

## Yes, it's Feet !



Today I want you to draw your feet, or feet from another member of your family or someone you are living with. Feet are often overlooked, they are not as personal or as expressive as hands, but they are very important. Your whole figure and weight is balanced on your feet, a tiny area of the ball of the foot and heel relative to the mass of the body. Often when we draw from life we get the balance wrong. The centre of gravity is not central and the figure looks as though it will keel over! or we miss the feet out!

### Warm up Drawing - 20 Minutes or more if wished

Initially start by doing a couple of blind drawings, 10 minutes each to get into the mode of “seeing”.

### 30 Minutes (or longer)

Then do an initial 30 minute study. Use any media you wish, you could do this as a 3D piece, please feel you can experiment with this assignment.

Set your feet out in an interesting way, crossed on the chair, sitting cross-legged, looking down at your feet sitting on a chair, point your toes, flex your toes or splay your toes – turn the foot in or turn the foot out. Make sure you are comfortable. To make your drawing/painting more interesting, again light it strongly so that you have some strong shadows **and include the shadows of your feet** on the floor/wall or where ever they are cast, to make an interesting composition. Whatever media you choose to use keep your observation sharp and expressive.

### 1 Hour (or longer)

Next, before you do your last drawing/painting/3D piece, I want you to research the structure of your feet. How exactly do they work, the bone structure, ligaments and muscles. This should be a set of drawings you take an hour or more over. **This is not a copy of the foot, but an exploration of the foot.** Where and how do the bones fit, where are ligaments attached to the muscles and bones, how does it all fit together so that you can construct the foot. These will be working drawings, they are not supposed to be a set of perfect copies of your foot but are exploratory drawings to understand your feet. You may not have a foot to dissect but there are many images on the internet to explore and research.

### 30 minutes (or longer)

Having researched the structure of your foot/feet, now draw them again with the understanding of the underlying structure. Again, set this up with strong interesting lighting and make sure you are comfortable.

**Hand in date Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

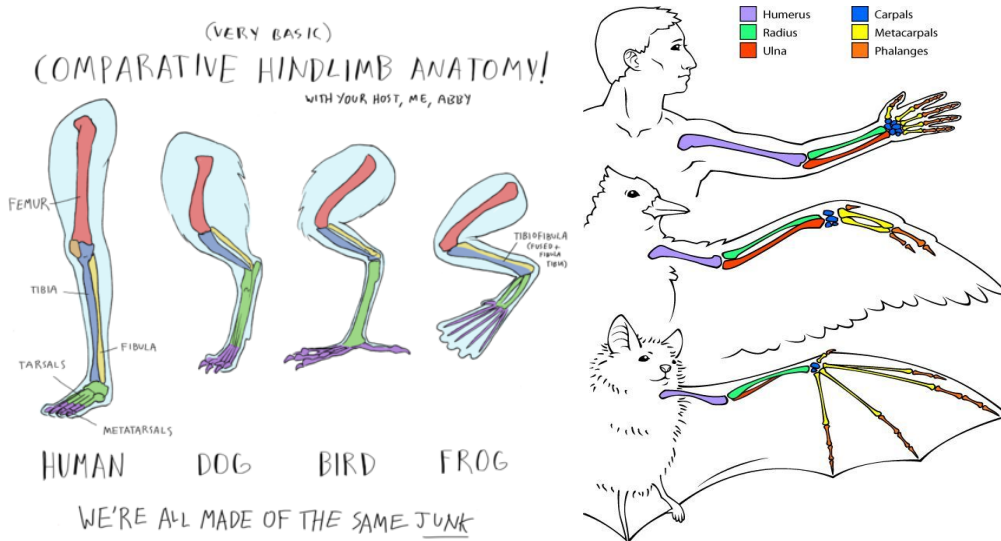




### Sketch book work

As an additional exercise to do and explore in the week, you are all illustrators and love to imagine characters but you need to practice working on drawings so that they are **very well informed with good research**. This will make your characters convincing – this is the importance of observational drawing.

- **Exercise** - Research how bone structures have evolved in mammals, birds, reptiles etc to be different to our own but structurally the same. (Comparative Anatomy - Homologous structures.) We all share similar bones but they may be different shapes, longer or shorter etc. – see illustration comparative evolution (human, dog, bird and frog). What I want you to do, having understood the structure of your own foot, is to choose an animal hind foot and create a new imaginary creature's foot by morphing and exaggerating the two structures together as one. For example, distort the human foot into an animal bird or reptile foot etc, combining them convincingly, you could also try this with the forearms if you find this exercise interesting. Give the foot texture, scales, hair, feathers, claws etc, making sure you understand the basic structure and bone formation of your new imagined foot! Have some imaginative fun.
- Sketch your feet or someone else's feet in the week using different media but still take care **to observe carefully**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEa6lvxcoGo>

**Note: the sketch book work can be handed in at the end of the semester.**

