

How to Rule at Drawing

50 Tips and Tricks

for Sketching and Doodling

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Sketching and Doodling

Illustrations by Rachel Harrell



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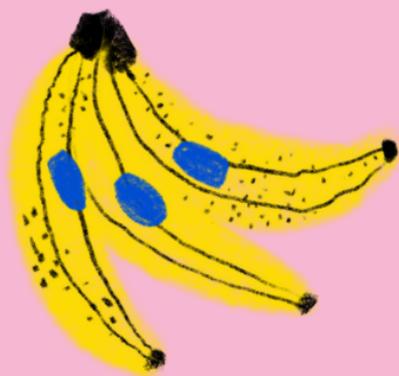
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1.

Start a daily practice.

Draw one thing a day for a year and
you will be amazed at your progress.

2.

**Change your
commute
and draw
something new
that you see.**





3.

DRAW ON A LOOSE
SHEET OF PAPER
WHEN DRAWING IN A
SKETCHBOOK IS TOO
INTIMIDATING.

4.

**WHEN YOU
HAVE A
DRAWING
BLOCK, GO
OUTSIDE AND
SKETCH WHAT
YOU SEE.**





5.

DRAW STUFF YOU
DON'T THINK
INTERESTS YOU:

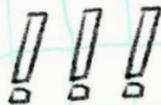
It will challenge you and make you more well rounded.

And you might like it.

6.

Don't underestimate your doodles.

The best ideas often come to you
while you are doing something else.



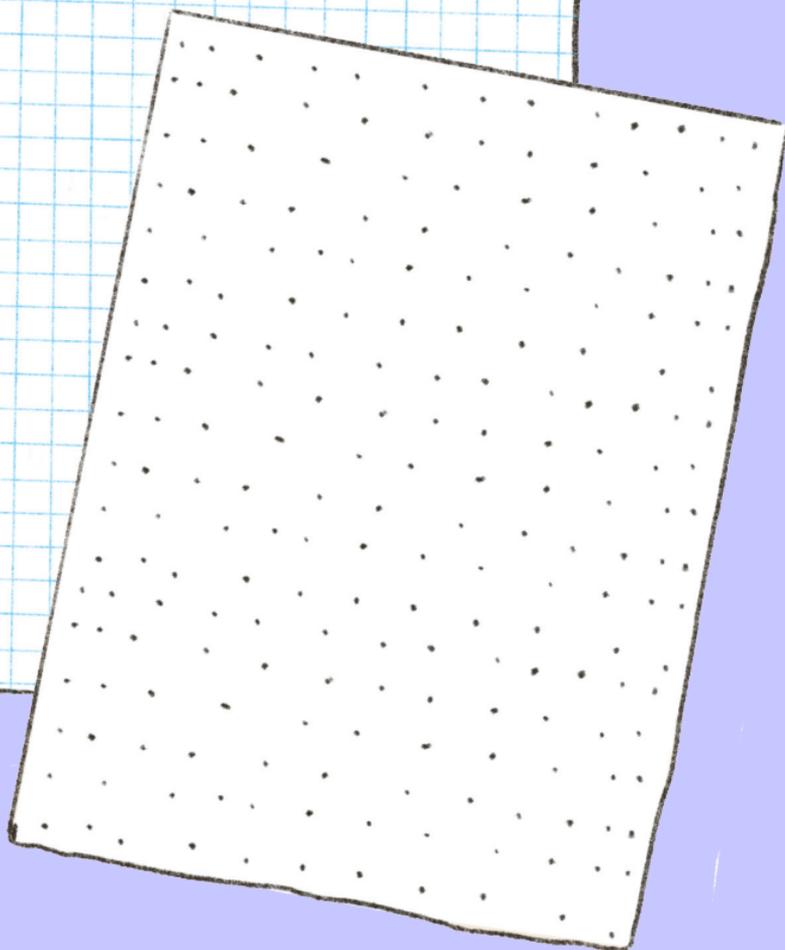
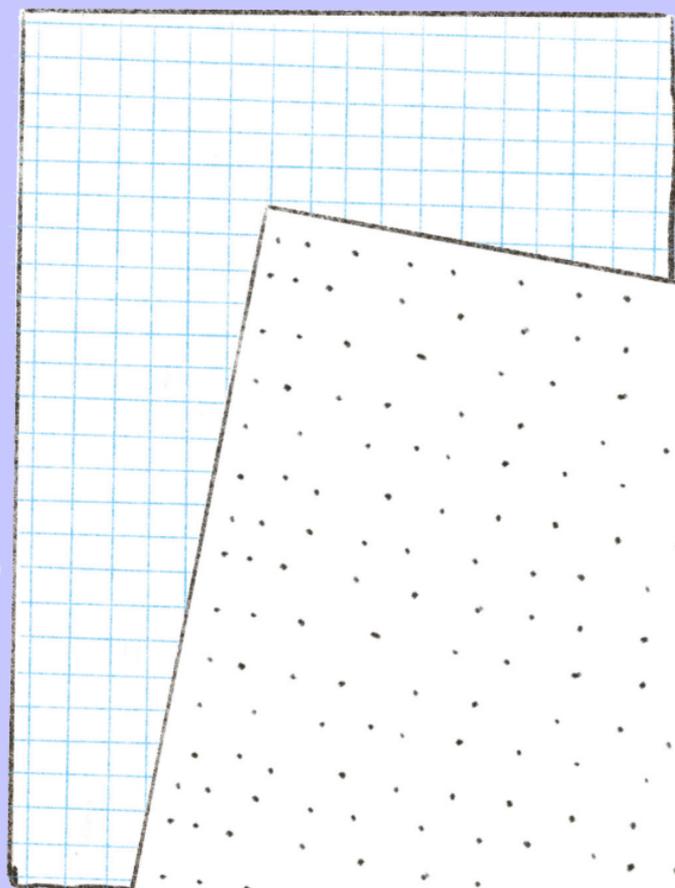


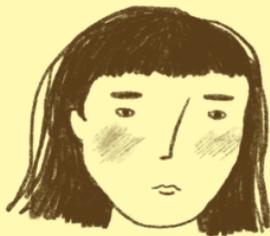
7.

*If you love
color, draw
everything
in color.*

8.

TRY A SKETCHBOOK
WITH A DOT OR GRID
PATTERN INSTEAD
OF BLANK PAGES.





9.

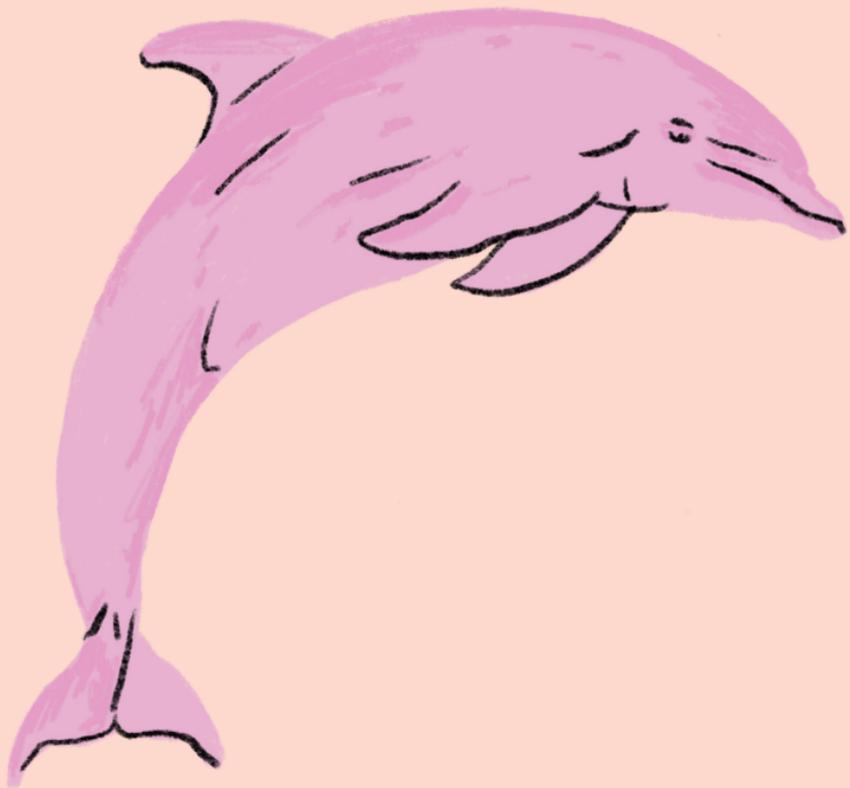
**DRAW THE
SAME PERSON
FIVE TIMES,
EACH IN A
DIFFERENT
STYLE.**

10.

