God & The History of Art I

by
Barry Stebbing

"The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci
Copy by Matt Watson  Age 16

This book is dedicated to God, who is my main purpose in life.
It is also dedicated to my wife, Saundra, my rock and comforter.
Thank God for Christian women.

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(The High Renaissance through the 20th Century continues in God & the History of Art II.)

Planning Your Curriculum

God & the History of Art I & II includes the picture postcard gallery, a set of 36 full color postcards of works by the great masters. You may want to review your collection of these masterpieces. Make sure to keep them in a safe place for future references. Listed below, and in the forward to God & the History of Art II are the titles of each masterpiece as well as where the assignments may be found pertaining to the artwork.

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Art Materials Needed for Text

Colored Pencils (set of 12 or 24)  Set of Drawing Pencils & Kneaded Eraser
Pure Pigment Acrylic Paints (yellow, red, blue & white) 1 Extra-Fine Black Marker Pen
Set of 3 or 4 Brushes (#1, #3, #5, #7, or #9) Set of Washable Markers

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"Years of patience, discipline and effort are the price of access to a strict and personal vision. An artist is not born but made."

Jean-Max Taxier

Fundamentals of Drawing

Tom Pellegrini  Age 13
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

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"To learn, you must want to be taught." Proverbs 12:1

Drawing: A Sure Foundation

It's always good to start with a drawing program. Learning to draw will add joy and variety to the art history studies. It is also good to start with drawing because drawing is the essential ingredient needed in learning art. This curriculum includes many drawing lessons on the pages that follow. I believe that God gives each and every child a joy for art. Since God is an artist, He has given this joy and a certain amount of ability to everyone as a free gift so that we all may participate in creating! However, this ability in art has to be developed. Remember, ability means you are capable of doing something. Joni Eareckson Tada had a measure of ability to draw and paint, and even though she became paralyzed from the neck down, she developed this ability into a talent through discipline and practice. Talent simply means practicing until you have developed your abilities to the point where you have become good at it, or talented. Your abilities will become better and better the more you practice. Observe a dancer, baseball player or pianist. They all become better with practice. The same is true with art! Everything takes practice, practice and more practice.

The question is raised, "What should I practice?" Well, you can always start by practicing the fundamentals. Fundamentals are the building blocks of art. The two most important fundamentals in drawing are learning to draw with line and how to draw an ellipse. Practicing these and other building blocks in drawing will improve your abilities.

Fundamentals: Building Blocks of Drawing

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Lesson #2: "Draw lines, young man, plenty of lines."

When, the French Impressionist artist, Edgar Degas was a young student he went to visit the great French master, Ingres (pronounced Angs). The one question that young Edgar asked the venerable teacher was, "What do you consider the most important thing to learn in art?" The wise, aged master replied, "Draw lines, young man, plenty of lines." Line is the main element in art. It teaches the student control. It also offers the student a wealth of beauty in drawing through a wonderful assortment of lines, called line variation. Drawings by the great masters are so divine because each and every line was done with exquisite control. Therefore, the practice of drawing lines is a fundamental that should be exercised continually. For this lesson practice drawing long, straight, horizontal lines below. Keep them close together and draw them as straight as if they had been drawn with a ruler. Then, take another sheet of plain white paper and fill it with more long, horizontal lines. Practice the fundamentals!

Long, Horizontal Lines

Note: The glossary, with terms and definitions, is found in the back of God & the History of Art II (pp. 441-451).
"You must accept drawing as a thing to challenge your best effort. It cannot be taught or learned in 10 easy lessons."

Arthur Guptill

Lesson #3: Long Lines & Short Lines

Let's practice drawing more long lines. This time you are going to complete the pencil and the paintbrush below by drawing long, straight lines. Notice that the handle of the paintbrush becomes wider the closer it is to the hairs of the brush. When you are finished, draw the entire pencil and brush in the figure box below (A).

![Pencil and Paintbrush](image)

Now let's practice drawing short lines. Fill each box to the left using the correct type of lines: vertical lines, horizontal lines, and diagonal lines. Finally, shade each object below (B) with lines as shown. Use your black pen or dark pencil for this assignment.

