

“Tool Drawings”



Objective: Student will create a realistic drawing of a tool with well-defined values.

Materials

- Drawing Paper and Pencils (2B, 4B, 6B)
- Erasers
- Blending Sticks/Stumps/Tortillions

Motivation

- Have students think about all the tools they use throughout the day. Hardware store tools, sure, but also toothbrushes, combs, pencils and pens. If it helps get a job done, it can be considered a tool.
- I love to show my students the work of Jim Dine so they can see how he juxtaposes clean, precise detail with expressive, imperfect mark making in order to create incredibly layered and interesting drawings.

Step 1: Brainstorm

Have students think through a typical 24 hour day, writing down of all the tools they use. From the alarm clock (or phone) as the first thing in the morning, to the pillow or blanket as the last thing at night, anything they use throughout the day can be considered for this drawing. I also have an old toolbox full of options. Make sure whatever students choose can be brought in so they can draw from observation.

Step 2: Demo Techniques

Students can make choices about composition with guidance from the teacher. From there, they should look closely at detail and try to draw precisely. I show how to use rulers for sharp angles, how to add highlights with an eraser, and different techniques for blending shadows and values.

Step 3: Get Expressive

During drawing focus on shading, highlights, capturing detail, and realism. For the background, however, change up the mark making. Practice hatching, cross-hatching, scribbling, adding incredibly dark values, and whatever other expressive lines or marks students want to try. Once they find techniques they think work with their drawings, they need to dive (or sometimes be pushed) in and finish those backgrounds.

Tip: Encourage students to add A LOT of contrast between the tool and the background. It helps accentuate the realism and really makes the drawings “pop.”