Emulate an artist.

Whether you're copying one of their pieces exactly or drawing something the way you imagine they would draw it, you'll find that your art takes on a style of its own. Embrace the similarities—and the differences!



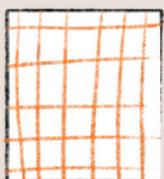
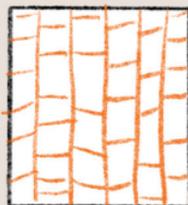


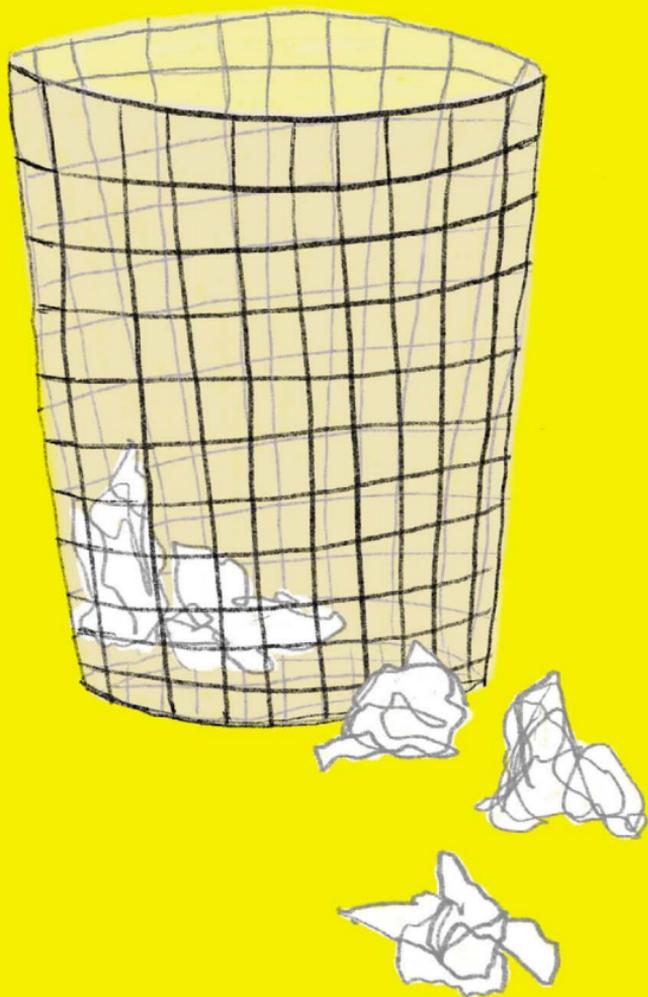
11.

**REALISM
IS NOT THE
OBJECTIVE.**

12.

*Try varying
the type
of marks you
make. Use
lines, hatches,
scribbles,
dots, etc.*





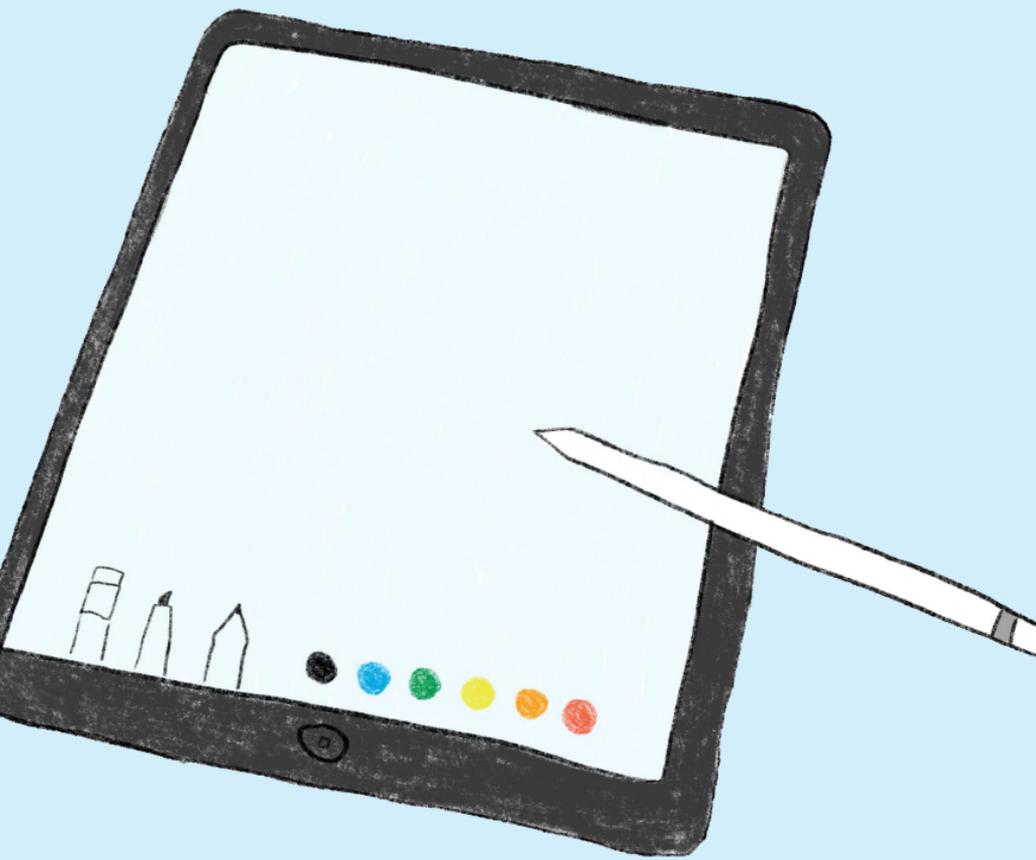
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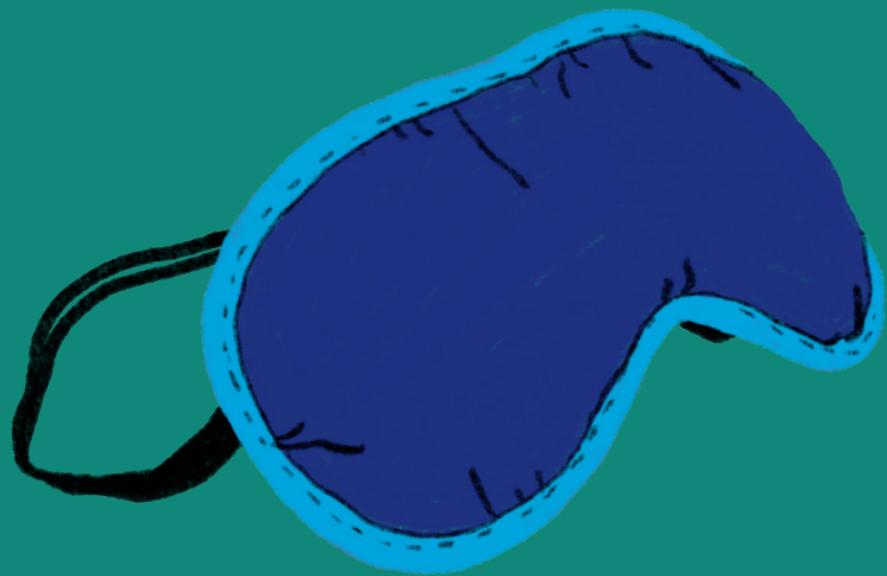
**If you are not
into what you
are making,
start again.**

14.

