

ART PROF

BASIC CURRICULUM FOR SELF-TAUGHT ARTISTS

artprof.org



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Get daily support and answers from the Art Prof staff & an international community of artists of all ages and backgrounds who are dedicated to learning.

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I. SKETCHBOOK PRACTICE

Sketchbook tips

- [10 min. of sketching is a win!!](#)
- Set a specific time of day to sketch
- Move your hand on the paper to start!
- Can't start? [Collage on the page](#)

Sketchbook prompts

[Sketchbook Prompts 1](#)
[Sketchbook Prompts 2](#)
[Sketchbook Prompts 3](#)
[Blind Contour Drawings](#)

Sketchbook videos

[Prof Lieu's sketchbooks](#)
[Cat's Sketchbook](#)
[Lauryn's Sketchbook](#)
[What "Should" be in my Sketchbook?](#)

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II. DRAW ALONG VIDEOS

Figure

[Crayon: Gesture Drawing 1](#)
[Crayon: Gesture Drawing 2](#)
[Crayon: Seated Figure](#)
[Crayon: Male Back](#)
[Crayon: Figure Composition 1](#)

Portrait

[Acrylic/ Watercolor: Eyes](#)
[Conté Crayon: Male 1](#)
[Conté Crayon: Female](#)
[Conté Crayon: Male 2](#)
[Crayon: Sherlock](#)

<p>Crayon: Figure Composition 2 Colored Pencil: Male Torso 1 Colored Pencil: Male Torso 2 Charcoal/Procreate: Male Torso Pencil: Female Back Torso Pencil: 2 minute Gesture Drawings Pencil: Figure Drawing Mistakes Procreate/Pastel Pencil: Male Torso Procreate/Pencil: Legs Procreate/Pencil: Feet Photoshop/Conte Crayon: Proportions Photoshop: Foreshortening Arms & Legs</p>	<p>Charcoal: Hair 1 Charcoal: Hair 2 Oil Pastel: Male 2 Oil Pastel: Male 2 Pencil: Foreshortened Pencil: Male Procreate: Hair Procreate/Acrylic: Wigs Procreate/Pencil: Noses</p> <p>Linear Perspective Pastel Pencil: 1 Point Procreate/Ink: 1 Point Procreate/Markers: 2 Point</p>
<p>Hands Pencil: Gestures Pencil: Sustained Drawing Colored Pencil: Foreshortening Colored Pencil 1 Colored Pencil 2</p>	<p>Clothing Pipe Folds Diaper Folds Moving Folds Dead Folds Half-Lock Folds Zig Zag Folds Patterns 1920s Clothing Price & Prejudice Costumes</p>
<p>Still Life Colored Pencil: Tea & Scones Soft Pastel: Glass Drinks Soft Pastel: Cookies</p>	<p>Animals Procreate: Monkeys Procreate: Silhouette Creatures Procreate: "Ugly" Animals Oil Pastel: Chickens Soft Pastel: Dogs Adobe Fresco: Fish Adobe Fresco/Soft Pastel: Crabs Oil Pastel/Oil Sticks: Peacocks Soft Pastel: Guinea Pigs Crayon/Procreate: Animal Gesture Drawings Acrylic/Procreate: Birds Adobe Fresco/Oil Pastel: Lobsters Markers & Conte: Horses</p>
<p>Landscapes Gouache/Watercolor: Mountains Gouache/Procreate: Rocks Gouache/Procreate: Trees Oil Pastel: Landscape Procreate: Desert Landscape Soft Pastel Wet Charcoal Watercolor: Utah 1 Watercolor: Utah 2</p>	<p>Movies & TV Brush Pens: Great British Baking Show Brush Pens: Tiger King</p>

Self-Portraits Painting Eyes	Ink: Twilight Zone
Vehicles & Buildings Pencil/Marker: Antique Cars Adobe Fresco/Marker: Oil Refinery Ink & Photoshop: Vehicles	

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III. DRAWING FROM A MIRROR

[Self-Portrait in Charcoal](#)
[Self-Portrait in Crayon](#)
[Self-Portraits in Procreate](#)

IV. ART PROMPTS

[Art Prof Prompts list](#)

V. ART PROF REFERENCE PHOTO COLLECTION

[Art Prof Reference Photo Collection](#)

Download high resolution photos for free to use for your art!

