



Hands are so expressive – they say so much – they are used to talk by the deaf. They can be graceful, threatening, they are used in dance, they caress and hold. Some hands are worn from hard, rough work, a child's hands are soft.

Today you are to draw hands from life – but I want you to do the first drawing as a blind drawing. This exercise gets you to revise blind drawing and to look with more intensity.

Drawing 1 - 20 minutes.

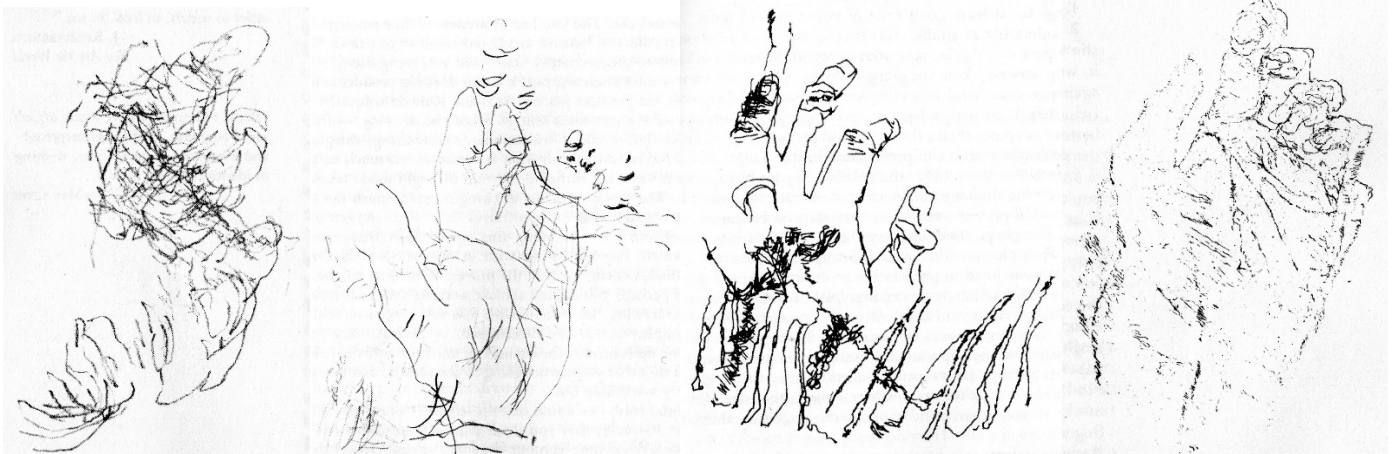
Settle yourself at a table, tape some paper to the table to one side of you so that the sheet won't move, then turn away so you can't see your paper and spend 20 minutes drawing your hand.

- Set up a timer
- Make sure your hand is supported on something
- Make sure it is in a complicated position
- When comfortable and with your paper in position, place your pencil on the paper then turn to look at your hand
- Very slowly, creeping a millimetre at a time, move your eyes along the edge of your hand, observing every tiny variation – as your eyes move, move your pencil – record every slight change, the pencil and the eye must be synchronised – DON'T be tempted to look

You register what you are seeing at the moment of seeing. DO NOT TURN AROUND and look at your paper. You will become aware of the complexity of the hand, you can draw all parts of the hand, contour, folds, nails etc. If the lines are light, use your pencil lightly, if the lines are dark, make the marks darker.

YOUR DRAWING WON'T look exactly like a hand but will have the characteristics of a hand.

Don't speed up, don't pause but continue as a slow, even pace. When you finish, look at your drawing.



Drawing 2 - 30 minutes

Next do a semi-blind contour drawing of your hand holding something complex (e.g. flower head close to the hand or scissors etc.). Again, tape the paper down and then set your hand down in a complex position. Make sure you are comfortable; your hand and head need to be comfortable for ½ hour. You don't want to move your head or hand.

Look at your hand at any point on the contour, check the angle to vertical and horizontal. As your eyes move slowly along the contour, your pencil moves at the same speed, move from contour to contour. Glance at your paper to locate a point or check a relationship. About 90% of your drawing should be focused on your hand not on your drawing.

Drawings 3, 4 and 5 – 1 hour

Now do three 20-minute drawings (1 hour total) of your hand in 3 different expressions of emotion in strong lighting – Angry, Graceful or Dramatic or any other emotion you want to portray.

Sketchbook work

All week sketch your hands, and other peoples', look at the muscles, ligaments and bone structure. Look at the texture of the skin and wrinkles, compare the differences between old hands and young ones. If you have no one else's hands to draw, draw your own many times.

Research the structure of the hands, the bones, muscles and ligaments, draw them and write down their names. How do they work? Understanding how they work, and this applies to all drawing, really informs your drawing skills.

Really explore the hand and understand it – it is a beautiful structure we take for granted

Draw the hand in as many different media as possible in your sketchbook, sketch and paint the hand. Research how contemporary illustrators and artist portray hands.

Hand in date of main 5 drawings by Sunday 30th March