IF YOU ARE
INTIMIDATED BY
PUTTING PEN TO
PAPER, TRY DRAWING
WITH A TABLET OR
PHONE APP FIRST.

It feels freeing and less permanent
as a way to get started.





15.

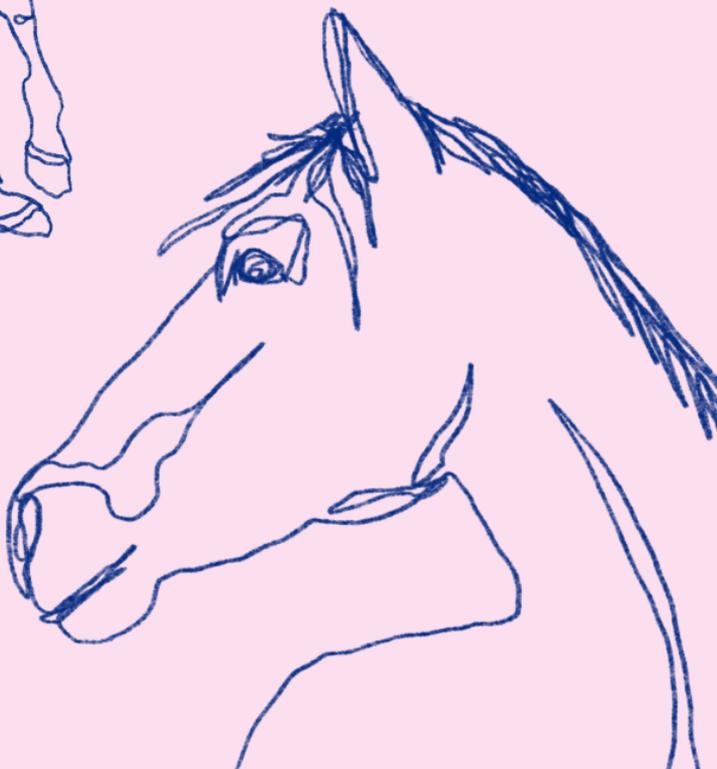
**DRAW WITH
YOUR EYES
CLOSED.**

16.

HAVE YOU EVER
HAD A BURST OF
INSPIRATION JUST
BEFORE DRIFTING
OFF TO SLEEP,

only to forget it by the time you woke up? Ever woken from an extraordinarily vivid dream, only to forget all about it by the time you're out of the shower? Keep a sketchbook next to your bed to record those images from that half-awake state before they disappear.





17.

***Try drawing
without lifting
your pen off
the paper.***

18.

**Reduce
things to
geometric
shapes: circle,
rectangle,
triangle.**





19.

SHARE THE DRAWING PROCESS

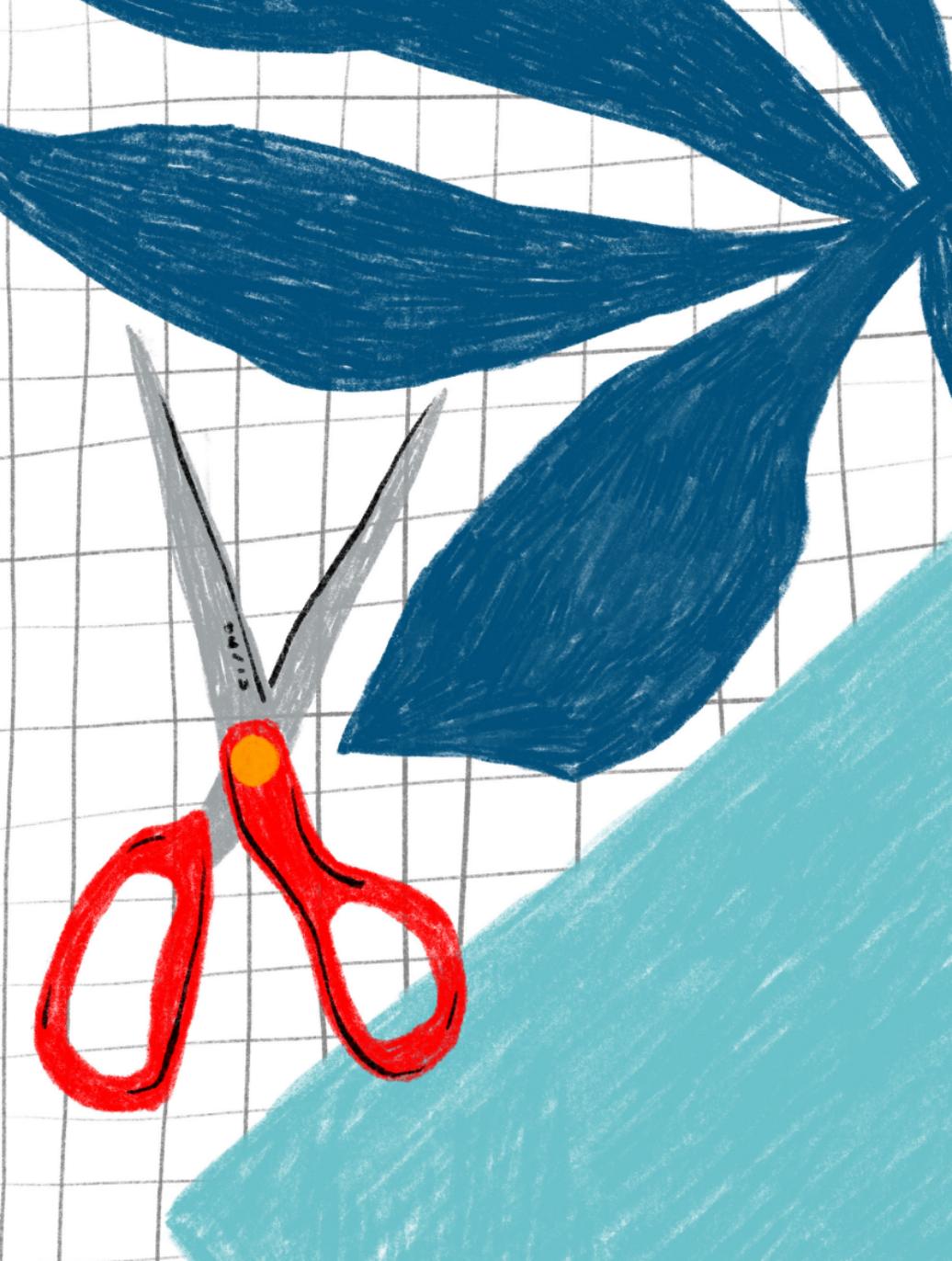
as a way to get your creativity flowing and mix up your go-to style, subject matter, and technique. Get together with a friend or group of friends, set a timer for five minutes (or more depending on how ambitious you're feeling), and draw. When time's up, pass your drawing to the right and pick up where the person before you left off. Repeat, repeat, repeat! A fun alternative is to send a small drawing back and forth via snail mail.

20.

Play with scale.

