



Illustrating Natures Details

Drawing Nature – Part 2

Structured Approaches to Drawing Nature

What are ‘structured drawing approaches’? Rather than drawing by eye, structured approaches to drawing allow us to take a more gradual approach to drawing our chosen subject matter. Indeed, sometimes the drawing process may be sped up once you are used to using such approaches.

Some of them can be viewed as taking a more step-by-step approach and can be particularly useful for those that are fearful of drawing by eye.

This course will be divided into 3 modules and will take a similar format as Drawing Nature – Part 1. There will be a course handbook and also tutorial videos, as well as some images of subject matter to use for the 3rd module. The latter will be downloadable or can be drawn whilst viewing them on your laptop or tablet screen.

The outline of the course will be:

Module 1: Introduction and methods of measuring subject matter

- Comparing the two methods of drawing by eye and taking a more structured approach
- Measuring techniques
 - Graph paper and grids
 - Acetate grid in front of subject
 - Ruler
 - Dividers
 - Proportional dividers
- How to trace a drawing
- Using and drawing contour lines

Assignment x1 = choice of 2 from 3 parts:

- Examples of line drawings using graph paper to measure – flat objects
- Example of line drawing of rounded upright object using an acetate grid, then contour lines shown
- Examples of line drawings using dividers to measure, showing measurement points – upright objects

There will also be a feedback sheet for you to complete with this assignment, so that you can explain your process and highlight areas that you felt went well, or those that you would like further advice on.

Module 2: Observing and drawing perspective

- Being aware of eye level alongside using ellipses, to draw circular subjects in different positions. Examples: Flowers such as gerberas, daisies, daffodils, cowslips, fritillaries.
- Twists and turns – Near and far. Drawing twisting leaves and dealing with the challenge of foreshortening.

- Spirals – observing and drawing spiral seashells in different positions.

Assignment x1 = choice of 2 from 3 parts:

- Drawn examples of ellipses used to draw floral subjects
- Drawn examples of curling leaves and those coming towards you
- Drawn examples of spiral seashells

Module 3: Further structured drawing approaches

- Drawing birds from photographs
 - depicting the correct posture and angle using the ‘first line’ approach
 - breaking down the drawing into achievable stages that then come together to create a realistic form

Assignment x1:

- Drawing of chosen bird (several images will be provided for you to choose from)

Although all assignments are assessed as line drawings, I am happy for you to create tonal drawings in graphite pencil, once you have submitted the images of your line drawings. Although the tonal drawings will not be formally assessed as part of the assignments I would be happy to review them.

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The downloadable course materials will be released on a module by module basis, once you have registered and paid the course fee initially. Just before the first module becomes available, you will be sent an email which will include a password. Please keep this password safe, as this will provide you with access to the password protected folder, for this course.

The best web browsers to use for viewing the website and course materials are Google and Google Chrome.

The course materials found in the password protected folder include:

1. PDF documents of the different modules in the **course handbook**. The handbook can be downloaded and saved to your computer and/or it can also be printed. Each section of the handbook needs to be read and followed in order, for you to get the full benefit. **You will need to ensure that you have Adobe Reader installed on your computer to enable you to access the handbook.**

The course handbook is written and created to be used alongside your work and the tutorial videos too.

In the handbook, some elements will be colour-coded:

**Red – indicates safety notes in regard to using certain materials**

**Green – gives you an indicator of when to view the tutorial video**

**Blue – exercises and assignments**

Feedback will be provided in the form of personal assignment evaluations. The assignments can be sent to me for evaluation via email at the assigned times. Therefore, a camera or scanner will be required to produce a GOOD QUALITY jpeg image of your work and also the subject

matter, that can be sent as an email attachment. It is encouraged that you wait for assignment evaluations before moving on to the next section of the course. The evaluation you receive will inform how best to approach future exercises. Assignment feedback is given within 7 – 10 working days of receipt.

**The course materials and assessment opportunities will be available for 6 months after you have received access to the password protected folder.**

2. **Tutorial videos** – there will be links provided to these and will provide additional support for you to use alongside the course handbook. The videos will include still images, as well as film. The film sections for each video have been created at normal speed, and if they have been sped up, it will only be at x2 or at the most x5 speed, to ensure that you can still see the processes in action.

