Good Habits

FOR OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING



STEP BACK

Get physical distance from your work to see what really matters.



MIRROR

Use a mirror or work on your piece flipped upside down.



SQUINT

Squint to better assess shapes, values, and transitions.



SHOOT

Take a photo of your work and assess its essence on a small screen.



PAUSE

Step away, drink water, move, to clear and reset your mind.



SEPARATE LIGHT & SHADOW

Always make a decision: is this area in shadow or receiving direct light? Indecision leads to confusing drawings.



KNOW THE LIGHT DIRECTION

Analyze the light direction in the scene you are drawing. Create a clear hierarchy of primary and secondary light sources. Unawareness leads to confusing drawings.



USE MODELING FACTORS

Learn to recognize, understand, and utilize modeling factors. (The light effects that create the impression of realistic form.)



GROUP VALUES

Simplify your image by organizing all tonal values into 4 or 5 value groups.