

# Tips and Tricks for Reluctant Drawers

James Sutherland 2023  
With Cass Pickering and Helen Badcock

With thanks to Gordon Boyd and Jim Cramb  
My art teachers from 1983 - 1989



# Ko Wai Au

Ko James Sutherland toku ingoa

No Ōtepoti me Kirikiriroa me Port Seton ahau

Ko Jane toku wahine

Ko Ieuan toku tama

Ko Clodagh toku kuri

Ko St Hilda's Collegiate toku kura

# Today's Mahi

- Produce a series of drawings relating to Junior, Middle and Senior school
  - 
  - Share skills and ideas
    -
  - Headspace as Learner or Beginner
    -
- Demystify, celebrate and promote drawing as an achievable thing
  - 
  - Provide some useful links

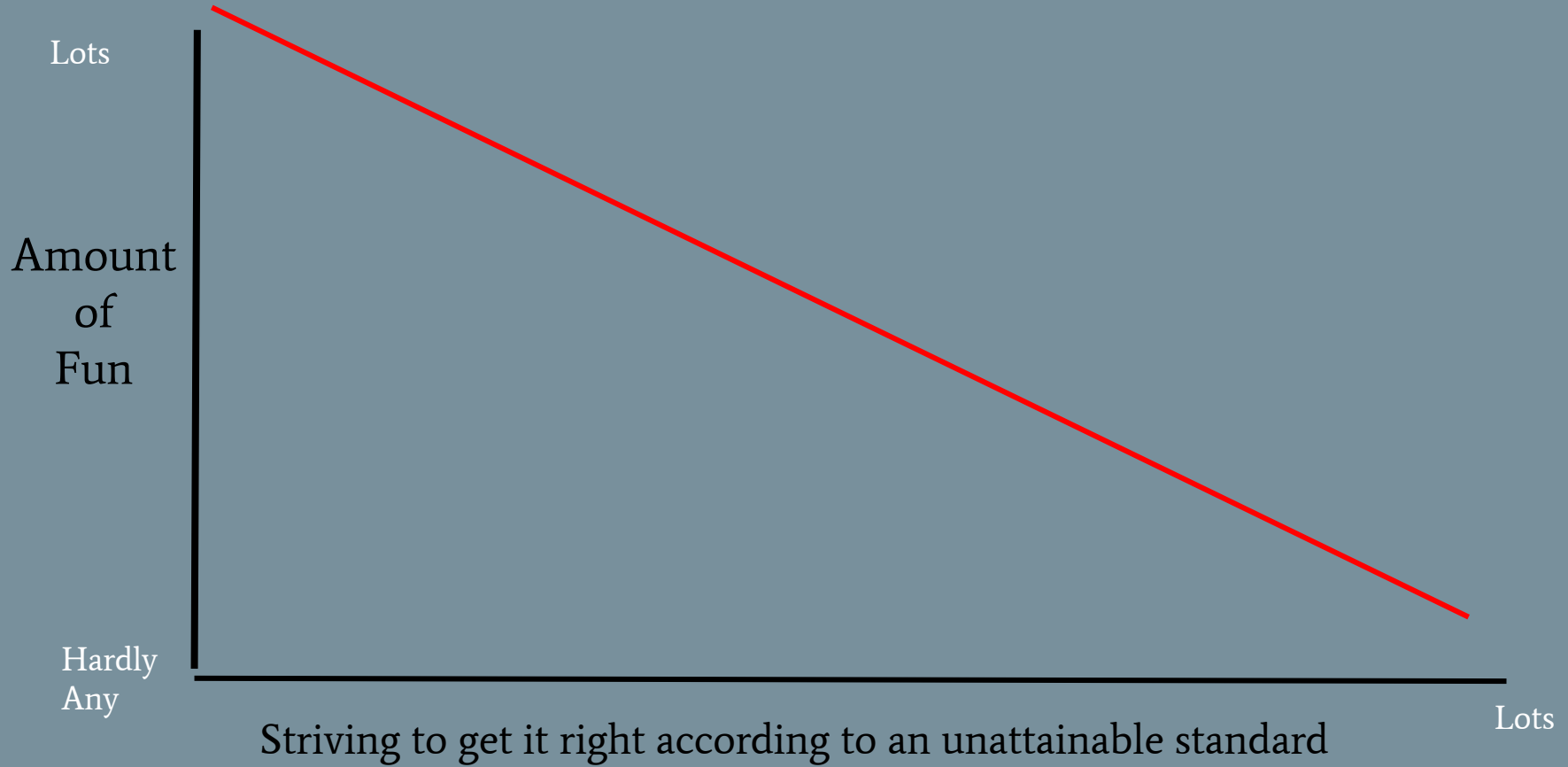


# Beginners, Learners and Little Battlers: Values

- Having Fun
- Feeling Good About Drawing (...and yourself)
- Giving it a Good Go (and another go)
- Process Over Product (...it's the journey not the destination)
- The power of positive feedback to self and others
- Celebrating Small Successes (..find the wee gems in the work - even if there are none!)
- Learning to accept praise / compliments
- Decision making - making them direct you.
- It's not a Competition (..try not to compare yourself to others)