**The tutorial videos are hosted on YouTube and are not available to the general public via this service or for download. A reliable internet connection is required to enable the streaming of tutorial videos from YouTube.**

3. **Other course materials** – these will include PDF documents and templates, that can be used as part of the course or are provided as extras. They may also include links to interesting articles or examples of other artist's work.

### **Communication and support**

I am generally available for enquiries via email. I will endeavour to answer emails within 24 hours, but at certain times this may not be possible.

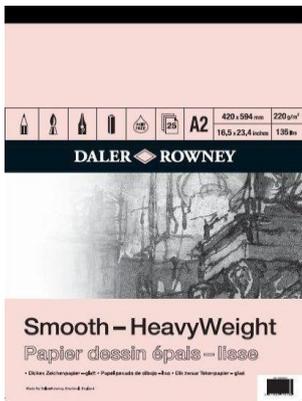
Additional support will also be available via the private Facebook group, called Drawing Nature with Illustrating Natures Details. This group is just for those enrolled on the course and is an optional resource. It provides a private forum for you to share work, discuss challenges and most importantly learn from each other. I will also be posting useful information on there too and occasionally taking part in live broadcasts. To access the group you will need to be registered with Facebook. A link will be sent to you in an email following registration.

### **Art materials required**

A huge amount of art materials are not required for this course, although in the course handbook there is an in-depth review of materials that can be used for graphite illustration.

#### **Basic materials needed:**

**Paper options:** Heavy weight cartridge paper with a **smooth surface** OR Strathmore Bristol **Vellum surface** Series 400. A4 size would be satisfactory, but A3 would offer more flexibility for slightly larger drawing projects.



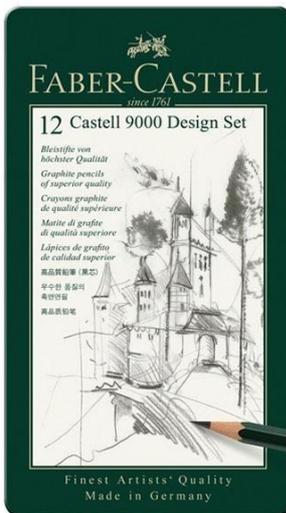
### Eraser options:

Plastic erasers are best, those that are quite soft and will not therefore damage the paper too much. A small eraser block can be cut to shape for erasing fine detail, or alternatively the

Tombow Mono Eraser pens are perfect for erasing very small areas of graphite.



**Pencil options:** For an excellent quality and affordable graphite pencil, I recommend Faber Castell 9000 pencils. The range of 5B to 5H is ideal for the course and these 12 pencils available as a set are called the 'Design Set'. Be aware that there is also a set called the 'Art Set' and this set does not include all of the pencils you will need.



If you have other makes of pencils do still use them, it is good to compare how each behave as you draw.

All of the materials I have mentioned are available from art supply companies online and other retail outlets. Due to the global reach of this course, I am not able to list companies from each country.

### Measuring Equipment:

Dividers – these can be bought at a reasonable price from Pullingers Art Supplies if in the UK <https://www.pullingers.com/p/JK1152/technical-drafting-tools/jakar/jakar-dividers> I will also be showing you how proportional dividers can also be used, but these are very expensive to buy and are not essential for you to have as part of the course.

Graph paper – with either 2cms / 1cms / 5mm grid cells

Stiff clear acetate A4 sheet and permanent marker – use the permanent marker to draw a 2cms grid across the page. Cassart sell acetate in packs via their website, but it is readily available elsewhere: [https://www.cassart.co.uk/drawing/paper\\_3/coloured\\_paper/colourfull\\_arts\\_acetate\\_sheet\\_240\\_micron.htm](https://www.cassart.co.uk/drawing/paper_3/coloured_paper/colourfull_arts_acetate_sheet_240_micron.htm)

Clear ruler – 6 inches or longer

I look forward to working with you on this drawing adventure !

*Sarah*