

Drawing 1: Start Drawing

A first level drawing course for OCA written by artist and teacher Hazel Lale

This course covers all the basics of learning to draw, including practice using a variety of media, and drawing in colour. Written by a successful contemporary artist, Hazel Lale, this unique insight into one artist's voice, coverage of the fundamentals of drawing, combined with the expert tuition supplied by the OCA's hand picked tutors, provides a rich and enjoyable learning experience.



Course content

The course starts with basic techniques such as making marks with pencils, pens and charcoal and moves on to the use of tone to express form. It focuses on black and white media to begin with and moves on to exploring the use of coloured pencils, ink and markers. In addition, the course covers techniques such as the use of linear perspective and foreshortening to depict spatial relationships in a two-dimensional plane. The course has a substantial section on drawing the human figure – both moving and at rest, and on drawing a self portrait. There are projects on drawing townscapes and landscapes, and hints on how to work outside. Finally, there are a number of projects which will extend your drawing skills to cover abstraction, cubist space, collage and the use of photography both as an aid to drawing and as an integral part of mixed media work. The course encourages an exploratory and experimental approach and has an emphasis on using a sketchbook to make preparatory sketches and try-outs of techniques. It

encourages the student to make notes about their work in their sketchbook as they progress through the course and to constantly look back at and review their work and to build on successful strategies as they develop.

Teaching methods

The course provides you with a series of projects that are supported by distance learning techniques. At certain points in the course your work will be seen by your personal tutor and you get feedback from your tutor, and answers to any specific questions you have. You can gain credits for your course too. If you want to have your work recognised you can gain credits towards a full qualification in art. To do this you present a portfolio of your work on the course, including work on specific projects, for assessment. But if only studying for pleasure, you don't have to go through assessment.

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