Draw extra-large, then scan and shrink it down.
Conversely, draw really small, then scan and blow it up.



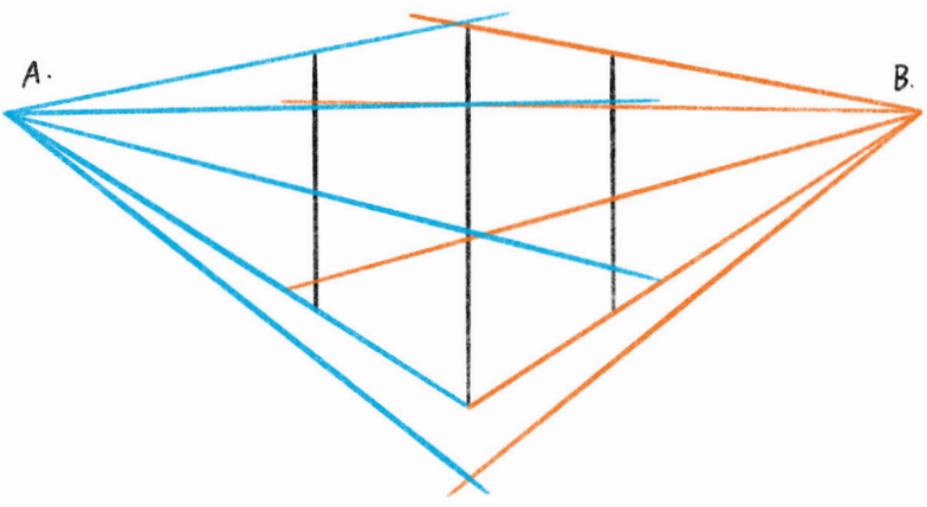
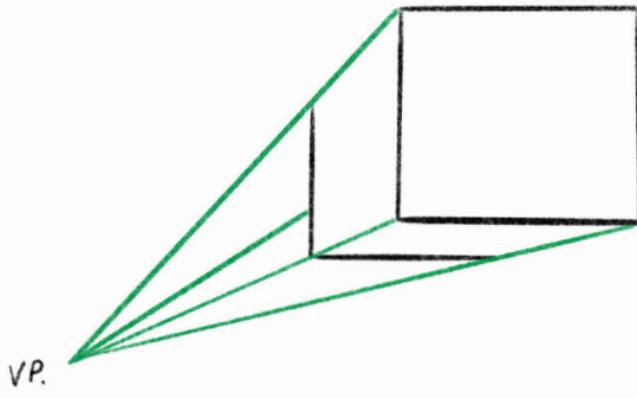


21.

TRY USING A GRID
TO EASILY SCALE UP
A DRAWING.

22.

***Consider
using a
vanishing point
for drawing in
perspective.
Then try using
two points.***





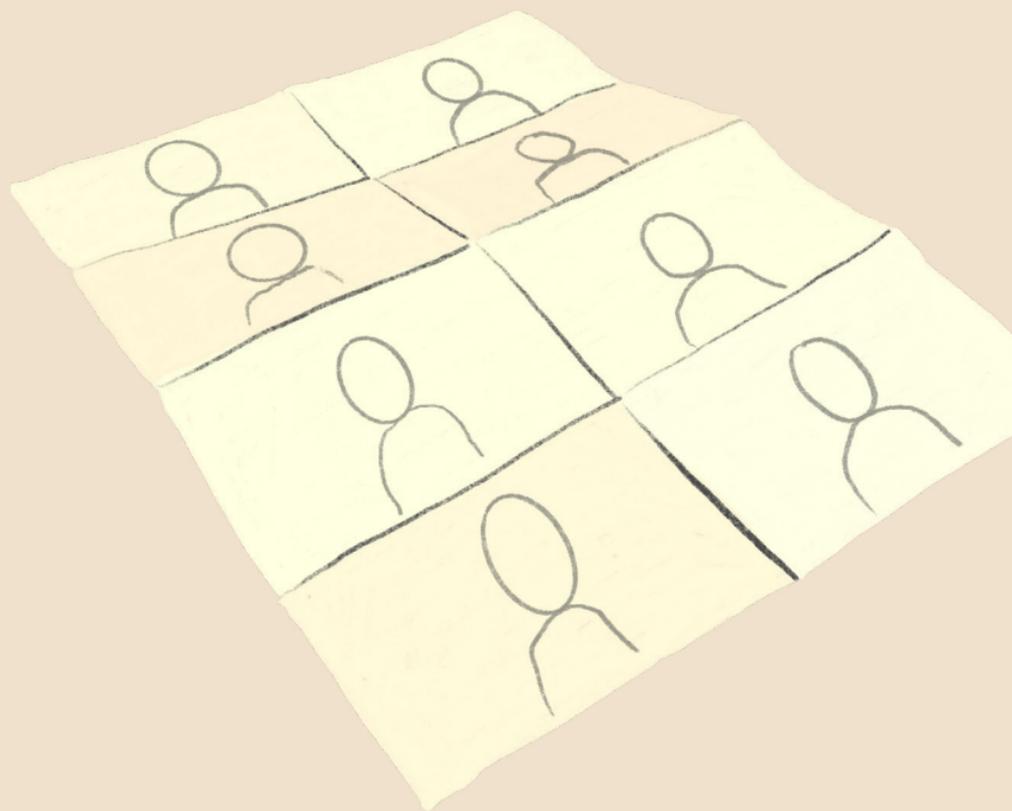
23.

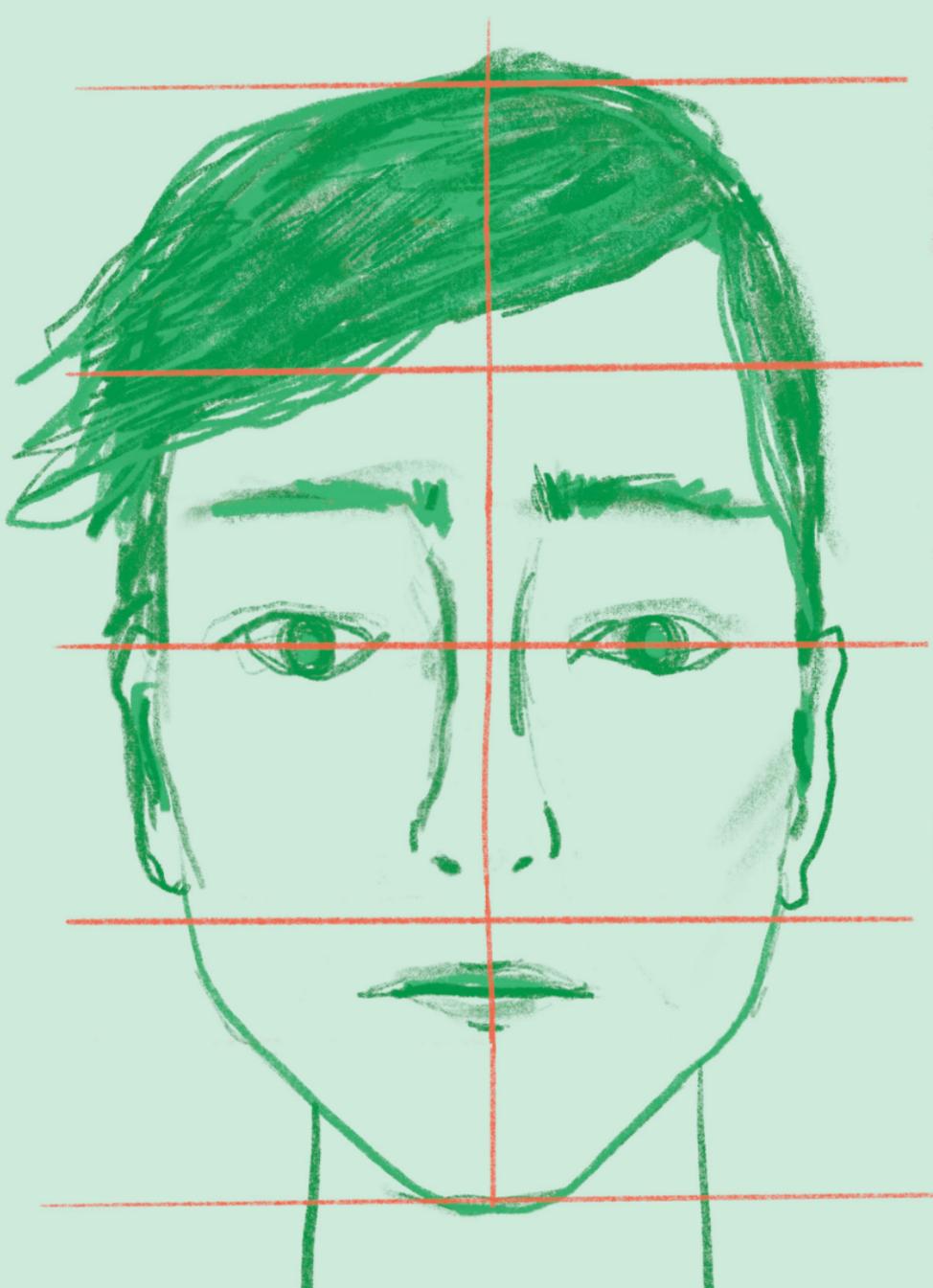
**Sharpen
charcoal and
colored pencils
with an X-Acto
knife to avoid
breaking
the lead.**

