest.
- **Lines:** The tools used to guide the viewer through the different elements of a drawing.
- **Balance:** A stable arrangement of subjects within a composition.
 - **Contrast:** Extremes of light and dark values that create shapes and patterns in your composition.
 - **Proportion:** The amount of space allocated to the various components.



TYPES OF DRAWING

- **LIFE:** drawings from direct observations of what is seen. This shows something that resembles actual true life, real concrete objects you come across in daily life. Examples are still life and portraits.
- **EMOTIVE:** drawings that express feelings, emotions or ideas. Cartoons are examples of this.
- **ANALYTIC:** drawings used as a way to represent, dissect and understand subjects. often used in science.
- **SKETCHES:** drawings that are usually rough and rapidly executed. These freehand drawings are not intended as a finished work but are used to explain or think through a problem.
- **TECHNICAL:** drawings or plans that communicate how something functions or is to be constructed.
- **PERSPECTIVE:** drawings that give the illusion of space and distance by showing volume, space, light, horizon, surface and scale.

DRAWING DRAWINGS

FEELING artistic? Drawing can be a great way to express your creativity. It's a powerful tool. With only a few materials and some basic skills you can make marks on a piece of paper and the artist inside you will emerge.

To help organise, arrange and combine objects within a drawing space, try using some of these techniques.

- **Hatching:** Use parallel lines drawn closely together to create tone
- **Cross hatching:** Use hatching in two or more different directions one across the other
- **Stippling:** Dots produce tone or texture
- **Shapes:** Use basic shapes like cubes, spheres, cylinders, cones to represent objects
- **Lines:** Use different lines like circles, scribbles and contours to add effect
- **Shading:** Vary the tones for light and dark
- **Blending:** Soften or spread drawing strokes.

Materials

Anything that can make a mark can be used. The most commonly used are: graphite pencils; pens, ink, coloured pencils, crayons, charcoal, chalk, pastels, sanguine and felt tip markers. Draw on paper, cardboard, plastic, leather, canvas, stone and wood.

TRY THIS

PRACTISE the "Upside Down" drawing technique to awaken the right side of your brain. When you turn an image upside down you are making it abstract or unrecognisable. This forces you to draw what you see.

WORD WALL – Some terms used in drawing

- **Blending:** Fusing two or more lines.
- **Draftsman:** A person skilled in drawing/drafting.
- **Line:** The most basic drawing tool. A line has length, width, tone and texture.
- **Texture:** Describes the quality of an object.
- **Tone:** Refers to lightness or darkness of an area.

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