

WELCOME TO

Summer of Drawing



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Housekeeping

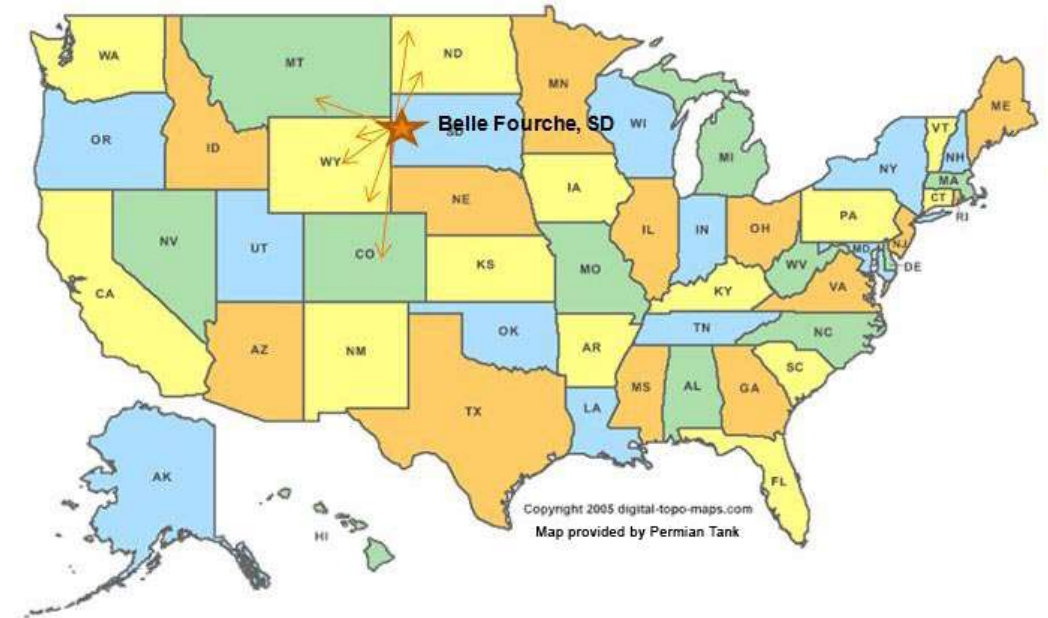
- Check the Vineyard Haven Public Library website for more events throughout the summer.
- If you miss a class, or if friends want to join later this summer, the videos for the class will be on YouTube within 24 hours of the class.
www.youtube.com/c/ElizabethWhelan-artist
- A pdf containing all the images and info from each class will be emailed to you right after the class ends, so that you can continue to work on your own time.
- Do ask questions in chat, and I will answer as many as I can either in class, or when I send out the link to the video for that week.
- You can always email me at erwhelan@gmail.com
- I will give an overview of the materials in these first classes, and include a materials list with links.

Drawing Supplies you could use for the next few classes:

- A few pencils, soft and hard (you can test out your regular pencils.)
- A pencil sharpener or pen knife
- Sketchbook or paper
- Eraser (not the one on the end of the pencil if possible.)

- You might find these useful:
- Kneaded rubber eraser or white eraser
- Charcoal pencil, or pencil that is very soft
- Fine black marker or gel ink pen

WHERE ARE WE GOING, EXACTLY?



Elizabeth Whelan says:

Observation and practice
are the key to mastery.

Technique is a matter of practice.

Interesting drawings depend on observation.

