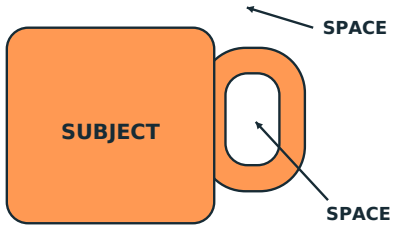
A COLORFUL ART

HAMSTER LESSON #0000002

See the space between.

Look at the subject and the space around it.



Notice the space inside the handle.

TRY IT TODAY

Draw only the space around a mug.

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1. ❓ Can the empty space in a picture help tell the story?
2. 🙋 Yes! Negative space is the area around and between the subjects of an artwork. Positive space is the area occupied by the subject.
3. ⏳ Sculptor Barbara Hepworth made openings part of the sculpture itself. Viewers could look through a form as well as at it, discovering how solid shapes and empty spaces work together.
4. 💡 Picture a mug on a table. The mug is positive space. The spaces around the mug and inside its handle help us recognize its shape.
5. 🔍 Drawing the surrounding spaces can help you notice proportions more carefully. You begin seeing what is actually there instead of drawing only what you expect a mug to look like.
6. 🌎 This idea matters in painting, photography, page layouts, and signs. Leaving room around an important element can make it easier to notice and understand.
7. 🎯 View a mug from the side with its handle visible. Draw and shade the spaces around it and inside its handle, leaving the mug unshaded. Compare your drawing with the mug. Which shapes or proportions did you notice more carefully?

References · Tate: Barbara Hepworth · Tate: Art Makes
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