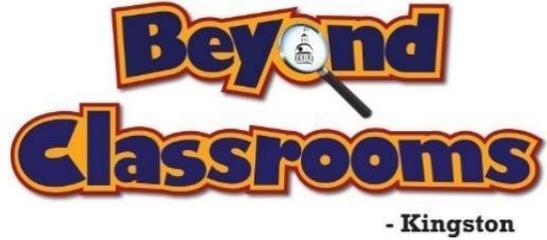


## Beyond Classrooms Kingston Workshop

### Learn to Sketch Worksheet: Video 3: Mystery Object

With Francesca Pang



## Workshop Handout: Sketching from a Photograph

Activity Goal: Practice sketching a mystery object using observation, basic shapes, and shading — all from a 2D image.

### Welcome and Introduction

Hello everyone, welcome to another sketching activity. Today, we're going to draw an object from a photograph. I have a picture of a mystery object on my tablet. If you have a printout, that will work just fine.

### Drawing from 2D vs. 3D

Working from a flat image is different from sketching a 3D object. With a real object, you can pick it up and view it from different angles. A photo or tablet image gives only one fixed view — but it lets you zoom in and focus without worrying about the object moving.

We may not know the actual size of the object — the camera could be close or far — but that's part of the fun. Use your journal to note your observations and guesses.

### Getting Started

It's common to feel unsure where to begin. What part should you draw first? How big should it be on your page? If you go off the paper — great! Try to fill your page.

You might draw the full object, or zoom in on one interesting detail.

## Using Basic Shapes and Forms

To simplify the object, think about basic 2D shapes:

- Circle
- Square
- Rectangle
- Triangle

Then consider 3D forms:

- Cylinder
- Cube
- Rectangular prism
- Triangular prism

These help us break the object down into parts we can draw more easily and show its structure.

## Observing the Object

As we study the mystery object, we might notice lots of circles — they sit inside a cylinder shape. We see parallel lines, a curved top and bottom — like a jar. Already we have familiar forms to work with.

Some parts aren't traditional, but we can interpret them as curved or angled lines, like those in a triangle. Over here, we see a half-circle, some squares, and rectangles formed by dark and light areas. These observations help us build the drawing piece by piece.

## Sketching the Object

Start with the largest part — maybe a square to show the base of the cylinder — using light pressure so it's not final. Sketch the handle with straight or angled lines. Use reference points: for example, the bottom of the shape might line up with the bottom handle.

Already, with a few lines and shapes, your drawing will resemble the object.

## Refining the Drawing

Add detail slowly. Use oval shapes for the cylinder openings. Sketch parallel lines lightly. If a line doesn't feel right, try again and darken the one that works. Use short strokes if needed.

Once you're confident in your placement, darken your final lines. Leave rough lines in for now — this is a sketch, not a perfect finished drawing.

## Zooming In and Adding Features

Zoom in to spot details. Maybe there's a round shape between the hinge — draw that. Add a semicircle or triangle for other small parts. If you see a curve, sketch it in. Capture key details to help others understand what you saw.

You don't need to draw every small hole — just enough to show that the surface has many of them. Scribbles or loose circles will do the job.

## Checking Scale and Proportions

Now step back. Does the size of one part look right compared to another? Use your fingers or a ruler to check — for example, if one handle is twice the size of the other, it should look that way in your sketch.

## Optional: Add Shading

If you have time, add light and shadow to show depth. Darken areas where the light doesn't hit — like inside the holes or under a lid. Don't worry about perfection — shading helps show the form.

Alternate dark and light sections on repeating shapes (like rectangles) to show surface changes. Add shadows to curved areas based on what you can infer from the image.

## Wrap-Up

By breaking the object into simple shapes and adding details step by step, you've created a sketch that shows the object's structure and texture. Remember, your goal isn't perfection — it's careful observation and creative interpretation.