![Shaded Objects](image)

"Jacob Wrestling with the Angel"

Yuba Grant  Age 13  Ontario, Canada
Lesson #4: Ellipses - Going Around & Around

Leonardo da Vinci, the great artist from the Italian Renaissance, was one of the most talented people who ever lived. He was great at many things. However, notice what Leonardo said, "Thou, O Lord, dost sell us all good things at the price of labor." King Solomon, one of my great, great ancestors, stated in Ecclesiastes 3:22, "So I perceived that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage." Thus, we are called to be an industrious people and in art, that means practice, practice, practice.

Let's learn another fundamental - ellipses. An ellipse is a circle seen on an angle, looking much like a perfect pancake shape. Literally hundreds of objects are drawn with ellipses: the tops and bottoms of jars, bottles, pots, bowls, cups, glasses, a basketball rim, a tire seen on an angle, a watch going around a wrist, and so on. To draw an ellipse, hold your pencil 1 or 2 inches from the point and lightly go around 4 or 5 times to make its shape (A). For this assignment, take out your colored pencils and fill the box below with colorful ellipses, using a different color for each.

* Ellipses * Ellipses * Ellipses * Ellipses * Ellipses * Ellipses * Ellipses * Ellipses *

Now let's see if you can draw objects that are formed with ellipses. Copy the objects below (B), drawing an ellipse for the top and bottom of each. Notice that ellipses are even used to draw a label on a round jar. Start with a light colored pencil.

Lesson #5: Independent Studies:

Take your sketchbook or some drawing paper and see how many things you can draw around the house that are formed with ellipses. Remember, jars, pots, cups, glasses, bottles, rolls of tape, lamps, and basketball rims are all drawn with ellipses. Make sure to go around lightly 4 or 5 times for each ellipse.
Lesson #6: *Around & Around*

The great French Impressionist Paul Cezanne said, "Pleasure must be found in study." Mr. Cezanne is stating that students need to practice the fundamentals of art in order to nurture their God given abilities. Most students do not like to practice the fundamentals but would rather draw and color the things they like. Paul, the apostle of Christ, seems to sum up this attitude in Romans 7:15, "For what I am doing I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice..." Many students want to draw and color pretty pictures, but it takes an effort to learn the basic fundamentals. When we practice fundamentals such as line and ellipse over and over again, our artwork will be of a much higher quality.

Let's draw *Wally the Worm*. First, fill another figure box (A) with ellipses using a different colored pencil for each. Then, draw *Wally the Worm* starting with two long, controlled lines for his body (B). Notice that the lines go to a point at his tail just like the handle of a paintbrush. Then put stripes on his body, but remember, his body is round so the stripes have to be curved or go around. Next, see if you can draw *Wally the Worm* wrapping around a pole. Draw lightly with your yellow pencil and then darken *Wally* with your orange pencil when you have drawn him just the way you like. Finally, draw the objects below (D) using ellipses to show they are round.

A. "Pleasure must be found in study."

B.

D.

C.

"Tower of Babel"

Marie Eichman Age 13
Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Lesson #7: Let's Go Around & Around Again

Michelangelo was one of the greatest artists of the Renaissance, being both a painter and a sculptor. Yet, when asked by a student, "Master, how did you become a great artist?" his reply was brief and to the point, "I drew, and I drew, and I drew some more." Sorolla, the great Spanish painter said, "Don't paint as I do, draw, draw, that is everything." Tintoretto, the great 16th century Venetian master (from Venice) stated, "One can never do too much drawing." He also added, "Without faith and draftsmanship (the ability to draw) your paintings will crumble. Faith is needed to keep the subject matter holy, while drawing is a cable that bind's one's convictions together." Remember, drawing is the key cornerstone in art! Upon this rock you shall build your house.

Let's practice drawing circles. A circle is not drawn by going around once with a heavy line (A). It is much like drawing ellipses, going around and around 4 or 5 times. However, a circle is not thin like an ellipse (B) but perfectly round (C). Practice drawing 3 circles in the figure box below (D) using a different colored pencil for each. Then draw a hot air balloon, a Christmas ball, and a balloon in the clown's hand. Make sure to draw a round circle by going around and around. Color everything with your pencils when finished.

A. No!  
B. No!  
C. Yes!  
D.