

# The Illusion of Space

## ? What are we covering today?

Today, we'll begin our look at creating the illusion of space in a drawing. **Space** is the element of art that deals with the area and areas around and within subjects. Properly using the element of space in a drawing helps to create depth. Depth of course, leads to a sense of realism.

Today, we'll look at 5 devices an artist can use to create the illusion of space in a drawing. There is a sixth device, but we'll begin exploring it tomorrow.

## ! Today's Mindset

Before we dive into today's drawing exercise, let's take a look at today's mindset...

"We can create the illusion of space and depth in a drawing through overlapping, size, placement on the paper, value and color, and detail."

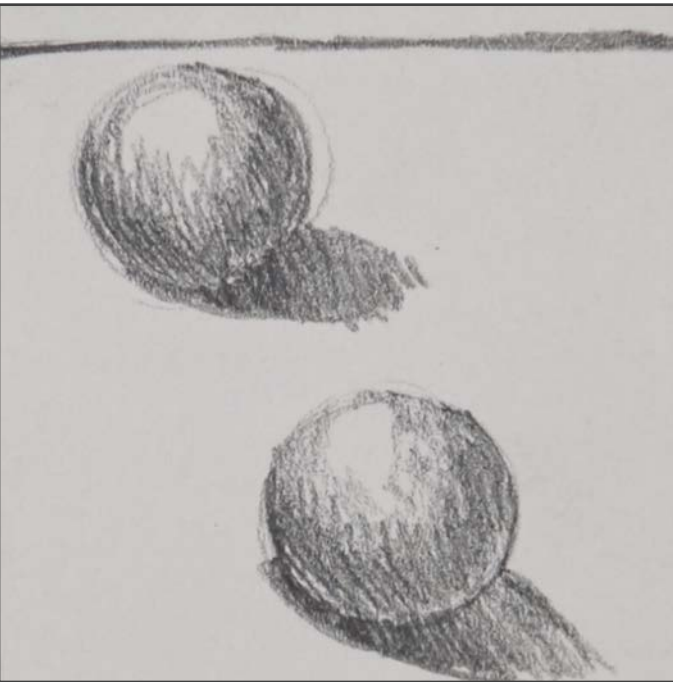
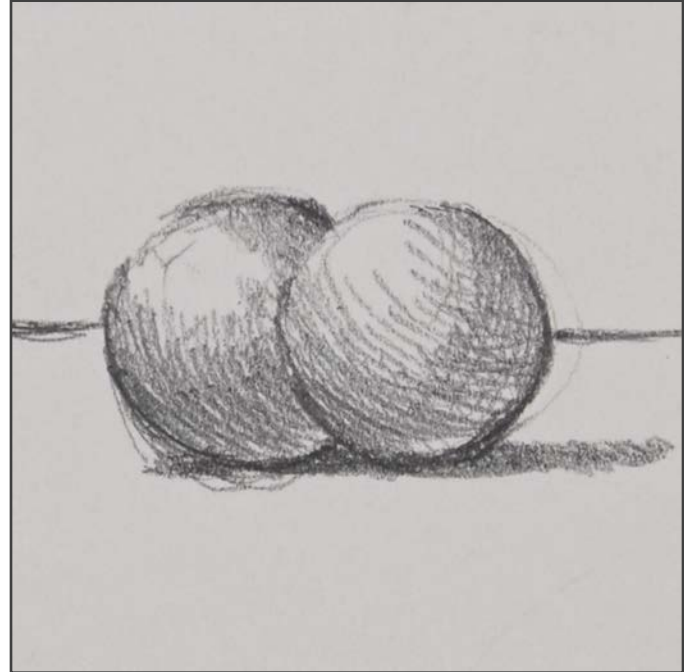
## / Today's Drawing Exercise

Today, we'll create 5 small drawings. Each one will show you a specific technique that you can use to create the illusion of space and depth in a drawing. We'll illustrate each device using basic forms.