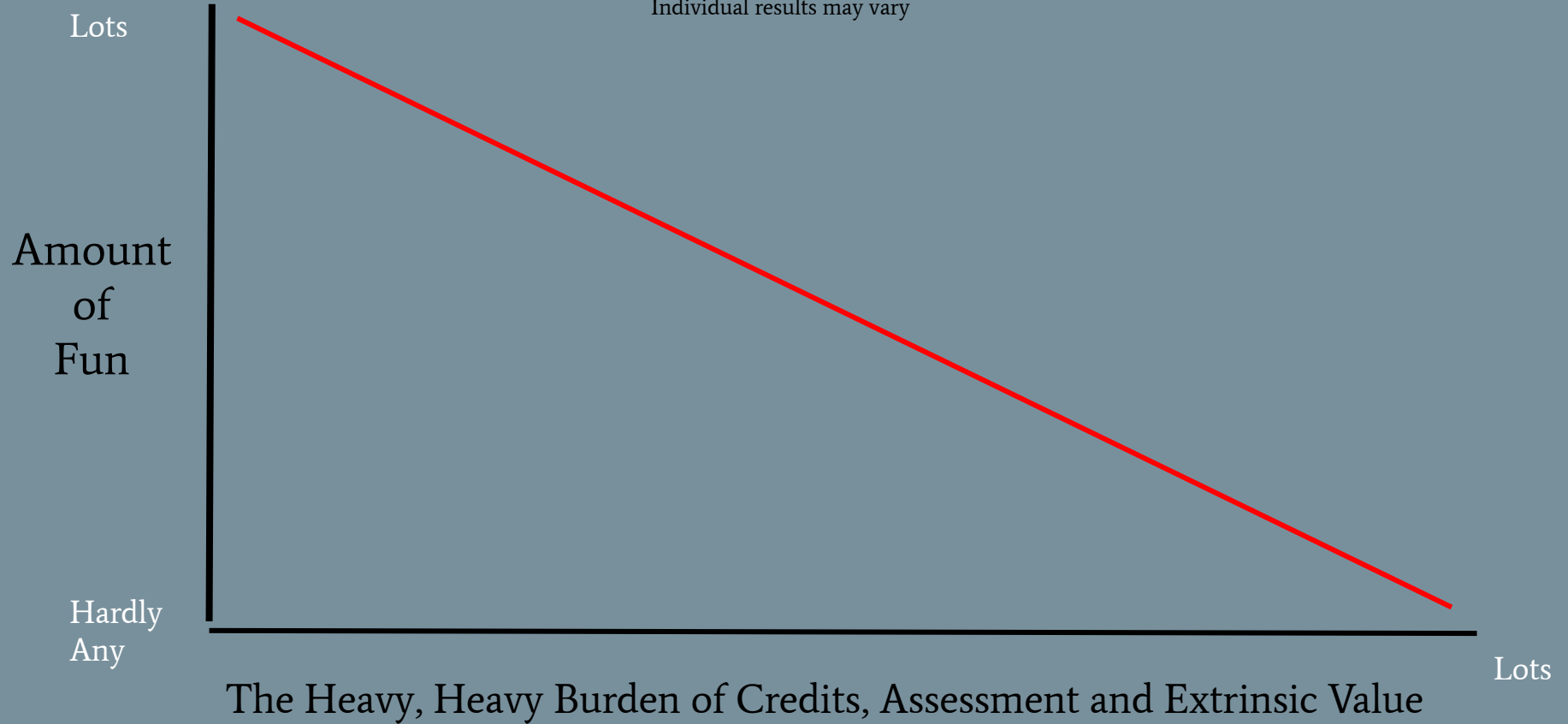
Actual \* Scientific Research

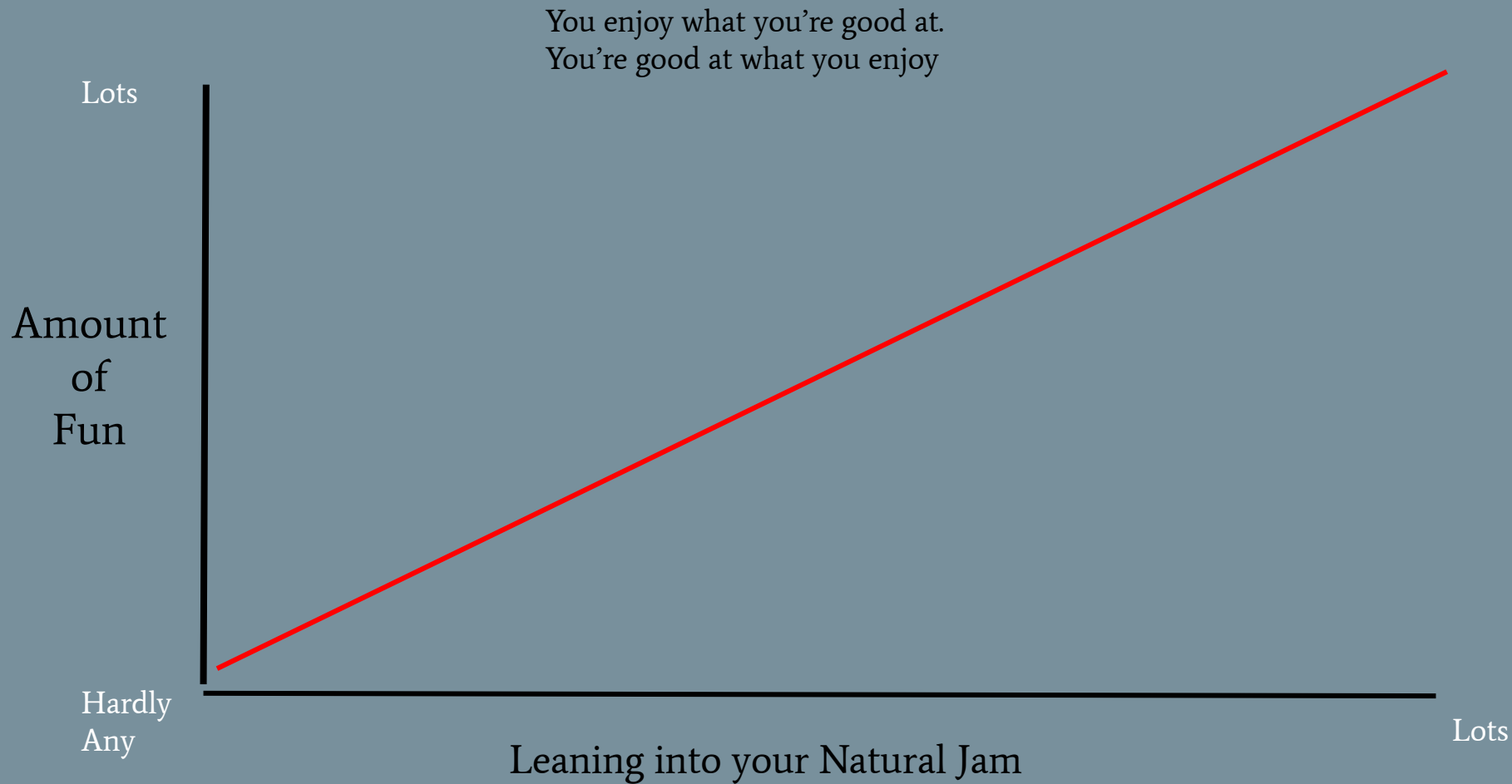


\* Very small print saying that it's not actually scientific though

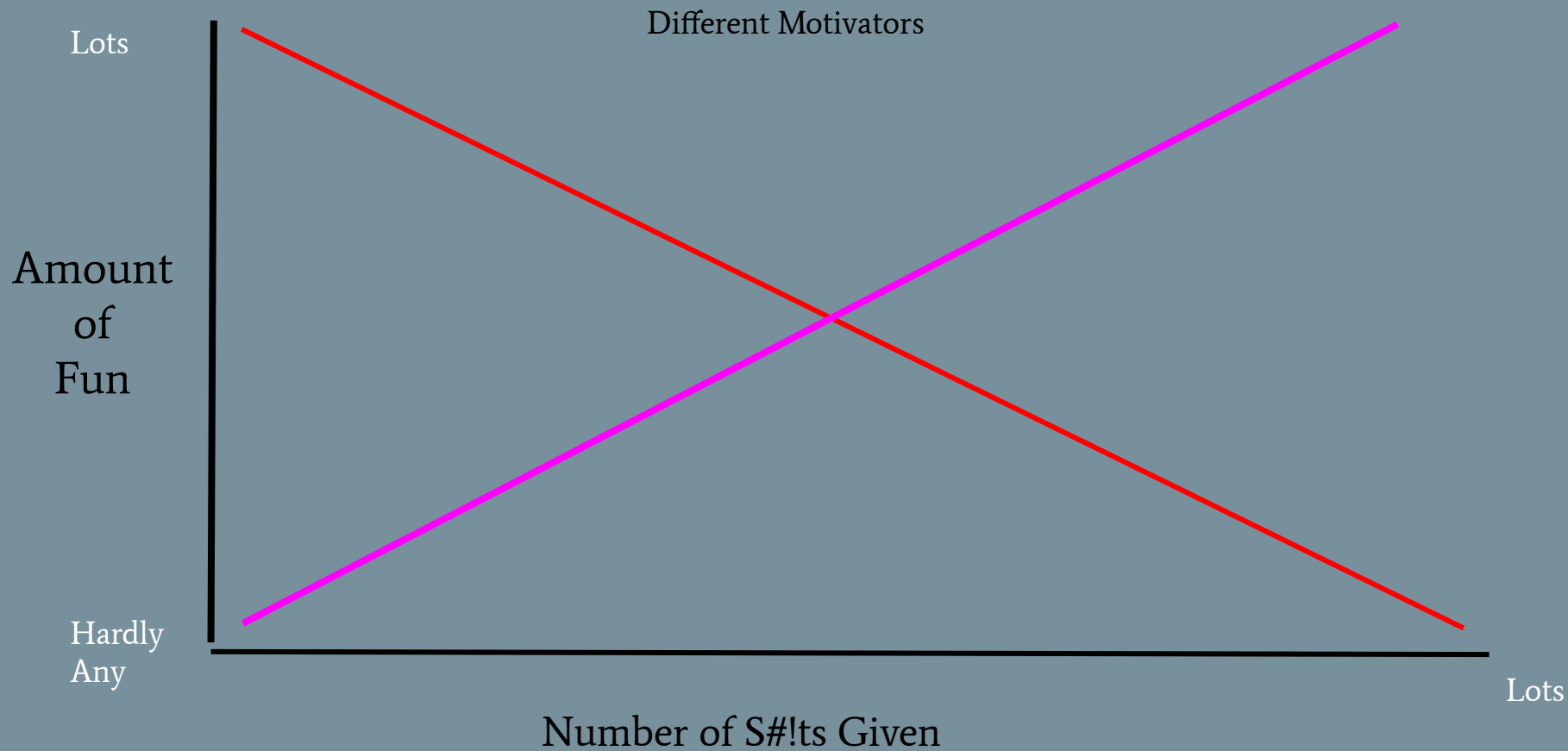
# Actual \* Scientific Research

Individual results may vary









# Some words on giftedness...

- The more I practice the luckier I get
- The journey of 10,000 miles begins with one step
- Many an anemone has an enemy anemone