24.

FOLD A PIECE OF PAPER INTO A GRID

of eight boxes and draw an identical, mannequin-like, featureless head in each box. Then find a crowded public spot to sit and observe people from. When you see someone with great hair, draw it on one of your heads. Once all eight heads have hair, give them facial features. Mix it up so that all of the features come from different people. In the end, you should have eight beautiful Frankenhead creations.





25.

**IF YOU ARE
DRAWING A
FACE, TRY
DRAWING THE
EYES IN THE
MIDDLE.**

26.

DRAW SOMETHING
ON A FOUR-BY-
SIX-INCH PIECE OF
CARDSTOCK AND MAIL
IT TO A FRIEND AS A
POSTCARD.

Don't forget the stamp!





27.

***Try making
an art-mood
playlist.***

Next time you pick up your pencil, crank up the music
and see where the rhythms take you.

28.

Don't erase!

Draw with pen and embrace the imperfections.



ACTIS
Soft Rub
MAKING PAPER

LATEX FREE
MAKING PAPER
ACTIS

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ARTGUM
ART 2435-K
1997-B

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PRIMA LIGER
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ART 2435-K
1997-B

POWER MATE
Black Pearl
www

M
K

29.

INVEST IN A GOOD
ERASER. FORGET THE
ONE THAT IS ON THE
END OF A PENCIL.

30.

**Draw what
the object
actually looks
like, not what
you assume it
looks like.**





31.

**YOU PROBABLY
WON'T BE THE
NEXT VAN GOGH**

because that was like a million years ago. And that's OK.

32.

BUMP UP YOUR ATTENTION TO LIGHT AND SHAPE

by drawing with a light-colored pencil on a dark surface. Whether you're going for realism or something more abstract, working "backward" like this can give you new perspective on which areas you want light, medium, and dark.





33.

*Having trouble
figuring out
when to step
away from a
sketch?*

Take a picture of it! Looking at a photo can help you get the critical distance you need to see what needs work and what is already picture-perfect.

34.

**Start with
pencil outline,
build with
shading, end
with pen.**





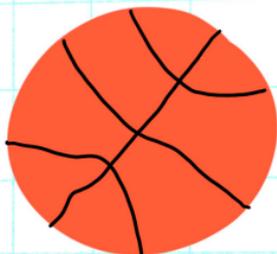
35.

DO A SERIES
OF 30-, 20-,
AND 10-SECOND
DRAWINGS.

36.

**DRAW THE
SAME SIMPLE
THING WITH
DIFFERENT
MATERIALS—**

pen, pencil, crayon, chalk—and use varying thicknesses.



1. MONOLINE PEN



4. CRAYON



2. ACRYLIC



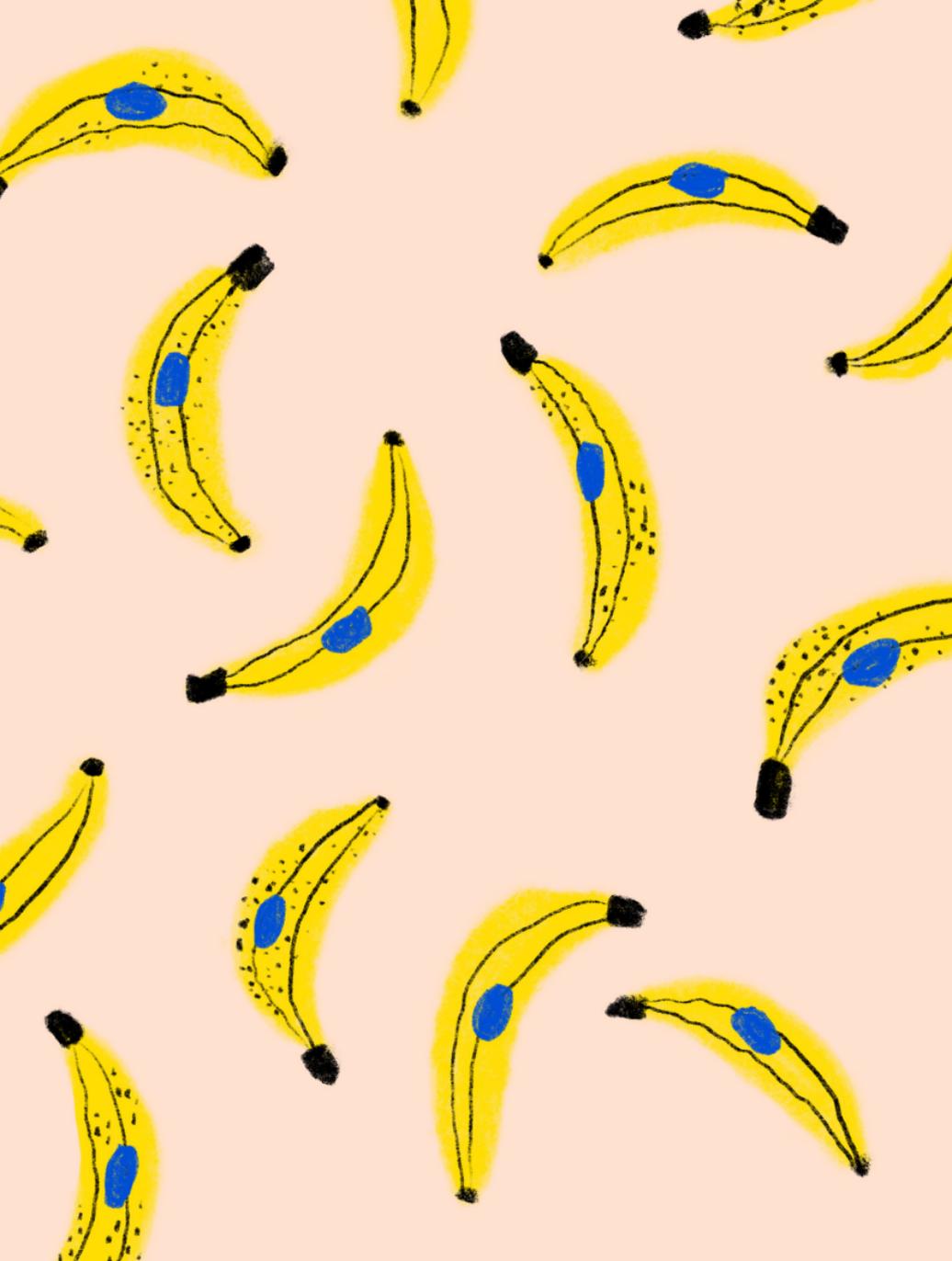
5. CHALK



3. MARKER



6. CHARCOAL



37.

