

Beyond Classrooms Kingston

Learn to Sketch Video 1: Learning to Shade with Francesca Pang

Transcript

Hello, and welcome to our video on shading. So shading is something that is a very helpful technique in drawing that takes a 2D shape, such as a square, and turns it into a 3D form, such as a cube. We're going to look at how we can create shading with our pencils and other drawing tools to achieve a 3D look.

For our example today, I first want you to take your hand and put it on a piece of paper or lift up a foot and put it on the ground. Now take a look at your hand or at your foot and lift it up a little bit. What is underneath there? That's the shadow. So, we can see a shadow under our hand, under our feet. And this is all because the object right now, our body is blocking the light that is coming from the ceiling. And even if we turn our hand, the shadow moves with it as does that shape of our hand, right? We can see the shadow changing on our fingers, even on our pencils.

So, when we are drawing pictures that are just lines and we want to add a little bit of oomph to it and let it pop off the page as if it were 3D, on your piece of paper you can turn it so that it is portrait so it's long this way and in the top half of it I'd like for you to draw two rectangles. You can use a ruler if you'd like but this is just for practice so a rough you know an approximately straight line will do. Try and have them be the same size so you can see the difference later.

In our first rectangle, we are going to draw four lines in it to divide it into five shapes. So, with your pencil, as best as you can, you can just draw them and try to do them in equal distance. One, two, three, four. Lines can go off; this is just practice. And then in the square here, you're going to write the letter D. On the where to the far opposite side you're going to write the letter L and, in the middle, you're going to write the letter M. D is for dark, M is for medium, L is for light and these are the different shades we are going to try and achieve with our pencil today so that we can practice how to create those different shades for coloring.

We'll start off with the fun one in the D the dark box with your pencil. You are going to try and color in the entire thing as dark as you can. You can do this in two ways: one, you can color really really really really hard and try and fill the whole thing that way; another way you can do this is color kind of medium pressure with your hand and layer it a couple of times and the more you color over it the darker it should get because you're adding more coloring layers on top of another, right? It's okay if you go outside your box a little bit, just try and fill it so that there are no blank spaces as dark as you can. Really really really dark. Good good good.

Okay then we're going to move to the box to the side of that. There's no label here so if we combine dark and medium we will get dark medium, and dark medium is going to be a box that we are going to color in fairly dark but I want it to look lighter than the dark box. So, for this one you can also color dark again or you can layer and build up that shade, right? So that's quite light but I want it to still be pretty dark. So go in again, add layers so that it gets darker and darker, but try to keep this line dividing them clear so that you can tell there's a difference between dark and dark medium. Color, color, color, fill it in.

Now we're going to move from dark medium to medium. And you guessed it; we're going a little lighter again. So, this should be pretty close to your regular pencil pressure, where you're filling the box, trying

to keep it different for each one. If you need to go back to a box to add a little bit, that is okay, go right ahead. I'm doing that, so I'm just creating some clear layers here.

Then we're moving to the other box between medium and light to create a medium light. Now what we're going to do is I'd like for you to leave the light box empty so that it is the white of your paper and for medium light try and do it as a light as you can so that it's almost impossible to tell that it's there. Right, it's a very light color. You can add a bit more to medium if we need. And so, when you finish you should have five boxes of very different shades and tints, right? Dark, dark medium, medium, medium light and light.

However, when we are sketching all these different objects and shading them, not everything is super flat surfaces like cubes and rectangular prisms. Sometimes there are curved objects or, you know, organic shapes and whatnot. So, we want to practice both very clear sections, as well as blended in smooth sections.

So, in your second rectangle, what I'd like for you to do is try and go from dark to light without these lines in the middle. So, you're going to smooth it out in a gradient, something that gradually changes as you work through the rectangle. For this one, you're going to kind of color and drag your hand across and use less and less pressure as you go. Right in my case I'm going to start with sort of a medium light and build up the layers so that it's easier to go darker than the other way. If I start too dark and I pull it and I'm in the middle but still at dark medium, right, it'll be harder to use less and less pressure. So, building it up can be a handy way to build it up slowly and then pull it away, right?

So, I'm going to kind of focus on adding this in a little bit at a time, trying to not even color here at all. I'm just focusing on these darker areas, pulling it, right? I kind of want this bottom rectangle to match the top one. So, this needs to be darker, but I don't want to see lines in between each of my colors, in between each of my shades, right? We're getting there. I might press a little bit harder now that I think I've got the hang of it. You'll see that I pull a little shorter each time because I'm feeling like I'm matching these areas quite well. Across, a little bit more and that looks okay to me. Right, so we've got our gray scale up here and a gradient version of it down here.

Now to demonstrate how we might use this shading on a shape to turn it into a form, I have brought my friend Smiley Face. Smiley Face is going to sit on my table here while I draw it and try to shade it to show that it is a 3D object and not a flat circle.

So, we can see in my video that the light source is coming from above and we know this because there's a shadow underneath. So, on my paper on this bottom half, I'm going to try and draw my sphere. I'm going to start with a light sort of tracing of a circle because it could be a little tricky to draw a circle at first so just keep just to show the final lines. And to help me remember that there's a light source coming from one place, I'm just going to pick a corner here and add a little sun. Right? This sun is my light source, so I know that it's coming this way.

Because my circle here is round, I'm not going to be coloring it with straight lines, because then it would just look like a pie that's cut up or something. I want to shade in a round motion to show the shape of the sphere—that it's curved, right? So, because if I were to draw a circle and just go dark on one half and light on the other, it just looks like two flat semi-circles. And I want a rounded shading. I want roundedness. I want to show that my sphere is round.

So, what I'm going to do to help me remember this is I'm going to kind of divide it up here, lightly, into my light, medium, and dark sections. So, I'm going to say that where the light is hitting is going to be the lightest. I'll draw a circle here just lightly and then where there's less light hitting it it's going to be more of a medium, right? I'm following the shape of that circle. Where there's no light down here, no sun, it's probably going to be dark, right? So, I'm going to write here dark, medium, and light.

Now what I'm going to do is I've got these sections. I'm going to try and do a gradient from dark to light from here to here, and I'm going to follow these divisions. So, if I'm up here, dark is this area, medium in here, light here. But if I start from down here, it's going to be a much longer gradient from dark to medium to light. Right, and I'm going to connect these here. Dark, medium, light. Right, I can build up layers if it's a little tiring to color very dark to very light all at once. And I'll follow the curved shape of my sphere, right, to give it the illusion of depth, of a 3D form. Right, we're seeing a difference between this and this already. My curved shadows show me that this shape is indeed round, right?

And if you're drawing different forms, you'll look at how the light is hitting the object. I'm going, I'm going around, I'm going to fill it in. You'll notice I'm not coloring in my light area because that is meant to be left there. And if I'm looking at this sphere and this one, what am I missing, right? My sphere is floating in the air right now, but this sphere is sitting on the table. So, I'm going to draw underneath a very dark shadow where no light is seen because the ball is sitting there and then I'll add that shadow in. Right, the shadow is not a square because this is a round shape. So, I'm looking at, you know, how the light is being blocked and coloring that in as well.

So that's just an example of how we might use shading to turn a 2D object into a 3D form. And that's something we can use in a lot of our drawings that are going to be coming up. Great job!