**Drawing is a gift.**

**Give it to someone else by teaching them how.**



# We *Love* to Make Mistakes: Approaches to Junior Art

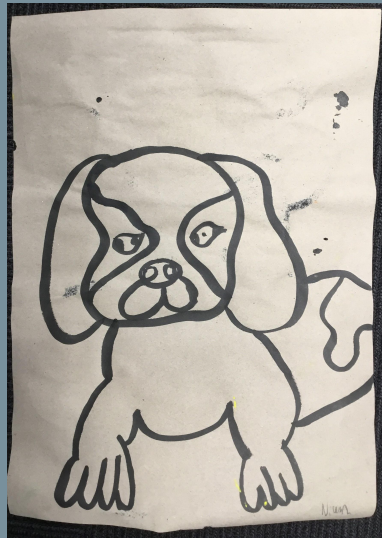
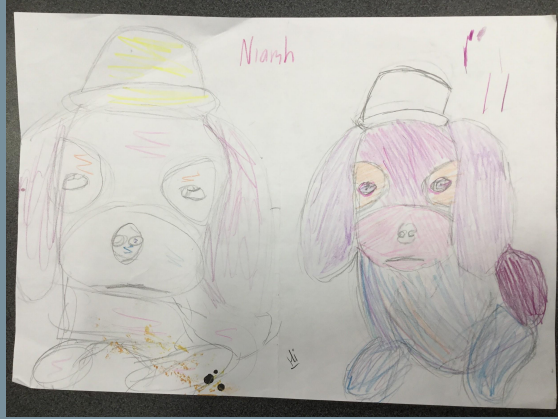
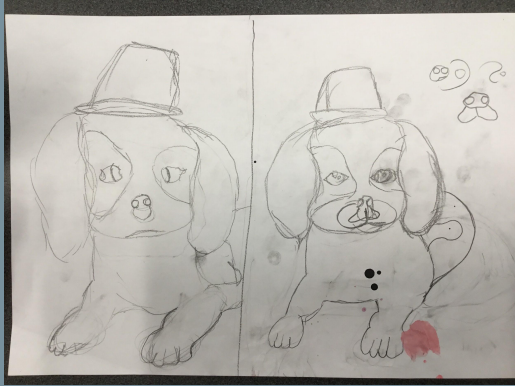
## Activities:

- Spaghetti Arms
- Taking a line for a walk
- Getting to grips with media
- Thinking in large Shapes, not in small increments of detail
- Whole Arm Drawing: Shoulder, Arm, Wrist, Fingers
- Making a Mess and Loving it - the Evils of Rulers and Rubbers
- That Cat
- Space Cat