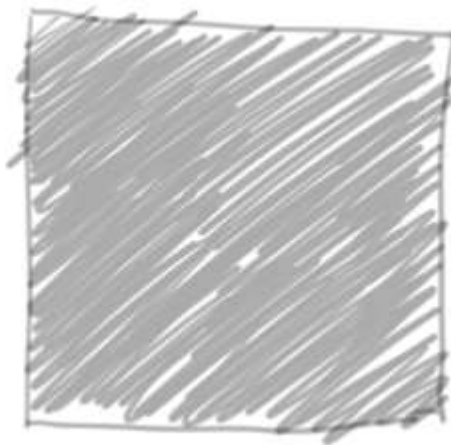
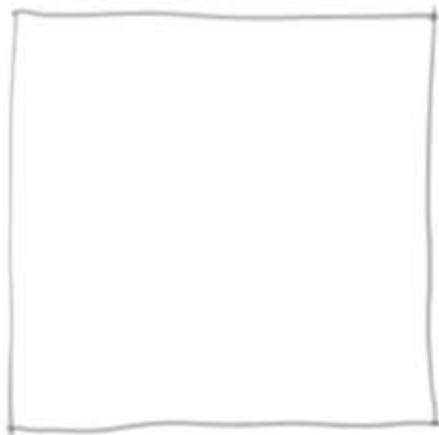
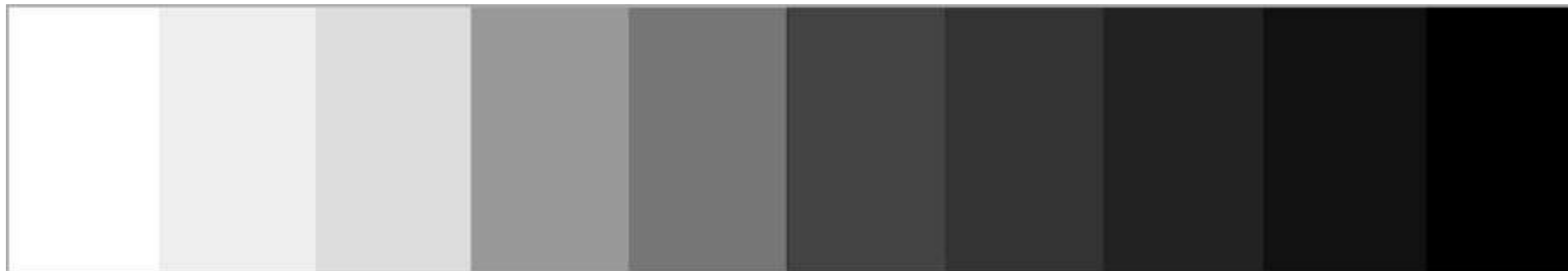
Pencils and Paper – 'results may vary'

Soft paper, rough paper, soft pencils, hard pencils: each result will have its own charm and challenges – try 'em out and see what you like. Make notes in your sketchbook of which combos you are using.

How to hold a pencil – further back for more control. This takes practice.

Exerting pressure, or multiple passes – they both work to help you create changes in VALUE.

A VALUE SCALE:



Composition



Edgar Degas
Landscape with distant town 1860

- Composition is the arrangement of the subject matter in your artwork.
- You can also think of it as design or layout of your drawing.
- Contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, unity

Composition



Robert Motherwell
Untitled lithograph, 1977

- A strong composition, or feeling of 'good design', can anchor a drawing regardless of drawing style.
- So, how do you pick or create a scene so that it has good design, and makes a strong composition?
- You can plan it out, or you can go with your 'eye', what makes sense to you from what you see.

