



25 Days to Better Drawings

Introduction and Materials

? What can I expect from this course?

I think that it's safe to say that you're here because you want to improve your drawing skill and this course is designed to help you do just that.

The structure of this course is unique. Over the course of the next 25 days, you will partake in a drawing journey. One that introduces a new concept to drawing and an exercise that reinforces this concept.

Each day, I'll share with you the mindset of the day which will be the framework of the concept we'll discuss on that day. Each concept that we discuss will progressively become more complex, building on concepts that we discussed on previous days.

Along with each concept, you'll be presented with a skill building exercise. Each drawing exercise is short and designed to be completed within one hour.

We'll use basic drawing materials, most of which you probably already have and a sketchbook.

! Today's Mindset

Today we'll start with our overall mindset. Our mindset and belief system is incredibly important to our success or failure with any endeavor that we take on in life. This is especially true with drawing and other skill-based activities. If we believe that we will be successful, in most cases we are. However, if we believe that we may fail, we often do.

So today we begin by determining our mindset for this course and for our future success with drawing.

I've spent over a decade teaching students art at the high school level and two years as an arts administrator in charge of the visual arts program for a large school district.

Over the years, I've had and seen many students achieve their goals as artists. Many of the students began with the mindset that they were not capable of producing high quality art. They had bought into the idea that it required talent in order to become an artist. This mindset, that so many share, unfortunately hinders so many wanting to experience the joy of producing quality art.

! Today's Mindset

Fortunately, drawing and painting are skills that anyone can achieve. It doesn't require a special talent. Instead, it requires an openness to learn and a dedication to practicing.

It also requires a mindset that trusts that your goals will be achieved - that you can create quality artwork. Without this belief, you set yourself up for failure. But with this belief, your goals are within reach. You must believe that you can learn and develop the skills of drawing.

Today we tune our minds for success. We except the challenges before us and we dedicate ourselves to see this course through to completion.



Materials

Let's take a look at the materials that will be used in this course...



- Graphite Pencils, H, HB, 2B, 4B
- White drawing paper (sketchbook)
- Gray drawing paper (sketchbook)
- White charcoal pencils
- Technical drawing pens
- Kneaded eraser or rubber eraser
- Blending stumps (tools)
- Black drawing paper (one exercise)
- Ruler or straight edge

Today's Drawing Exercise

We want to be able to measure our success as we progress. As we learn a new skill, we often progress taking small steps. It can be difficult to see much improvement from one drawing to the next even though it's there - happening slowly.

Today, we define our starting point, so that we may go back in the future and see just how much we have improved over time.

Using graphite pencils and white drawing paper, create a drawing. It should be a small drawing, one that you can complete within an hour. It can be any subject matter that you wish but I suggest a small slightly complex object. Whatever subject that you choose, you must be able to access it again after the 25 days. Also, your drawing should be completed by observation - meaning that you are drawing the subject by looking at it - no drawings from imagination. You are, of course, free to take a photo of the subject and draw from it. Be sure to keep the photo and don't delete it.

If you don't have an object that seems suitable, I have provided a reference photo (below, but also downloadable as a larger file.) that you can use.

Once your drawing is complete, store it in a safe place. After today, you shouldn't look at this drawing again until you have completed the course. Remember, spend less than one hour and draw from observation.