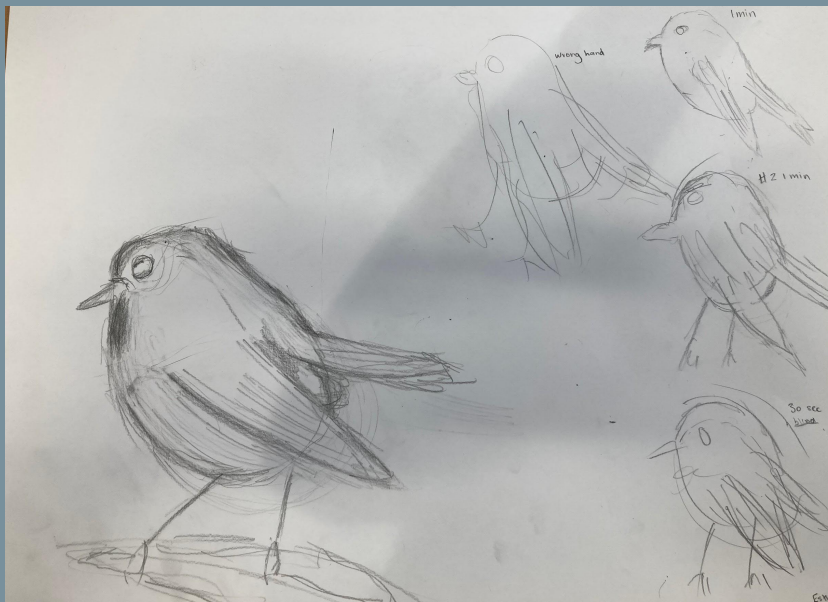




A1 Sugar paper Pair Drawing



## A2 Sugar paper - charcoal and white chalk



## Mixed Media A3

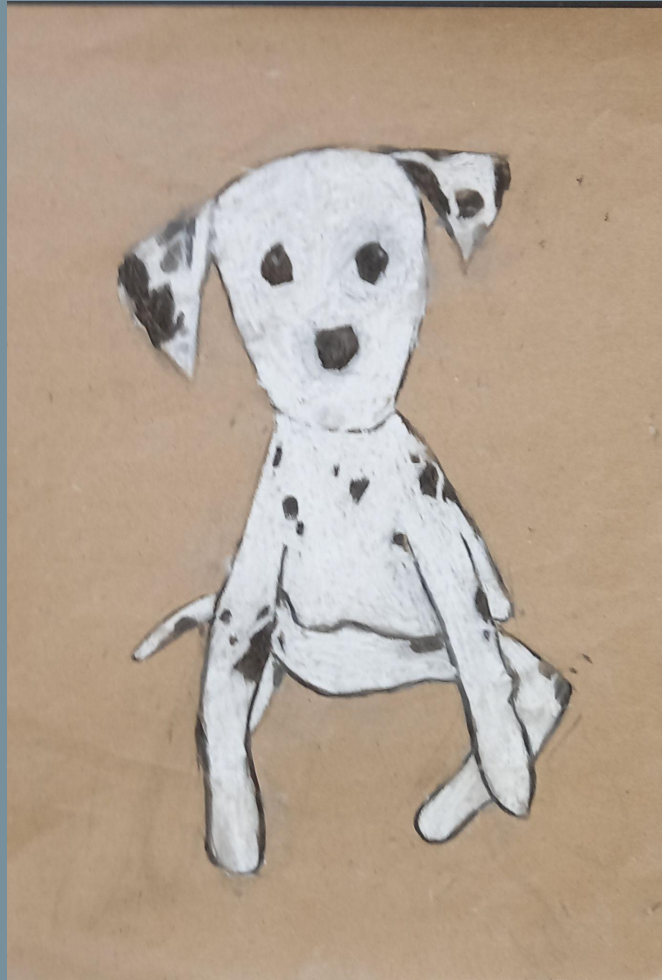






Layered Cardboard  
Box

A3 Chalk  
and  
Charcoal



