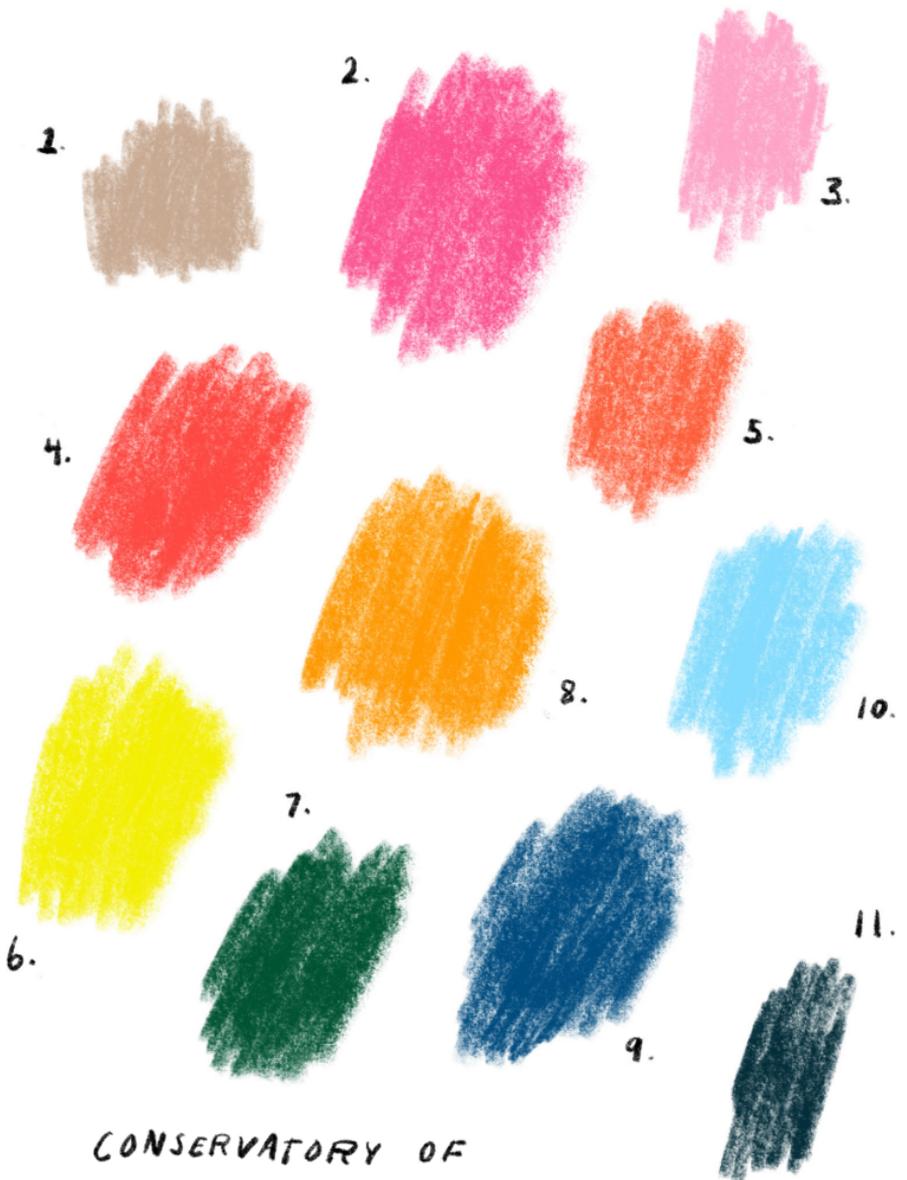
*Try making
a pattern by
drawing the
same shape,
mark, or object
over and over.*

38.

**To see an
object in a new
way, try a
“blind contour.”**

Home in on the most important lines of an object and let your hand move freely across the page. There's just one rule: No peeking at your drawing until it's done!





CONSERVATORY OF
FLOWERS 3·6

39.

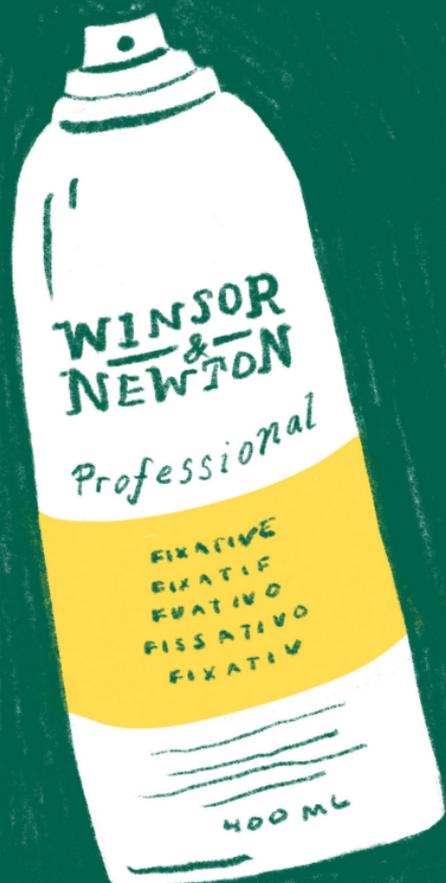
IF SKETCHING IN
PENCIL OUT IN
THE WILD, CREATE
A COLOR-SWATCH
PALETTE TO
REFERENCE LATER.

(Caseformaking.com sells the most amazing gridded
watercolor paper that is perfect for this.)

40.

*If you like to
draw with pencil
or charcoal,*

get some fixative spray so your drawings don't smudge.



IMPRESSIONISM

Hand-Lettering COVER

ANDY WARHOL

THE ARTWORK OF FRANCIS BACON

HOW TO BE AN ILLUSTRATOR

EXPRESSIONISM

THE ART BOOK

41.

