

Line Drawing lesson

Materials

pens and pencils

paper

objects to draw

Contour line

The contour line is a line that defines the edge of a form of an object. It is an outline drawing with no shading. For the first exercise choose a simple object and draw it multiple times on one piece of paper from different viewpoints. Experiment with different drawing materials and start choosing different subject matter. Keep your drawings simple and just focus on the contour line. Don't worry if your drawings don't turn out perfect, this is about the process of looking and drawing and not necessarily the end product.



The more you practise this the better you will get and the more you will enjoy it. Henri Matisse made some lovely contour line drawings, like this one of roses. Search online for contour line drawings and you will find some great examples.



Continual Line

Next is continual line drawing – this is when you don't take the pen off the paper at any point during your drawing. You put your pen or pencil down and complete the entire drawing without taking the pen or the pencil off the paper. Whilst drawing you are aiming at moving your eye around the outline of the object and your hand in unison. This is great for your hand to eye co-ordination.

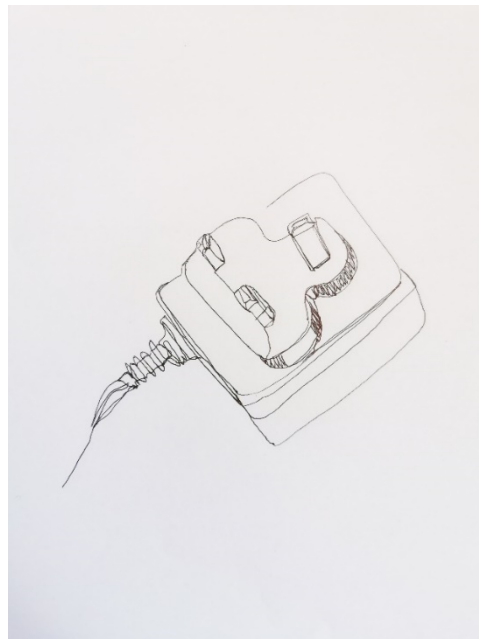


I decided to use a pen for this next drawing. Start with a simple object, I have chosen an apple, take your time drawing it using the continual line technique. Remember that these lines don't have to be limited to the contour of the apple but can also depict the contours of the shadows and highlights. As you draw like this you will have to problem solve as you may find you want a line to go behind a previous line - how are you going to make this happen without lifting your pen from the page?

Drawing the apple multiple times from different angles on one page makes a really nice study of this technique and the apple.



Explore different subjects and different mediums using this technique. I have drawn this celery using a pencil. With pencil you are able to vary the pressure you apply to create a tone in your line – just like we practised earlier. Try different pencils to see how they work.



I created this drawing of a plug with a biro. I have made it very obvious where the line starts and finishes. Moving from one plug pin to another I had to draw a line I didn't see. I have created shading in this drawing by looping the line close together, going over it a couple of times to make the darkest bits whilst still maintaining contact with the paper.

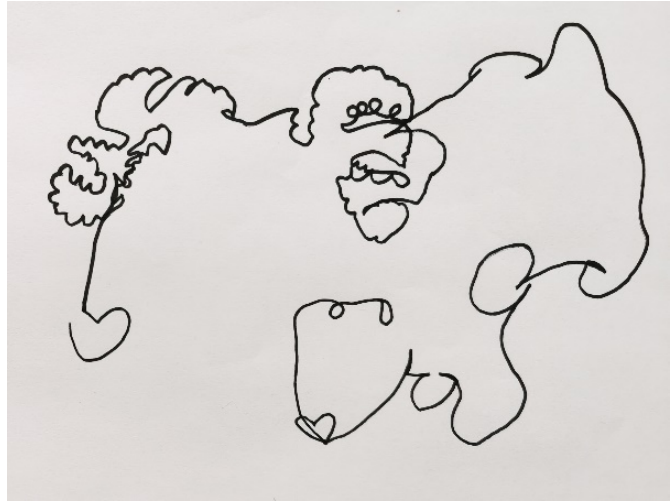
Have a play with this technique, take your time – it's a slow, focused way of drawing. Notice how it feels to really look at the object, training your hand to move in unison with your eye. You can even draw more complex subject this way – like a whole room which is really fun.



Blind continuous line drawing

This next exercise is designed to really focus your hand to eye co-ordination – it is quite challenging and very fun – it is blind continual line drawing. For this, choose a simple subject matter and a medium to draw with and set yourself up in a way that you cannot see your drawing as you are doing it. Drawing like this is a way to ensure that your full attention is on the object, that you cant watch yourself draw so your eyes are trained on the form and textures of the object.

The drawings that come out of this can be very disjointed, looking very odd and quirky.... I love this about them! Don't get hung up on the finished drawing, the aim is to fully immerse yourself in the process, establishing a line of communication between your eye, your mind and your hand.



Take your time to explore these processes, drawing is about giving yourself time to lose yourself in the process. Change mediums and subject matter, play with scale and composition, and take your time to really enjoy seeing these objects in a new way and creating some dynamic and fun drawings.