

BLIND CONTOURING OPTICAL ART LESSON PLAN

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Artist/Retired Art Teacher
Grades 6-12



OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Understand and apply techniques necessary to develop a composition, including a blind contour drawing with an optical art-drawn background.

VOCABULARY

- abstract patterns
- blind contour drawing
- continuous line
- contour drawing
- optical art (op art)

NATIONAL CORE ART STANDARDS

VA.Cr1.15a — Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art making.

VA.Cr2.1.5a — Experiment and develop skills in multiple art making techniques and approaches through practice.

VA.Cr2.2.5a — Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care and use of materials, tools, and equipment.

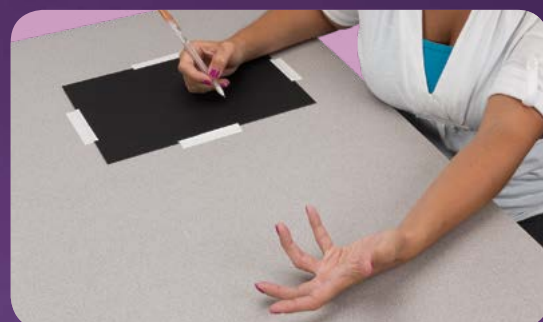
VA.Ra9.1.5a — Recognize differences in criteria used to evaluate works of art depending on styles, genres, and media as well as historical and cultural contexts.



BLIND CONTOUR DRAWING DIRECTIONS

1.

Tape mounting board to the table. Adjust chair to the side, your body facing away from the board. Your drawing hand should comfortably reach the board, but you will not be looking at the board while drawing. Rest the opposite hand on your leg and create a "pose."



2.

Look at the "posed" hand and determine both a starting point and a path to follow around the "posed" hand.

3.

Using a pen, begin drawing one continuous line very slowly. The pen should move as slowly as your eyes. Look at every wrinkle, freckle, crease, bracelet, knuckle, ring, bump, and fingernail. (All lines do not need to be drawn to represent the "posed" hand.) Do not lift the pen.



4.

Your finished drawing will look a little strange, a bit chunky, and somewhat spooky. That is part of the beauty of blind contour drawings and is a sure sign that you did not look at your board while drawing.

ADDING OPTICAL ART

1.

Use light pencil lines to create a background behind the blind contour drawing. Do not draw through the blind contour drawing.



2.

You may use lines to create a zigzag or a checkerboard pattern, a vanishing point, or even concentric circles. These lines may be drawn freehand or using a ruler.



3.

Plan the pattern to change in size at least once. Increase or decrease the line width and pattern to give the illusion of movement. This is the desired effect of optical artwork.





1.

Set up a simple still life to draw. There's no need to tape the drawing material to the table unless preferred.



2.

Position yourself in front of the mounting board and plan the path to begin drawing.

REGULAR CONTOUR DRAWING

TIPS

Remember to keep your eyes mostly on the still life. The pen should only move as slowly as your eyes.



3.

Occasionally glance at your drawing and follow along the important edges of the still life, drawing very slowly. You may lift the pen to reposition it or draw in another area of the still life.



4.

Continue drawing with limited glances until completed.

MATERIALS



- Crescent® No. 8 Ultra-Black™ Mounting Board School Pack, 40 sheets, 9" x 12" — 9734415
- Sakura® Metallic Gelly Roll® Gel Ink Pens, set of 10 — 9715199

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