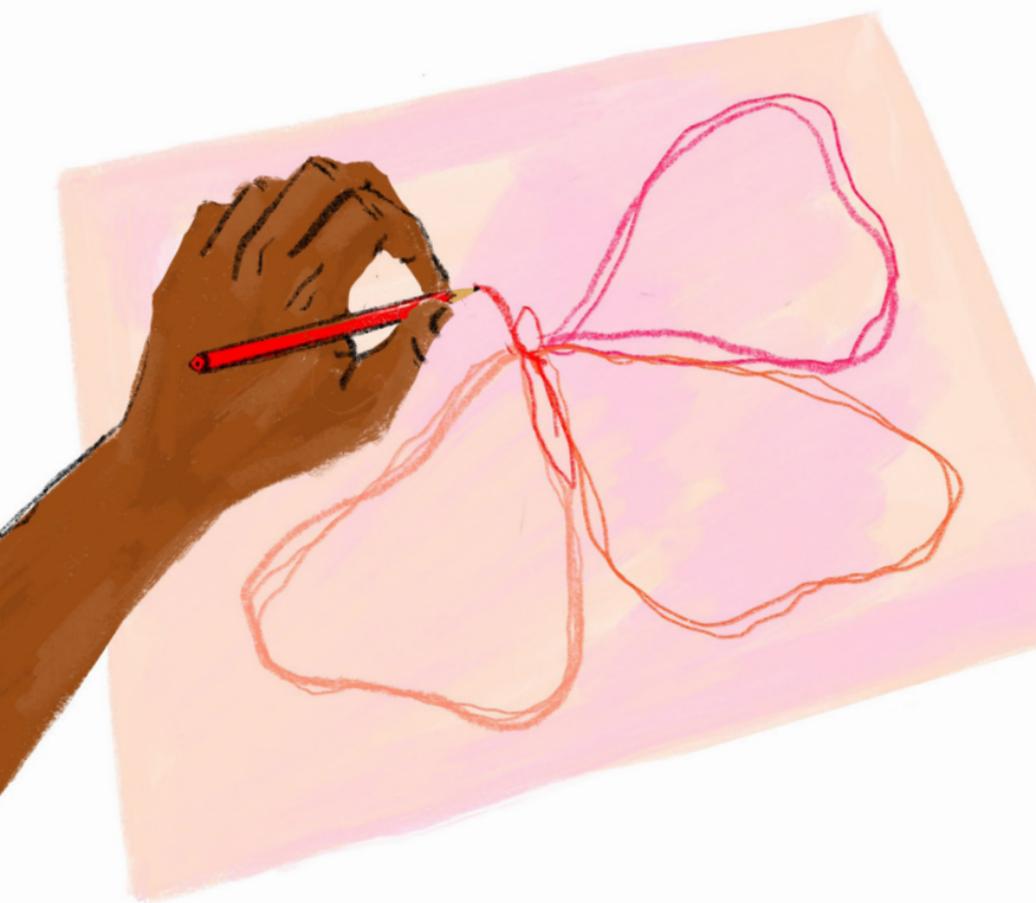
RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!

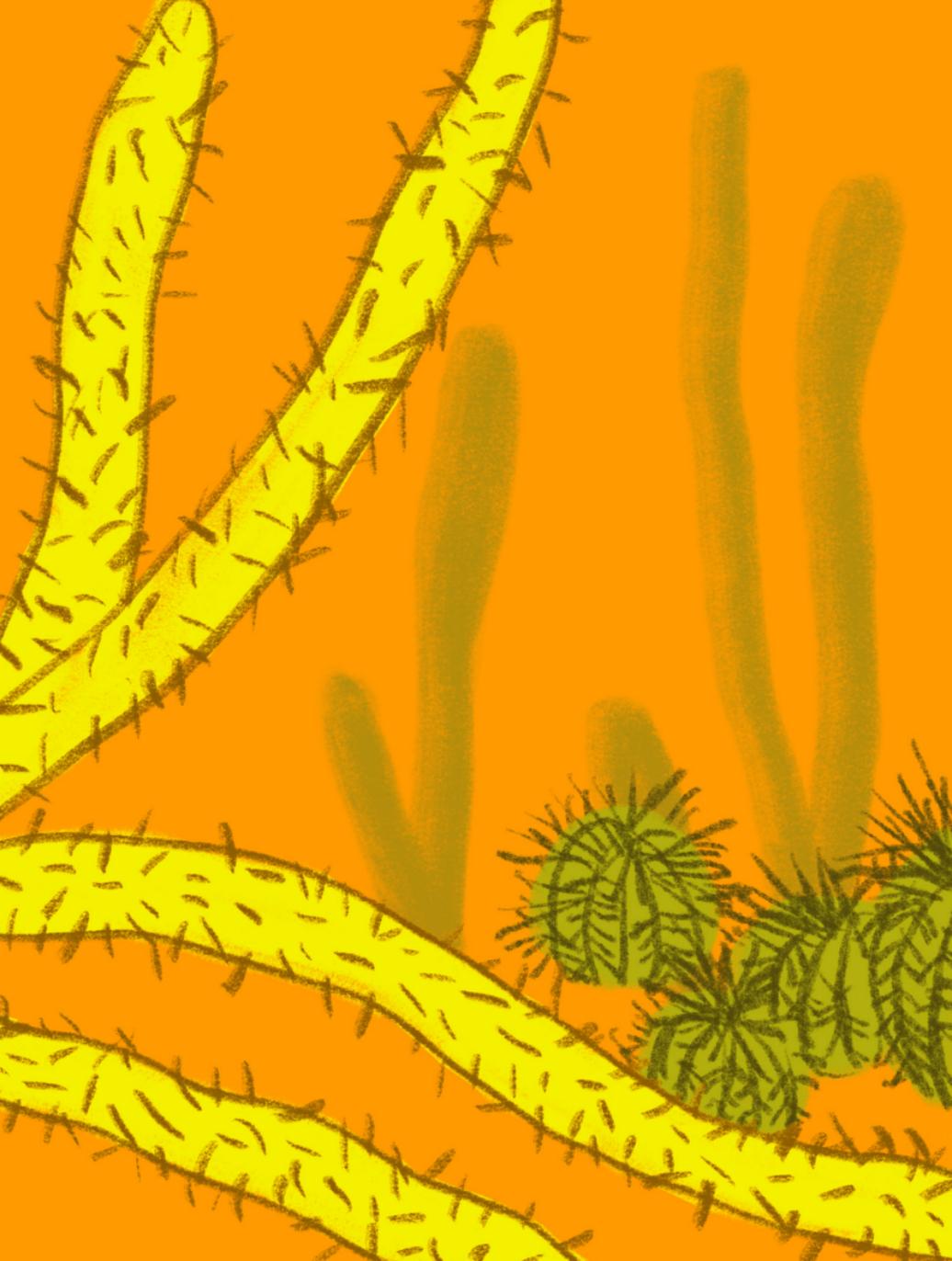
Sharpen your ax for 10 hours or more, find lots
of source images, or create your own.

42.

***Try drawing
with your
nondominant
hand.***

Start with something simple like a square or a circle, then move on to more complex shapes. This will challenge you to focus on the subject matter and not worry about the final outcome.





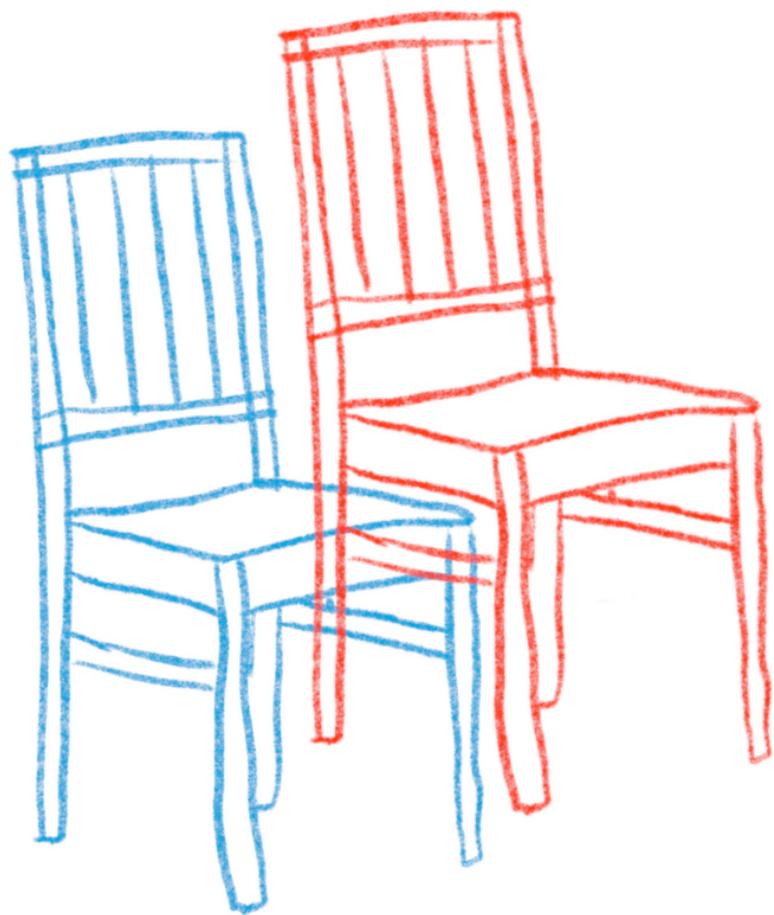
43.