You are free to use our images, we ask that you credit Art Prof when you post artwork made from our collection.

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VI. GESTURE DRAWING FROM LIFE

You don't need people to be posing for you!
Draw during idle moments when [you're trapped at an ice skating rink in Utah](#) because your kids are still skating and you're sitting on the stands freezing your butt off.

[Maybe you're at your daughter's orchestra rehearsal](#), so instead you sit behind the orchestra and sketch the bored parents who are looking at their phones while drinking coffee.

<p>Drawing from Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw your pets • Draw people you live with • Draw people at the beach (they're practically naked anyway) • Draw people at a cafe, sit far enough away so you don't look like a creep 	<p>Media for gesture drawing</p> <p>Convenient, low mess, & won't smudge.</p> <p>Colored pencils</p> <p>Brush Pens</p> <p>Markers</p> <p>Caran d'Ache Crayons</p> <p>Pencil</p>
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VII. DRAWING ON SITE	
<p>Sites to draw</p> <p>Draw a space with plants</p> <p>Draw a space with water</p> <p>Draw during a meal</p> <p>Draw a space with rocks</p> <p>Draw your breakfast</p> <p>Draw a space with architecture</p> <p>Draw a mall food court</p>	<p>Videos</p> <p>Watercolor: Rocks</p> <p>Watercolor: Goblin Valley</p> <p>Watercolor: Cemetery</p> <p>Brush Pens: Taiwan</p> <p>Markers: China</p>

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VIII. BRAINSTORMING	
<p>Create mood boards: collect color schemes, patterns, lighting, landscapes, architecture</p>	
<p>Project Demos</p> <p>Linoleum Block Printmaking</p> <p>Character Design</p> <p>Creature Design</p>	<p>Brainstorming</p> <p>Mood Boards</p> <p>How to Brainstorm</p> <p>Art Clichés</p> <p>How to Create a Series</p>
<p>Warm up drawing exercise</p> <p>Rapid Fire Drawing</p>	<p>Thumbnail Sketches</p> <p>Discussion & Demo</p>

IX. ART HISTORY RESOURCES
<p>How to Start Learning Art History</p> <p>Historical & Contemporary Artist List</p>

Educational Art Books Videos & Podcasts	
Research Artists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google artists from our list. • Make a list of artists you like. 	Sketchbook Collage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print out hard copies of artworks & glue them into your sketchbook • Draw sketches of the artworks • Write why you like those artworks
Debates, Art History Van Gogh's Starry Night The Kiss. Gustav Klimt Mona Lisa	Debates, 20th Century Art M.C. Escher Dali's Persistence of Memory Jackson Pollock Andy Warhol's Marilyn J.C. Leyendecker Frida Kahlo

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X. MASTERCOPIES	
What is a mastercopy? A mastercopy is copying a painting or drawing from a historical artwork to analyze an artist's technique.	Tutorials Procreate: Mastercopies Ballpoint Pen: Mastercopies
Still Life Painting Mastercopy Artist Suggestions Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin, Giorgio Morandi, Juan Sánchez Cotán, Janet Fish, Pieter Claesz, William Meritt Chase, Paul Cezanne	Landscape Mastercopy Artist Suggestions John Constable, Winslow Homer, JMW Turner, Wolf Kahn, George Inness, Thomas Cole, Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, Caspar David Friedrich, Maxfield Parrish, Edgar Alwin Payne, Norman Ackroyd
Portrait Painting Mastercopy Artist Suggestions Diego Velázquez, Edgar Degas, John Singer Sargent, Anders Zorn, Rembrandt, Edward Hopper, Alice Neel, Andrew Wyeth, Peter	Drawing Mastercopy Artist Suggestions Michelangelo, Leonardo, Pontormo, Raphael, Peter Paul Rubens, Watteau's portraits, Albrecht Dürer, Mary Cassatt's pastel

