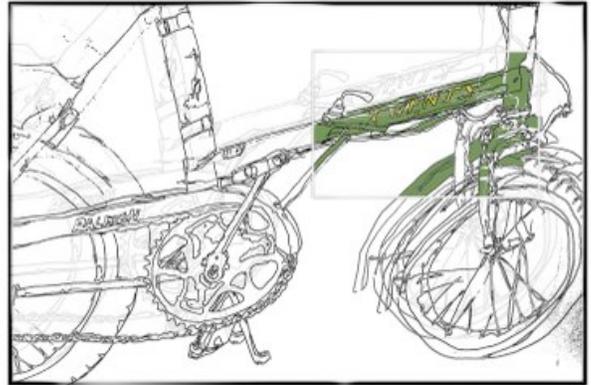


Contour Homework due next week. Second week of class.

1. **Contour Line**— version of line drawing, in which the artist, looking very closely at the contours of an object, transfers it in one continuous line to paper without looking down to see what he is doing, except when he needs to place an internal feature such as an eye. The use of the word contour suggests that more emphasis is given to rendering mass and volume than in an outline drawing, and indeed in such works the tactile values are given as much importance as the purely visual ones. Often used to help artists learn to look very carefully at the subject in order to see and render subtle details.



A contour line drawing is one that uses line to define the form. In it you carefully observe the subject being drawn and with a smooth continuous line, draw only what you see. Both the outside edges and interior edges are shown.

Guidelines for contour line drawing:

1. use a well-sharpened pencil or extra fine sharpie.
2. **Spend more time looking at your subject than at your drawing.**
3. keep your eyes on the subject.
4. imagine that your drawing tool is in actual contact with the subject. As you are looking across the subject, imagine your eyes are the pencil or marker and a line is following inside.
5. keep your eyes and hand coordinated. Do not let your eyes move more quickly than your hand.
6. draw only where there is an actual structural plane shift, like a fold or overlap, or where there is a change in value, texture, or color.
7. draw only existent planes. Do not make meaningless lines.
8. do not retrace over already stated lines.
9. do not erase for corrections.
10. Remember that contour line is a single, incisive line.
11. vary the weight of the line to relay information above space and weight and to offer contrast..

Contour line drawings can be finished drawings on their own. But they are excellent exercises to help artists learn to see very carefully the subject.

As we know, you cannot draw if you can not see...this is a way to learn to see.

Take your time.

Do not draw more quickly than you can follow with your eyes.

Look more carefully than you ever have before.

See everything.

Draw with line the edges of inside and outside edges.

Keep line interesting. This means you can vary the width as you draw.

Where things in your image are dark or heavy, use a darker line, where they are light, a lighter line. This is something you can do with how

much you press on the pencil or charcoal.

