

THE SECRETS TO DRAWING

VIDEO COURSE

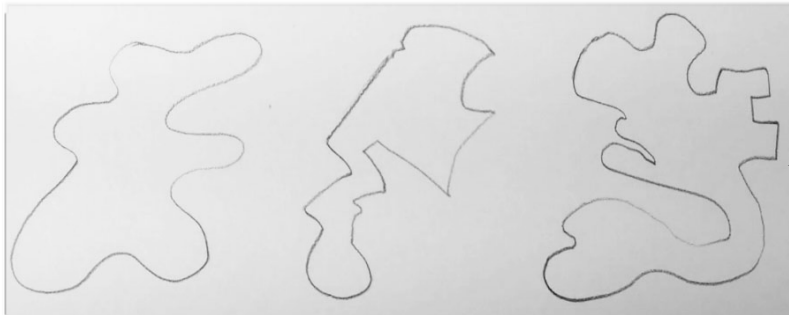
Video 3: Shape

Shape is one of the seven elements of art. In terms of art, shape is a closed contour. In other words, if you take a line and enclose it, then you would have created a shape. Shape has a variety of important functions in art. Shape can influence composition as we'll see in video 13. But shape can also improve our drawing by helping us understand what we are seeing. By observing and drawing the simple shapes that we see, we can draw more complex objects.



Although there are an infinite number of shapes, all of them fall into one of two categories.

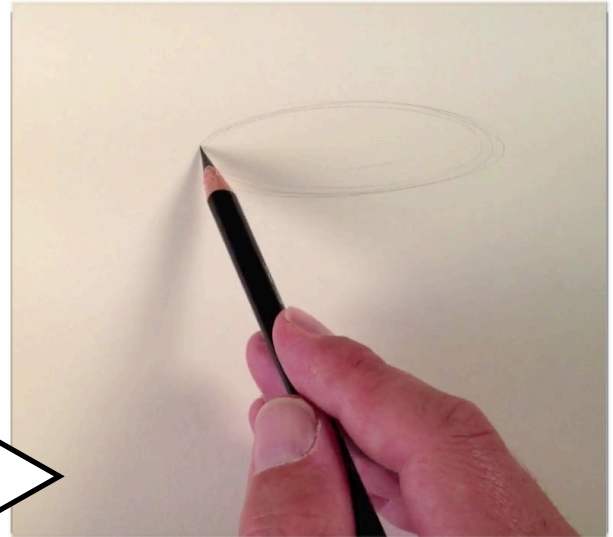
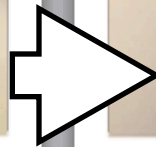
Geometric shapes are shapes that usually have names and geometric formulas associated with them. Shapes like a square, circle, and triangle are all geometric shapes.



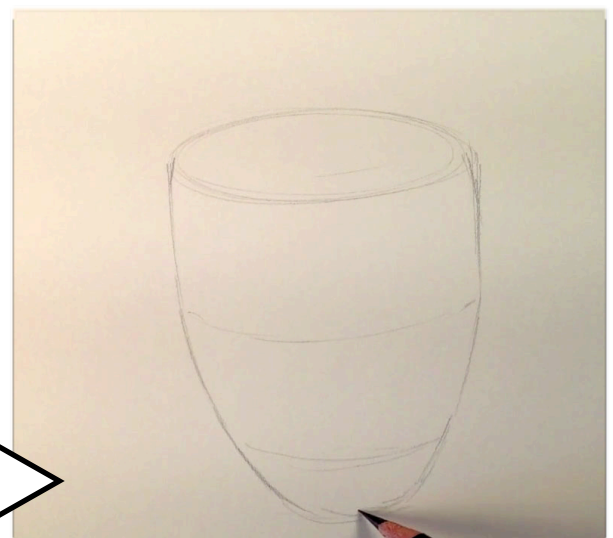
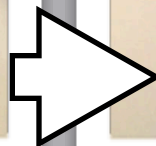
Organic shapes or freeform shapes follow no rules and typically do not have names associated with them.

