



U3AM at Home

SKETCHING AND DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS

Spring has arrived and many of us are noticing budding blossom trees, sprouting vegetable seeds, and the sun in the sky to cheer us.

I have been running the Sketch class thru lockdown and am very impressed at the skills "my group" has developed. You may have thought of taking up an art skill though these different time...but where to start? Options are enormous: watercolour, pastel, oil, acrylic, sumie, scratchboard...too many to name.

May I suggest starting with the simplest tools...a few lead pencils and some paper, a rubber (yes, very handy). They are probably hidden in a drawer, but can be found at the newsagency if not. At the start of this year I suggested a sketchpad and HB, 2 B and 4B pencils plus a kneadable rubber or blue tac equivalent.

Unable to attend U3A, we have found some excellent websites to learn from.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OezMavBqWXc> Paul Priestley general skills with pencils and shading.

<https://rapidfireart.com/free-drawing-tutorials/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQI8Duq1x3k> Rapidfire art has a range of videos: from realist detailed drawing to doodling for fun.

If you don't want to use the computer, start by getting out a box, in bright light and draw the sides of the box that you can see, then shade where the light doesn't hit and include a shadow on the table where it sits. Try to keep edge lines straight and see how the shading makes the box become 3D. Move on to an orange, or a ball and shade what you see.

Another few exercises could be:

- shade a strip of paper from darkest to white with your 4B pencil.
- draw a coffee mug from side on then looking across the top of the mug
- make a simple still life to draw: a few pieces of fruit on a plate.
- break down complex items e.g. a car or a body into rectangles, eggs, cylinders and circles.

Remember to be your own best friend and avoid the inner critic as you start to learn.

Your imagination and personal choices are the deciding factors in art, but I find looking closely at anything when drawing shows me details I would have missed at a glance, and clears my mind while I focus on seeing the item or view in front of me.

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