

Drawing with reverse tone

Objectives:

- Undertake 3 drawings working in reverse, from dark to light
- Relate their visual awareness of tonal contrasts to how a composition is produced.

Materials: objects, lighting paper, Charcoal, compressed charcoal, chalk, erasers, pencil, tissue, view finder

Your drawings should be created from 3 materials



Charcoal - for mid tones

Eraser- for light tones – you should try and use a combination of hard and soft eraser

Compressed charcoal - for dark tones

- **2 Drawings on A3 paper- focusing on a close up area of the still life composition (using your small viewfinder) – 30 mins each**
- **1 longer Drawing on A2 paper- 1 hour**

Stage 1

Cover sheet of paper with charcoal , smudging evenly until you have a strong tonal surface to work from.

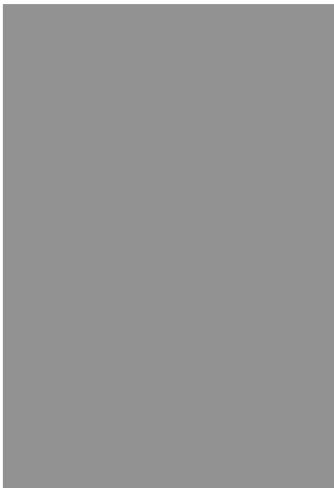


Fig 1: Paper covered with even grey tone

Stage 2

Using your eraser sketch out the composition observing these rules.

- use your viewfinder to select your composition from. You are required to focus upon bringing into your drawing other background details of the room beyond the still life. Such as windows, doors cupboards even other people. **THINK IN TERMS OF SHAPES AND NOT OBJECTS HERE.**

- If you make a mistake you use you charcoal to block the area out and the eraser to draw again Remember to keep measuring and assessing proportions and angels as you draw (with a pencil).



From “A *Foundation Course in drawing, from first principles*” (Arcturus, 1996) by **Peter Stanyer & Terry Rosenberg**

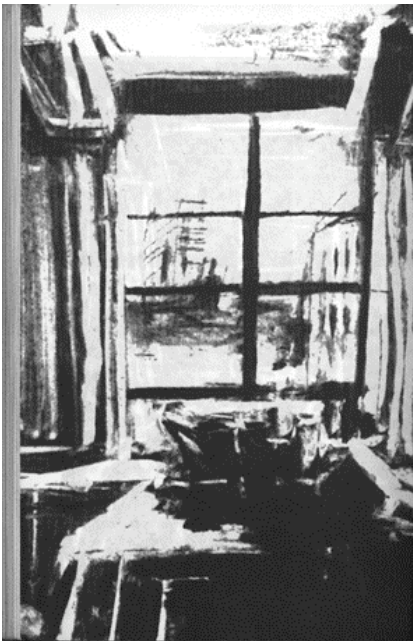
Fig 2: Eraser used to sketch out the composition

Stage 3

When your composition is outlined, use your eraser to bring out the lightest areas of the drawing. By squinting your eyes you can judge what these are more easily. work around the composition systematically relating to the shape immediately adjacent

Stage 4

The next stage is to use your compressed charcoal to bring out the darkest areas of the drawing (using the same criterion as above) . Utilise the way that shadows play across objects to help you with this.



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Fig 3: Drawing showing an even spread of tones from light to dark

Stage 5

You can use the remaining time to bring out the subtle differences between tonal values (if you have white chalk you can use it sparingly), but remember! work from the general to the specific and keep reassessing your drawing as you progress. **YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO MAKE CORRECTIONS NO MATTER HOW MUCH WORK YOU HAVE PUT IN** (the benefit is long term anyway)

Close up composition

Using your view finder look at interesting ways that you can crop the composition, here are some examples,



Fig 4: WEA students: reverse tone drawing close up with view finder