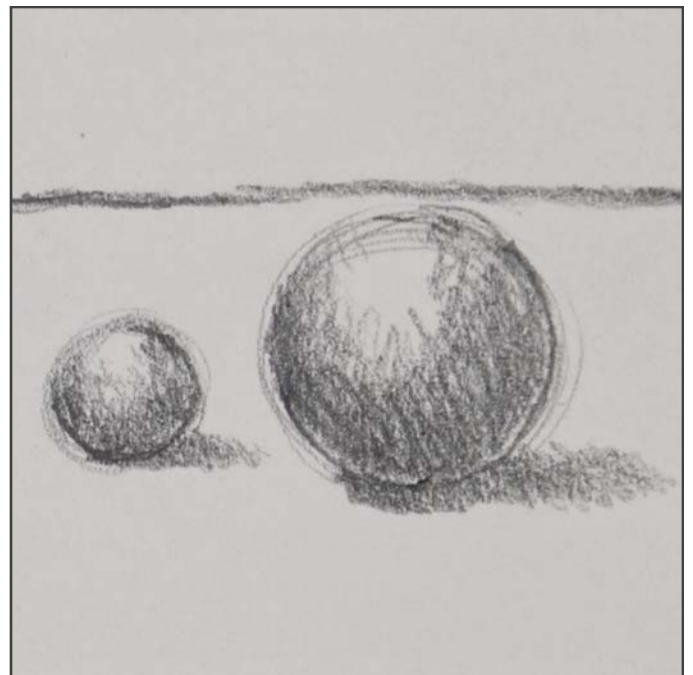
## Overlapping

Overlapping occurs when one object prevents all or part of another object from being visible. This occurs because the object that is closer to the viewer is in the line of sight of objects that are further away. In this example, the sphere on the right appears closer to the viewer since it overlaps the sphere on the left.



## Placement on the Picture Plane

By placing objects lower on the picture plane, we can create the illusion that they are closer to the viewer. This is assuming that both objects are on the same surface. This technique does not apply to objects on elevated surfaces or objects suspended in mid-air. In this example, the sphere positioned lower on the picture plane appears closer to the viewer than the sphere at the top of the picture plane.



## Size

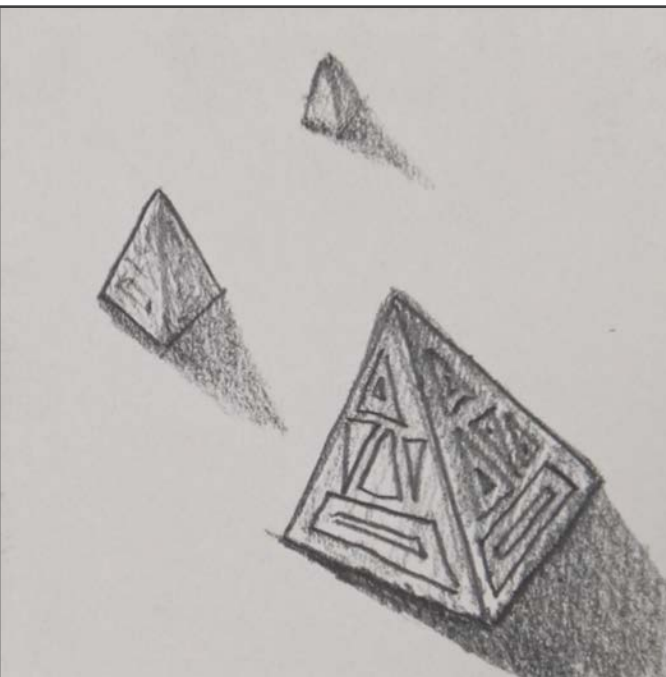
As we near objects in space, they appear larger - especially when compared to objects that are farther away. We can create the illusion that objects are closer to the viewer in a drawing by simply making them larger. In this example, the sphere on the right appears closer to the viewer since it is larger.

## Color / Value

Objects that are closer to the viewer typically have a broader range of value and are generally darker in tone. Objects further away are usually lighter in value with a narrower range of tone.

Color can also help to create the illusion of space. Objects that are further away are usually cooler in color temperature while objects that are closer are usually warmer.

In this example, the darker spheres appear closer to the viewer, while the lighter ones appear further away.



## Detail

Less detail is noticeable as objects recede back in space. In a drawing, we can include more detail on objects that we want to appear closer to the viewer. We can leave out details on objects that we want to appear further away.

In this example, the pyramid with recognizable details appears closer to the viewer.

Today we learned that space is the element of art that deals with the area or areas around and within objects. We saw that we can create the illusion of space in a drawing through overlapping, size, placement on the paper, value and color, and detail.

Tomorrow, we'll begin an in-depth look at the sixth device that can be used to create the illusion of space - linear perspective.