Using Shape in Drawings

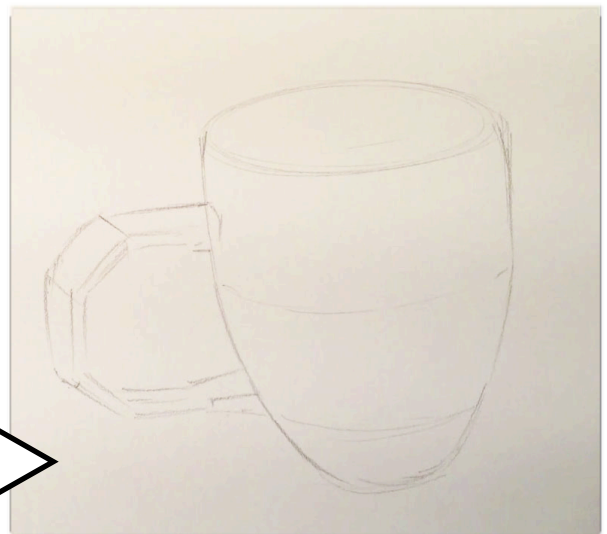
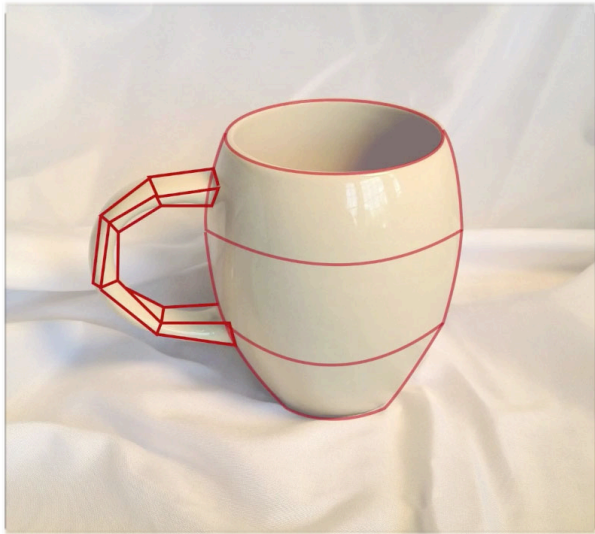
Drawing is about seeing. If we understand what we are seeing, we have a better chance of making the right marks to create the illusion. By simplifying the objects that we see down into shapes, we can better understand what we are seeing. We can then piece those shapes together to make complex objects. By drawing the shapes that make up objects, we can draw anything.



In this example, we'll start by drawing the ellipse that exists at the top of mug. We'll define the shape by making several loose, light marks. Then, we'll move on to the body of the mug, simplifying the shape into three segments.

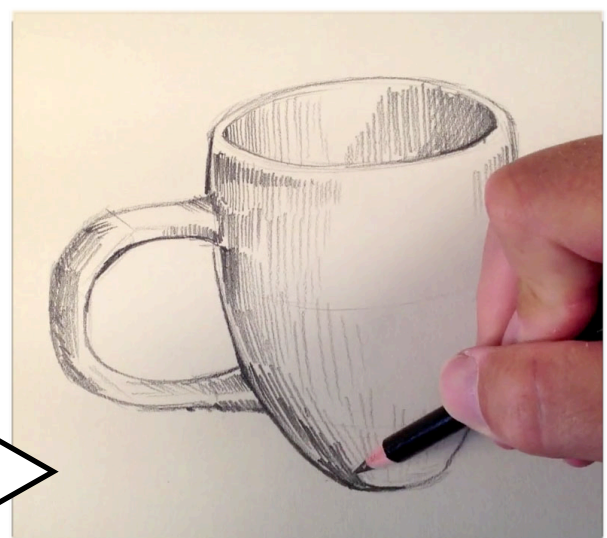


We'll continue with the handle of the mug. Segmenting the handle into simple shapes helps to make drawing the curve of the handle a bit easier.



Once there is confidence in the construction of shapes, we can add the contour lines to the drawing. Since we have defined the shape of the object, we can make our marks darker now and become more confident with our marks.

Once the contours are down, we can address the light source by adding hatching following the cross contours of the object. Adding these lines not only define our light source, but also help to define the form of the object.