Paul Rubens, Joaquín Sorolla, Vermeer, Artemisia Gentileschi, Piero della Francesca, Antonio López García, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Jacques-Louis David, Caravaggio, Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, Eugène Delacroix, Francisco Goya, Gustave Courbet, Théodore Géricault, Gustave Courbet, N.C. Wyeth	drawings, Edgar Degas' pastel drawings, Redon's pastel drawings, Nicolas Poussin, Paul Cadmus
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XI. CONTEMPORARY ART RESOURCES	
Art videos & films Lists of contemporary artists Art YouTube Channels Art Podcasts	
Hot Takes on Art “Bad” Abstract Paintings “Bad” Backgrounds in Art “Bad” Figure Paintings “Bad” Illustrations	Overrated/Underrated Artists Overrated & Underrated Artists 1 Overrated & Underrated Artists 2 Overrated & Underrated Artists 3 Overrated & Underrated Artists 4
Other Contemporary Art What is the Future of NFTs? Kitsch Art & Thomas Kinkade Hunter Biden's Art Sale: Ethics & Politics How Artists Avoid Cultural Appropriation Is it Wrong to Make Fan Art?	

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XII. ART BOOKS
How to Books Staff Picks Educational Books

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XIII. 2D COMPOSITION	
Great 2D Compositions Background Tips for Portraits Why You Need a Background	“Bad” 2D Compositions I “Bad” 2D Compositions II
2D Composition Exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Download a JPG image of one of the 2D artworks listed below• Draw on the JPG: where do you see cropping, diagonals, etc?	
2D Historical artworks The Raft of the Medusa, Théodore Géricault New York Movie, 1939, Edward Hopper Martyrdom of Saint Matthew, Caravaggio Spanish Woman, Alice Neel The Death of Marat, Jacques-Louis David Bayeux Tapestry The Liver Is the Cock's Comb, Arshile Gorky	2D Contemporary artworks Black Girl's Window, Betye Saar Mama, Mummy and Mamma, Njideka Akunyili Crosby Physician Assisted Dying by Dadu Shin Presentation, Dana Schutz Pages from Little Nemo, Winsor McCay Remembered Landscape 7, Thomas Sgouros Apple Lucky Rooster, Victo Ngai The Businessmen, Jacob Lawrence

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XIV. ELEMENTS OF ART	
Texture in 3D Texture in 2D Line Value	Color Space Form Shape

XV. COLOR THEORY	
Complementary Colors Red & Green Blue & Orange Purple & Yellow Color Schemes	Tutorials Complementary Color Chart Purple & Yellow still life Complementary Color Underpainting

[Saturated vs. Muted](#)
[Warm & Cool](#)

XVI. CRAFTSMANSHIP

Bookbinding

[Lotus & Meandering](#)
[Coptic Stitch](#)

3D

[Copper Tooling](#)
[Carving Balsa Wood](#)
[Chipboard Sculpture](#)

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XVII. CRITIQUE

Critique yourself

- [5 Ways to Self-Critique](#), video
- **Write a checklist:** how is the... Tone? Contrast? Composition? Value? Line? Shape?
- **Put the artwork away:** Don't look at it for a few days
- **Reference artist(s):** Identify artists whose technique/ideas you're interested in.
- **Set a specific goal:** base the goal on issues in your prior artworks.
- **Identify your tendencies:** do you tend to draw heads too small? Do you draw the same point of view for every panel?

Learn about critiques

[How to Critique Art](#) (35 min)
[How to Critique Art](#) (3 min)
[Group Critique](#)

Purchase a critique

[Portfolio critiques](#)
[Artist calls](#)
[Instagram or website critique](#)

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XVIII. TIMED DRAWING VIDEOS

[Timed Drawing Exercises, YouTube Playlist](#)

2 min. Poses

[Dogs](#)
[Squirrels](#)
[Guinea Pigs](#)

5 min. Poses

[Hands](#)
[Deer](#)
[Horses](#)

10 min. Poses

[Hands](#)
[Horses](#)
[Crabs](#)
[Pigs](#)

2-10 min. Poses

[Birds](#)
[Chickens](#)
[Sheep](#)

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