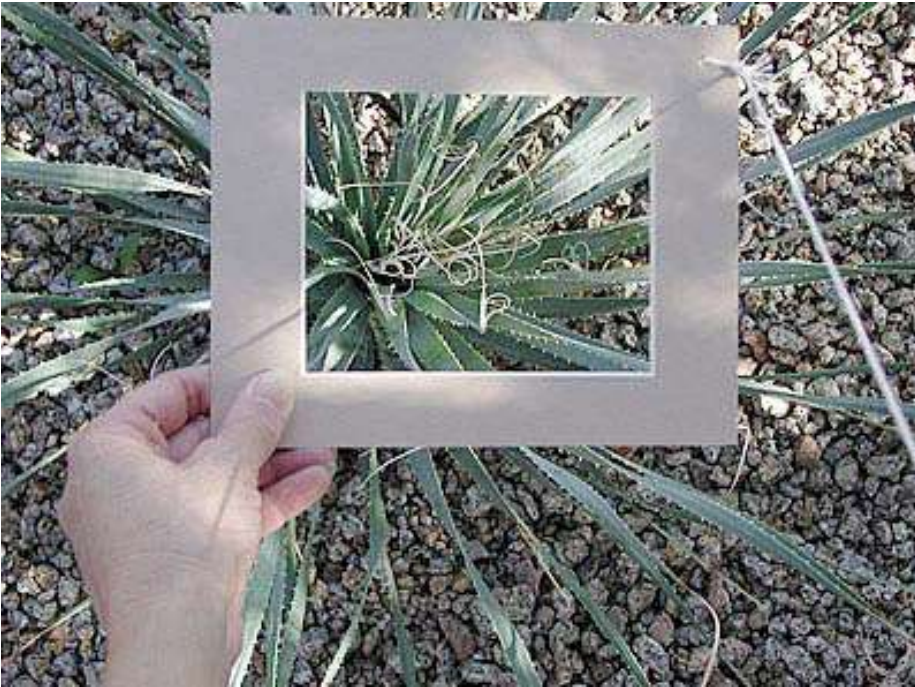
Composition

- Scenes or concepts that you build yourself such as a still life, a posed figure, or an arrangement or story from your imagination.
- Scenes, or segments of scenes, that you happen upon in real life.
- Real life scenes that you edit or embellish to get to a better composition or design.



Charles White
Drawing, Nocturne

Use a Viewfinder



- Where is it going to go on your page?
- How much of the scene will be included?
- Make a viewfinder from paper, cardboard, a 3x5 card with a cutout, buy a fancy one... and then use it.

The very best composition trick: Notan – SQUINT



NOTAN (no-tan):
the combination of lights and
darks especially as used in
Japanese art : the design or
pattern of a work of art as seen in
flat areas of dark and light values
only. (Merriam-Webster)



Identify the patterns of light and
dark in your scene as the basis for
a solid composition.

The tree on the lower right might
need to draw with 3, not 2,
values, to make a better design.
You can make these edits to
improve the notan as you see fit.

SQUINT !

Squint until you can only see two values – light and dark.



SQUINT !

Squint until you can only see two values – light and dark.



Learning from the Masters



Practice looking at great art and finding the **notan**—the strong areas of light and dark—in the work. Observe how this contrast adds to the drama and directs the viewer's eye.

Edward Hopper

Learning from the Masters



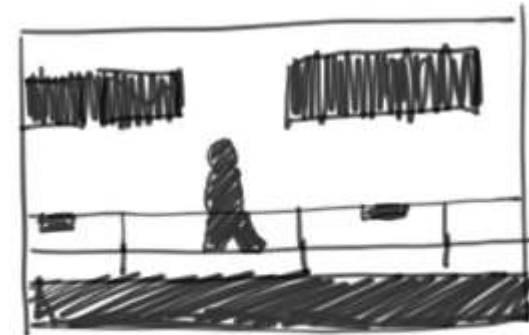
Practice looking at great art and finding the **notan**—the strong areas of light and dark—in the work. Observe how this contrast adds to the drama and directs the viewer's eye.

Angela Edwards

Practice making notan - 2 values light and dark



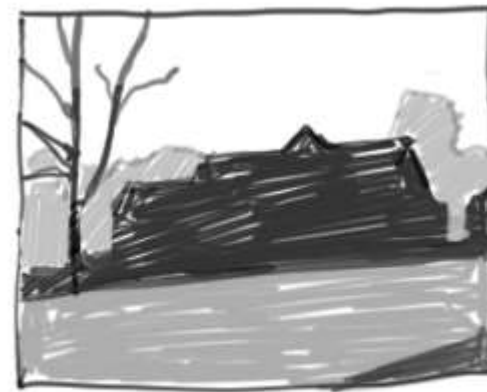
- SQUINT.
- Draw a rectangle.
- Sketch the basic lines – keep it simple.
- Draw in the dark values – you decide which are the 'darks'.



Practice making notan – 3 values light, dark, middle value



- SQUINT.
- What will be dark? What will be mid-tone?
- Draw in the dark mass, and the mid-tone mass.
- I didn't like the balance on my first try so I changed it a couple of times. That's the beauty of the small quick notan as a design tool.
- In your final drawing, the 'dark' area will not necessarily be **this** dark – but it will get emphasis and contrast with the surroundings.



Poem 133:
The Summer Day



Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver









Composition – viewfinder, notan, values

- Look around you for potential interesting layouts or compositions.
- Use a viewfinder to reduce the clutter – get in the habit of using this tool.
- Make notan sketches in 2 or 3 values.
- Only put in 50% of what you actually see (by removing detail, or removing unnecessary objects, tree limbs, etc.)
- Practice holding the pencil further back for better control. Take control of your art supplies and make them work for you!
- Either more pressure, or multiple passes, will help you vary your VALUES.