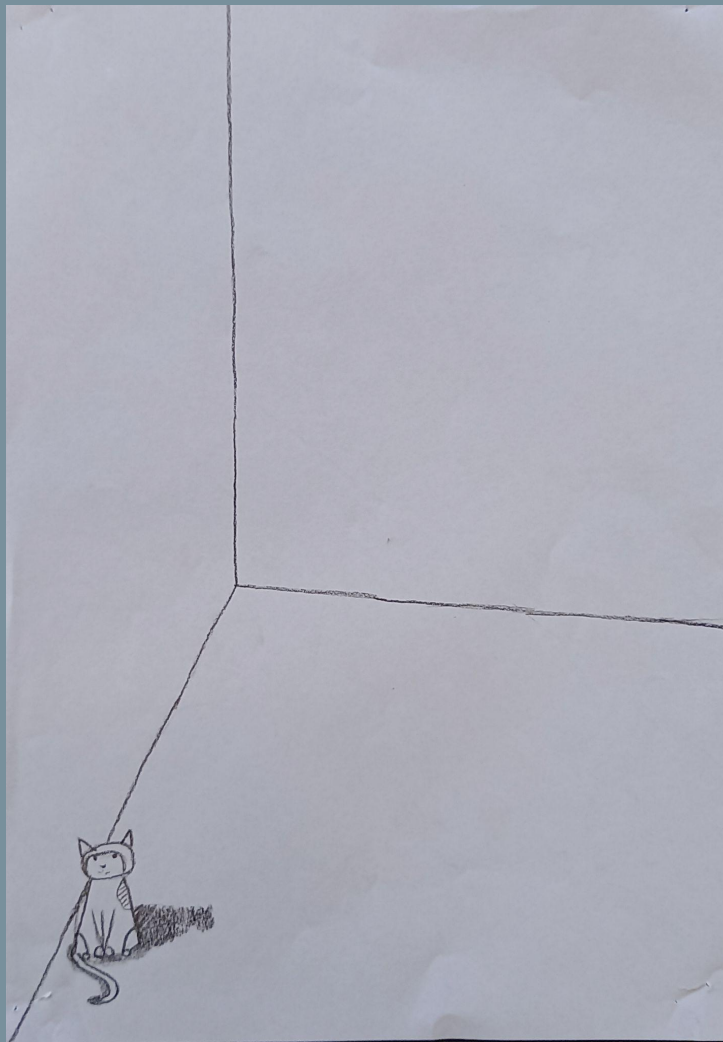








Pastel Drawing  
from Paper  
Sculpture



Space Cat





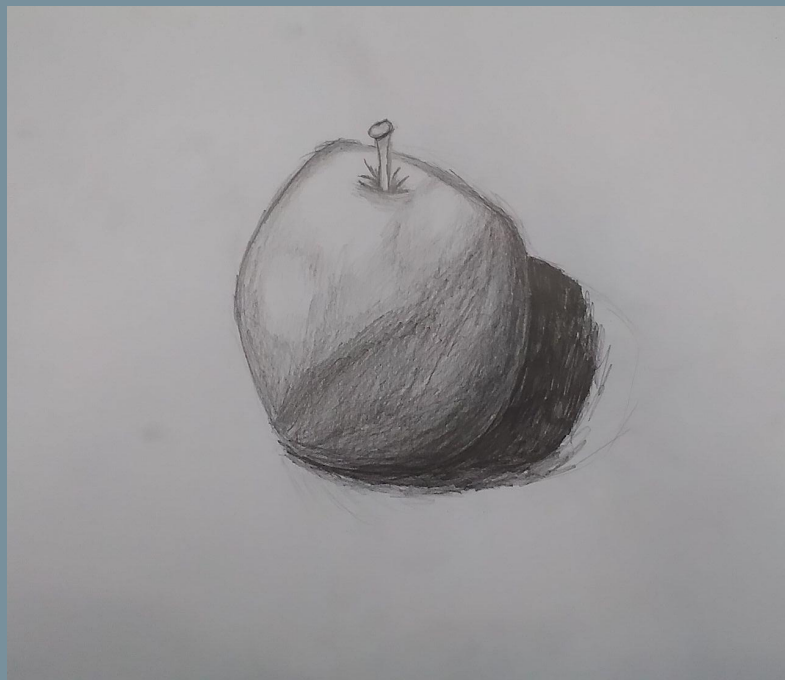
# Good *Looking* is Good **Drawing**: Building Skills

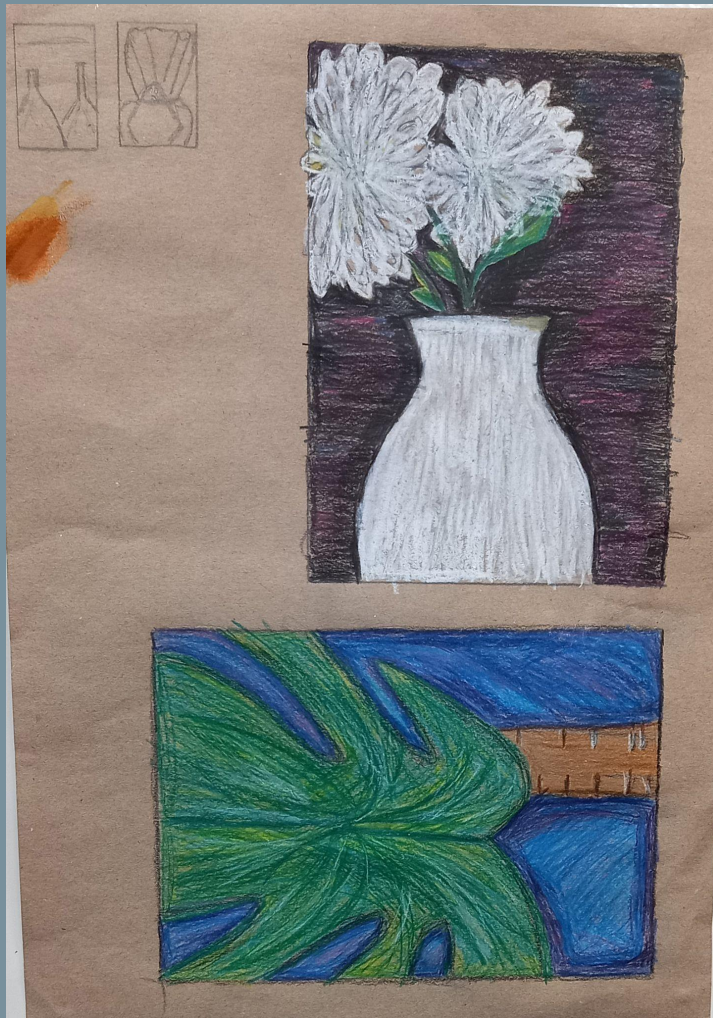
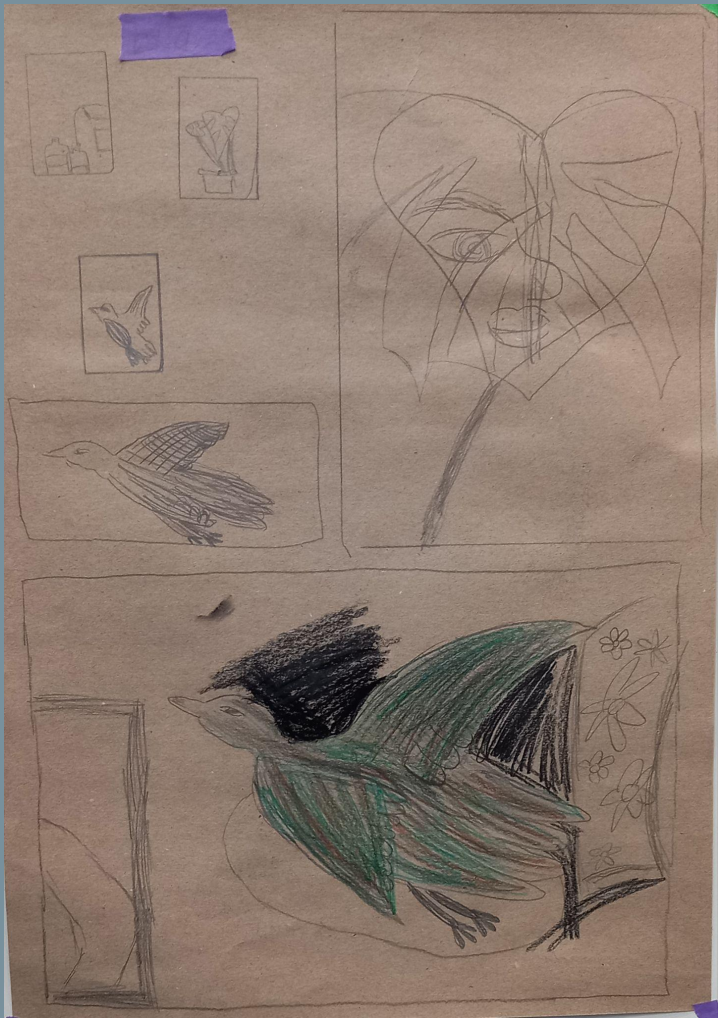
Lowering the stakes:

