A COLORFUL ART

HAMSTER LESSON #0000030

Give your drawing depth.

Let overlapping edges show near and far.



Near edges continue. Hidden edges stop.

TRY IT TODAY

Sketch three objects. Make one overlap clear.

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1. ❓ How can a flat drawing show that one object is in front of another?
2. 🙋 Overlap gives the eye a clue: the nearer object covers part of the farther one. Let the front outline continue, and stop the hidden outline where it disappears behind it.
3. ⏳ In Still Life with Apples and Pears, painted around 1891–92, Paul Cézanne explored familiar fruit and tableware from different viewpoints. Ordinary objects offered rich possibilities for arranging pictorial space.
4. 💡 Place a pear partly in front of a pitcher. Draw the pear’s visible outline, then the visible parts of the pitcher. Leave out the pitcher’s edge where the pear hides it.
5. 🔍 A smaller object can be in front of a larger one. Overlap shows relative order, not exact distance. The interrupted outline is often a stronger clue than size alone.
6. 🌎 Painters, photographers, and illustrators arrange near and far objects to guide our attention. Patient observation helps us notice relationships and find beauty in the ordinary gifts of God’s creation.
7. 🎯 Arrange three everyday objects so one partly hides another. Make a five-minute sketch using only visible outlines. Ask someone which object is nearest and which edge proves it. Revise one unclear overlap.

References · Getty · Foreground to background · The Met · Cézanne, Apples and Pears · National Gallery · Foreground
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