**Draw in a
color you don't
normally use.**

44.

IT'S OK FOR SKETCHES TO OVERLAP.

Superimposing objects can give your drawing more depth and interest!





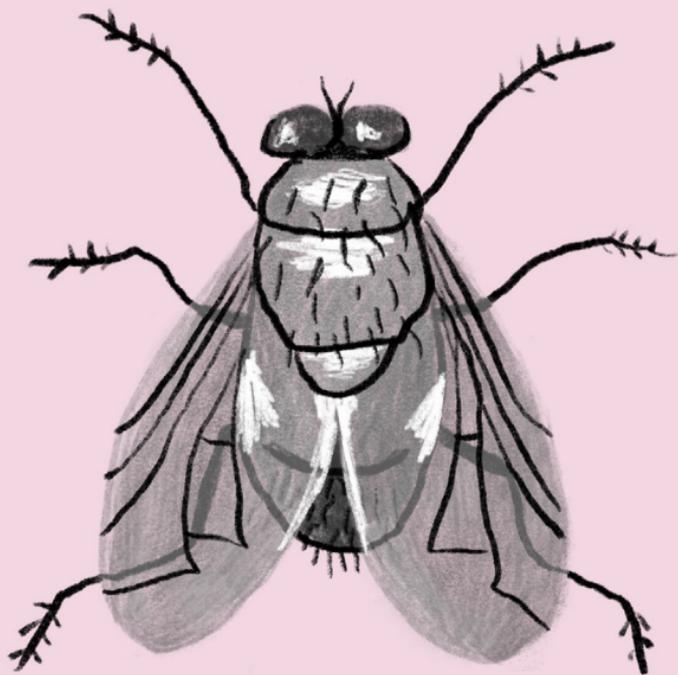
45.

**DRAW
AN EXISTING
STILL LIFE, NOT
A POSED ONE.**

46.

**Put down
a layer of
charcoal dust
and smudge it
around.**

Then draw with charcoal, add in shading, and use an eraser for highlights. For super highlights, use white charcoal.





47.

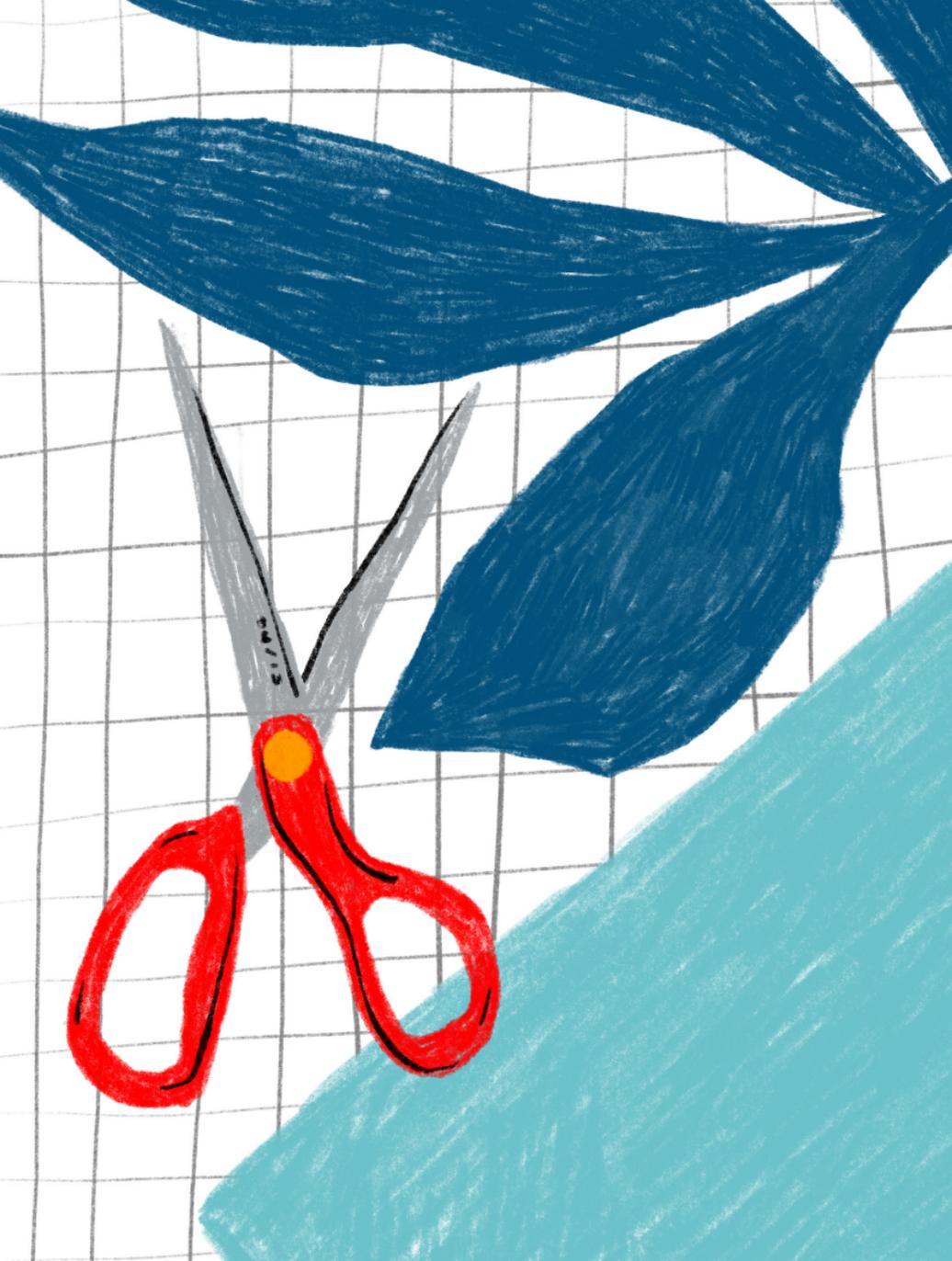
PICK AN OBJECT.

Look closely at your chosen object as a dark silhouette against the background. Draw what you see around the object. Sit back and admire how the object interacts with its environment in a new and interesting way because you drew its negative space instead of the object itself.

48.

**DRAW WITH
A PAIR OF
SCISSORS AND
PAPER.**

This really forces you to break down
and simplify the form.





49.

*Try drawing
just the
shadows.*

50.

**Don't stop
drawing, even
if you think it
looks horrible.**



NEVER
GIVE UP

Thank you to the extremely
knowledgeable and creative crew
of contributors:

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Dena Rayess

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Janine Sato

Madison Killen

Alice Seiler

Mirabelle Korn

Sarah Van Cleave

Philip Lau

Allison Weiner

Madeline Moe

JS Wu



Rule at drawing!

Get ready to take your sketching to the next level. The 50 easy-to-follow, irresistibly illustrated bite-size tips in this book go way beyond doodles and don'ts, helping you get in the habit of capturing not just what you see, but also what you feel.

So whether you're a beginner just learning the basics or an expert looking to hone your skills, pick up a pencil and paper and get drawing!

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