- Straight-Line Analysis
- Continuous Spirals and Scribbles
- Seeing Tonal Values
- Ghost Drawing and Visualisation
- Gestural Drawing and mapping
- What People See: Hiding Your Mistakes
- Going off the edge / Filling the Frame
- Negative Shapes
- Referencing from photographs **without** tracing
- Making them make decisions by giving instructions one-to-one

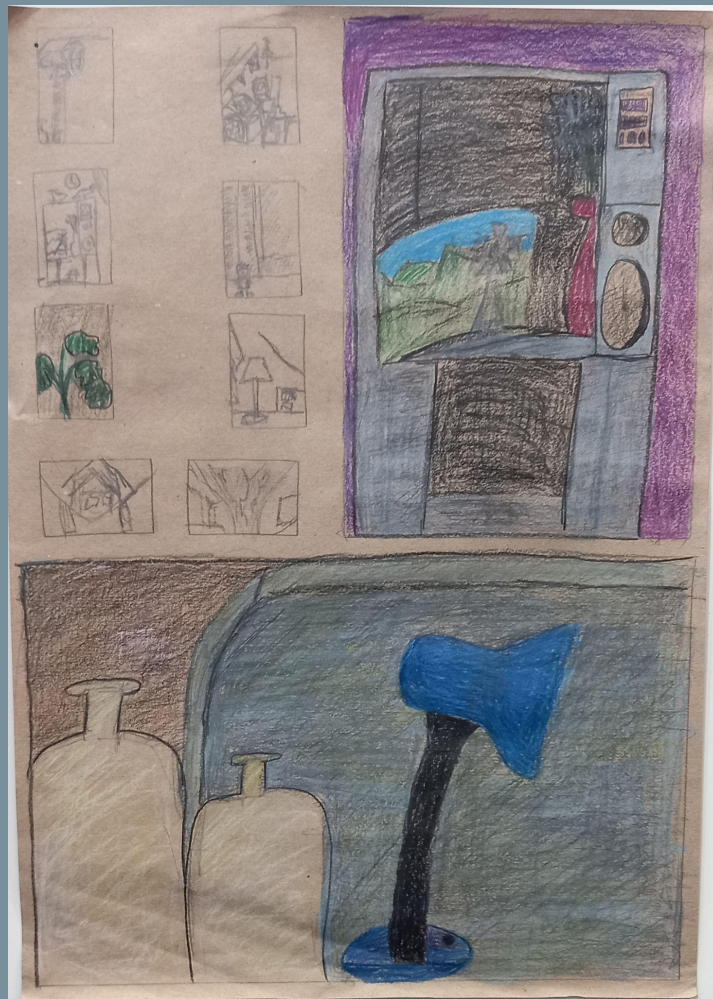
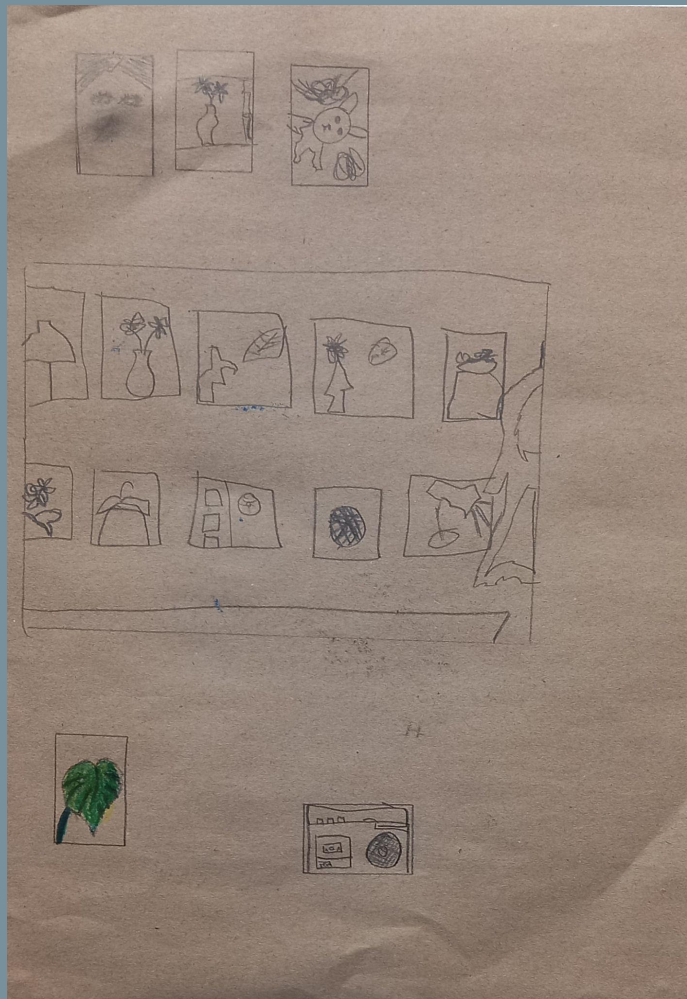














Drawing from installation

Adding on paper as the drawing develops



Watercolour Pencil

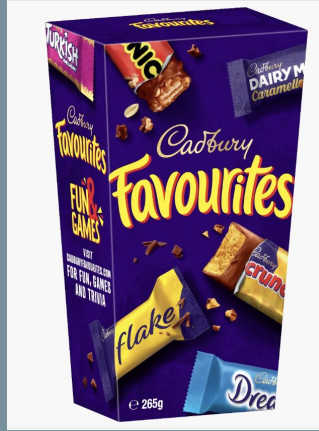




# It don't (*have to*) Mean a Thing: photomontage as a scaffold

- Three Quick Ideas
- Composition Thirds or Harmonic Armature
- Photomontage as scaffolding
- Making multiples, developing your craft, lowering the stakes
- Rebuild, re-work, Cover and Hide
- Mapping and sketching
- Maturing the approach: Staging a drawing.
- Watercolour Pencil: The Gateway Drug to Paint

# Using Familiar Shapes





- Visualising the Figure
- Landmarking the figure - Self as reference
- Fourteen Faces in Fourteen Minutes