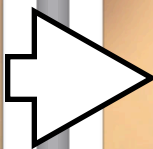
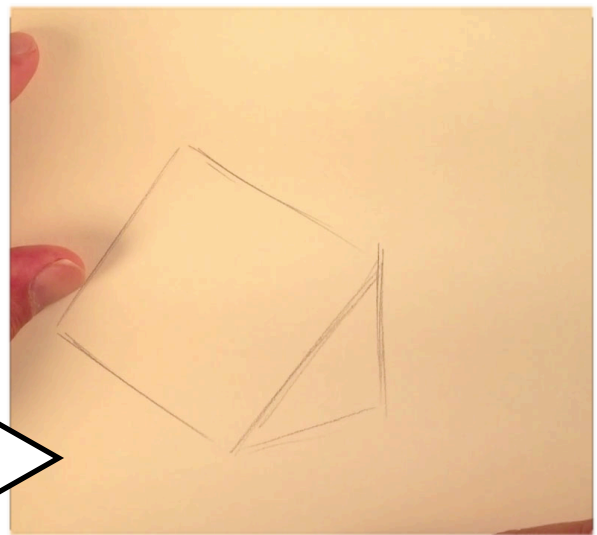
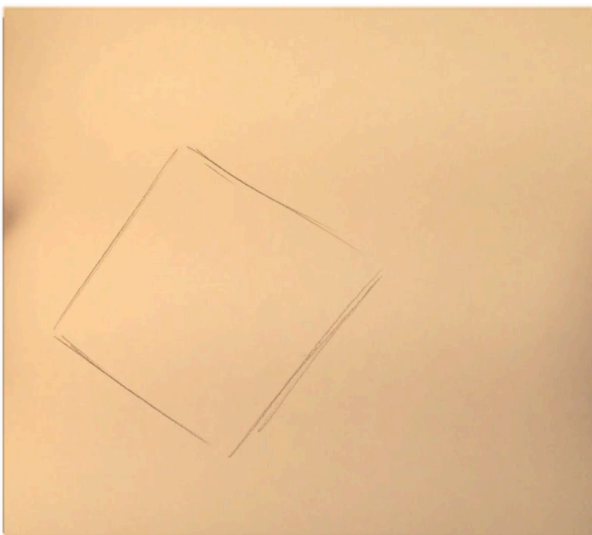


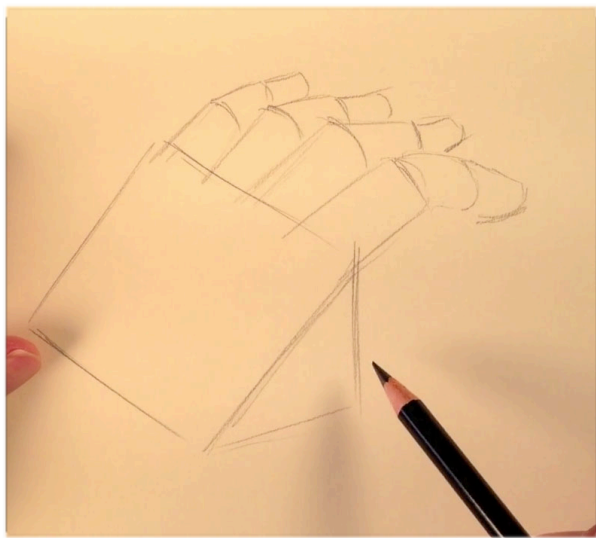
The drawing can be further developed by adding hatching to the fabric that surrounds the mug. Doing this not only furthers the illusion of a light source, but it also adds contrast to the drawing.

The concept of drawing with shapes can be applied to virtually any subject, including subjects that many people consider to be difficult. Let's look at how this concept works with drawing hands.

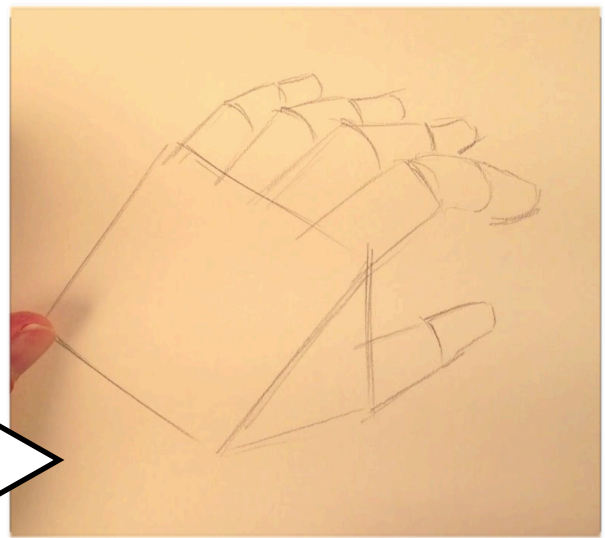
Many people consider hands and feet to be difficult objects to draw. In fact, many beginning artists will go to great lengths to avoid drawing them. However, any object can be drawn by breaking it down into simple shapes. Ironically, hands can be broken down into very simple and "easy to draw" shapes.

Complete this drawing by using your non-dominant hand as a reference. The back of your hand will be a simple, squared shape. A triangle shape can be added to the side of the square on the side of the thumb.





The fingers are simply drawn by stacking three cylinders.



The thumb is drawn by stacking two cylinders at the bottom and end of the triangle.



Once the basic shape of the hand is defined, the contour lines can be added with confidence.