

DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER

Digital Programming

Introduction to Graphite Pencil with Adrienne Hodge



Observable Landscape Studies

Materials: Sketchbook, H & B pencils, eraser

(1) Position yourself in a comfortable spot outdoors or near a window with a view of an outdoor landscape.



(2) Align your pencil with prominent vertical lines



(3) Align your pencil with prominent horizontal lines.



(4) Align your pencil with prominent diagonal lines.



(5) Set a timer and sketch at least 4-5 thumbnail sketches of various observable views in your field of vision. Frame each one differently (square/rectangle/landscape/portrait, etc), and sketch a different view each time. Note what is overlapping in your field of view, what is in the foreground/middleground/background relative to your view point.



(6) Try to spend between 2-8 minutes on each thumbnail sketch. The reason for this is not to practice drawing fast, but to give yourself multiple options and not get too stuck on any one viewpoint until you've fleshed out a few ideas of where to focus your attention. Use both your H & B pencils to establish areas of light/dark in each thumbnail.



(7) Begin sketching one of your ideas on a full sheet in your sketchbook. Use your H pencil and minimal pressure to draw lightly.



(8) Pay close attention to depth--foreground, middleground and background. Establish the overall shape of things (roofs/trees, etc) rather than details. Make edits as you see fit (ignoring specific trees and just lumping several tree shapes together, for example). Keep focus on basic shapes of light and dark.



(9) Once you've established the main lines in your sketch, begin to add areas of light with bold, purposeful lines using your B pencils.



(10) Keep in mind the 4 shading techniques. Pay attention to directional flow of the area you are filling in--using vertical/horizontal/diagonal lines where appropriate. One handy trick for large areas with mostly the same value is to fill in that entire area (like a tree line) using evenly spaced diagonal hatching lines.



(11) Scribbling and stippling can be very useful in rounded areas or areas with loose/organic forms (like shrubbery)



(12) Repetitive hatching lines that follow the directional flow of a subject are also very useful. For this tall grassy area, I flicked my pencil in an upward stroke over and over to achieve a grass-like effect.



(13) Keep in mind that things that are further away will have less and less detail in your drawing, so try to capture the overall effect of light rather than straining your eyes to see detail. Save your detailed looking for subject matter in the foreground.



(14) Line variation is always important. Also, stepping back is always essential. Use a variety of pressure on your H & B pencils as you utilize all of the shading techniques. Put your own stylized flair into your mark making. Don't aim for realism all over. Choose one or two area to push realistic details and let the rest of this drawing study feel like a study of mark making and these shading techniques.



(15) If you become impatient in any particular area, try to push the details near that area to create contrast (like where I applied a sharp line and clear value on the fence line), and then use more free form scribbling lines to fill in the area you have lost interest in.



(16) Note how different your drawing may look when you are close to it vs. when you back away from it...





(17) Continue to add layers to areas with the same value. Blend and ease transitions with more thoughtful line application. Keep your pencils sharp throughout this process.



(18) As you finish up, go back and add bold, dark lines to areas with the darkest shadows in your landscape view.



(19) Note how even applying a thin layer of horizontal or vertical lines in unfinished areas with an H pencil added a sense of completion to this drawing.



(20) I also ended this drawing by adding loose scribble lines in several unfinished areas.