# Continuous line



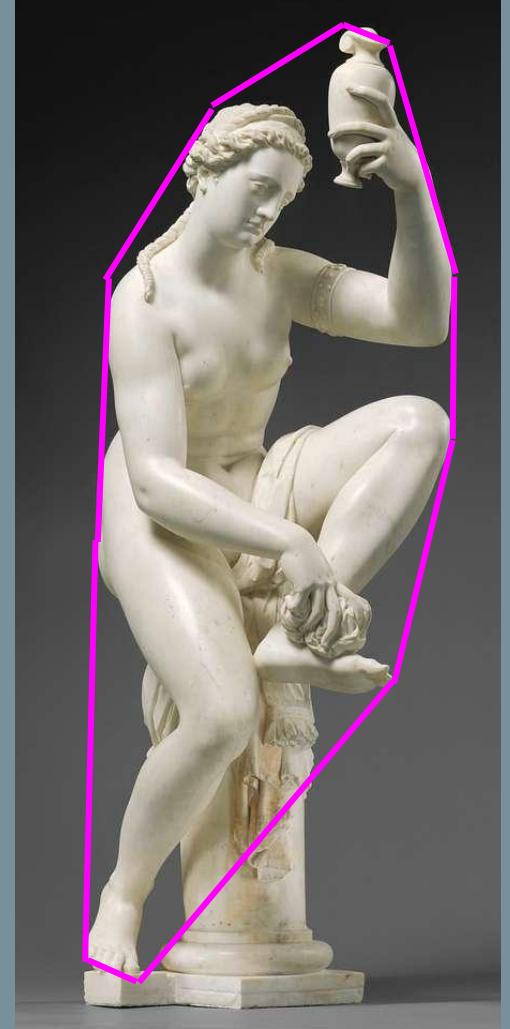
## Approaches to Understanding the Figure

### Atelier

- Measuring
- Finding the envelope or “tilts”
- Chunking shapes
- Working towards detail
- Analysing form

### Gestural

- Working quickly
- Capturing dynamic shapes





Continuous Line



# Simplifying the landmarks in a face

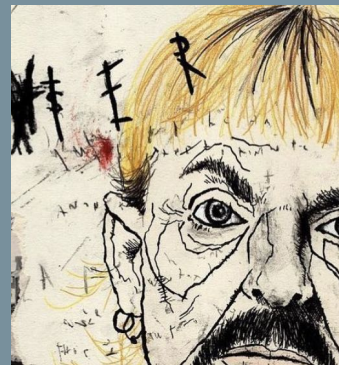
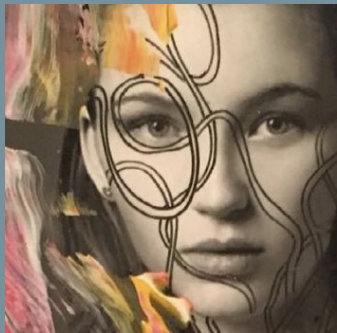


IT ABSOLUTELY

DOES

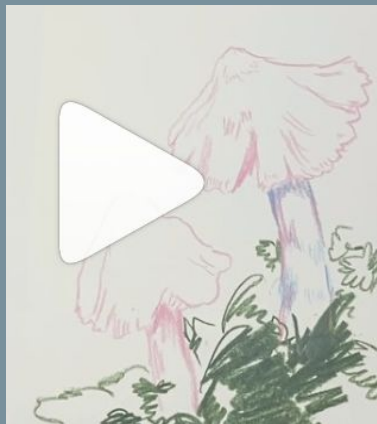
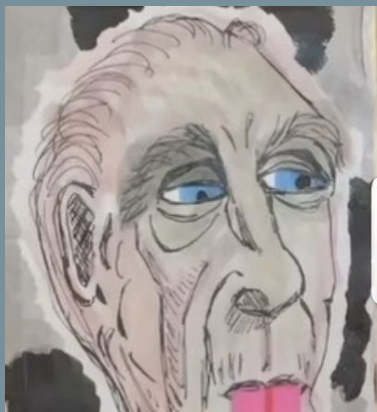
NOT

HAVE TO BE PERFECT



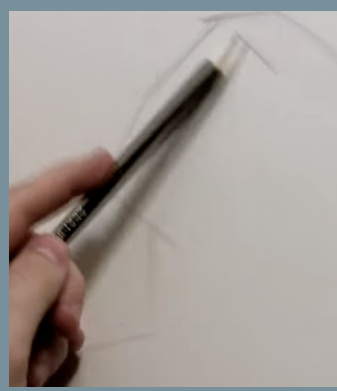
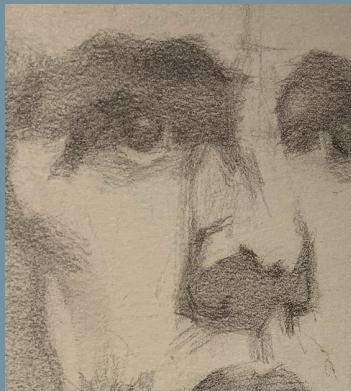
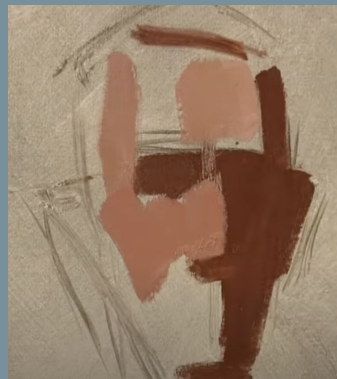
Mixed Media Links



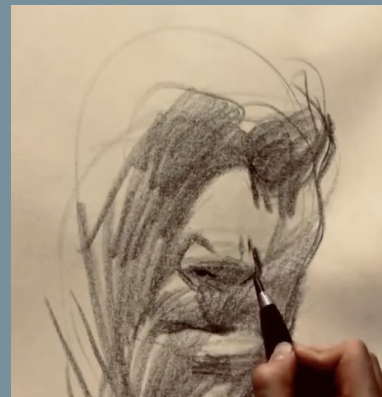
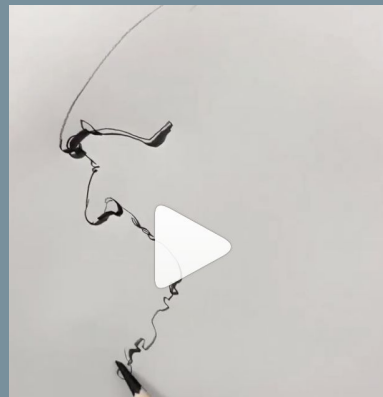
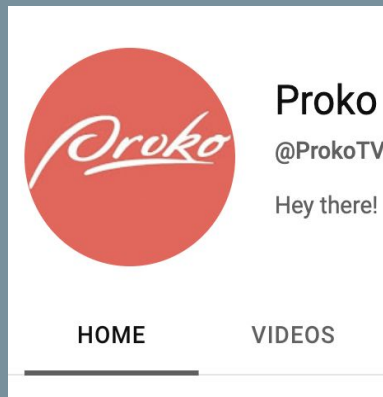


Sketchbook Links

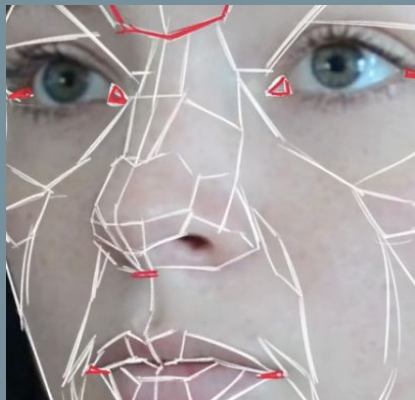
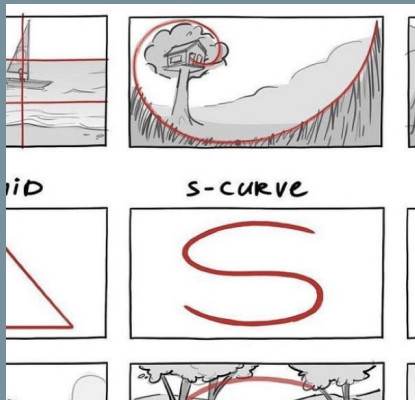




Alla Prima / Atelier / Blocking In

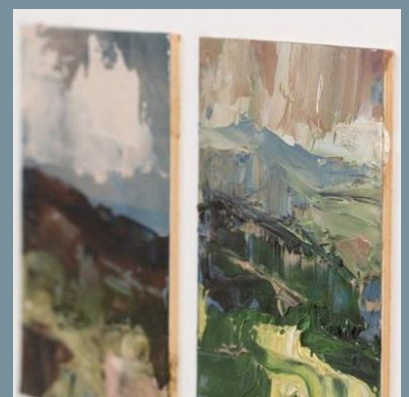
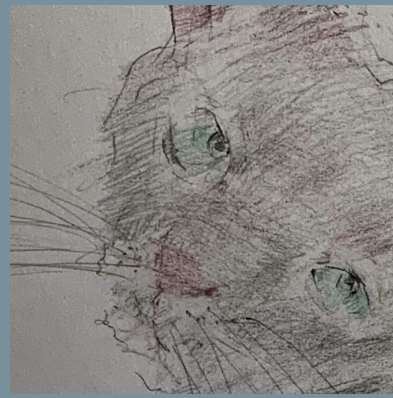
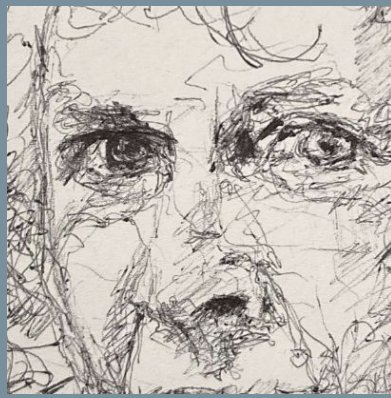


Form, Structure Gesture and Line



Composition / Structure





Expressive



Loomis Head

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CsgvPFwIgef/>

Understanding form

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CrAsKL4MSgu/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CafDNrlvSrD/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CaUP0DQMfSX/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CTt-1UvPZRR/>

Gestural figure

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CqQ0apVNZhl/>

Grip - proko

[https://www.instagram.com/p/Cq-mhTZg\\_Yl/](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cq-mhTZg_Yl/)

Continuous line

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CqFacYBo2Nc/>

Composition

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CsWFHM8ukdo/>

<https://www.the-art-of-composition.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CT5AdomgPII/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CoxXO5rMUGE/>

Pythagoras armature

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUud6wqo-r7/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CSpQ8iaDcJq/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CNS3SjEHAUe/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CEv7Ew8HxOR/>

Blocking in tone / posterisation

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CnWbtKNK7MO/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CLKOflknQyX/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B2RiK3pgRmv/>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cqa5kcsj56a/>

Structural lines

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CaPnlZpAc5I/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CZjwQHlqEcZ/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CYvHe5rLPI0/>

Messy - expressive

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cou0zJyolsR/>

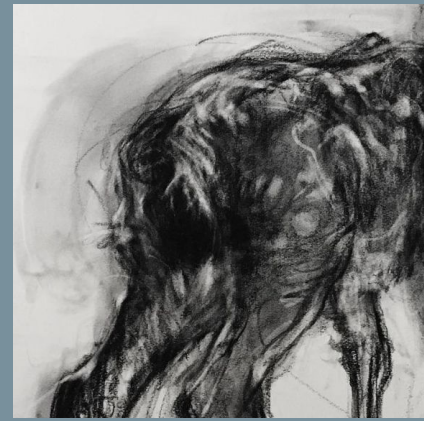
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<https://www.instagram.com/p/B3bEHrknOc3/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B3bEHrknOc3/>



Insta-links

# Insta-links

## Mixed-media

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Ca9wQC2Izf6/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTDPtSMWauw>  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CYZRY\\_wjX01/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CYZRY_wjX01/)  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CVWcr0ErWro/>  
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<https://www.instagram.com/p/CPf-uYhnsEj/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CDiQMufnzyM/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CONd3tzhbXp/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CtT2kvHtCye/>

## Sketchbook

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<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cnsiy12IX1T/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CnDHdm0qxdj/>  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CPsoLa\\_HqBy/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CPsoLa_HqBy/)  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CRZCOkCHu52/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CAEQldbjgsH/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CMUvrAxj-JB/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CKs7W9eABzE/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CMSr3DIFvi1/>

## Alla Prima

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CYT\\_bdOBPgm/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CYT_bdOBPgm/)  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUH-QWAJSeU/>

## Distortion

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdsLtFuudJ-/>

## Pastel

[Sarah Freeman \(@sarahfreeman\\_drawerofthings\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

## Watercolour collage

[marianna.gefen.oldpaper](#)