

SEEING VALUES

Brenda Hoddinott

B-06 BEGINNER: LEARN TO SEE

Learning to draw is learning to see. Values are the most important ingredients in realistic drawings. *Values* are the different shades of gray created by various means, such as when you draw by varying both the density of the shading lines, and the pressure used in holding your pencils.

The principles of drawing values provide a foundation for learning to render shading. Shading can transform a line drawing into a three dimensional object or space.

Skills introduced in this lesson include: learning how to recognize angled, curved and/or straight lines which make up hatching and crosshatching sets; and identifying and shading different values.

Suggested supplies include 2H, HB, 4B and 6B pencils, vinyl eraser and kneaded eraser, and drawing paper.

This lesson is divided into the following three sections:

- **LINES BECOME SHADING:** shading can be rendered in various ways, including curved or straight lines, long or short lines, light or dark lines, or even combinations of different types and lengths of lines. Some sets of shading lines have noticeable spaces between the lines, and others have lines drawn very closely together so they appear to be solid tone.
- **SHADING VARIOUS SPACES:** The four worksheets in this section are designed to help you to identify values and then combine lines, shapes, and shading to render very simple two-dimensional drawings.
- **SEEING SHADING IN DRAWINGS:** Shading really makes a drawing jump out at you. I've learned a lot about shading by studying drawings or photos of drawings, by various artists. This section discusses the shading in two very different drawings.

12 PAGES – 5 ILLUSTRATIONS – 4 WORKSHEETS

Recommended for artists of all ages and abilities, as well as home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators

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LINES BECOME SHADING

People sometimes comment to me that my shading techniques look difficult. Well, as I tell them, not so at all! My favorite shading techniques, hatching and crosshatching are simple, as easy as drawing lines (or sets of lines)!

Shading refers to the various shades of gray (values) in a drawing that make drawings look three-dimensional. Generally speaking, shading can have curved or straight lines, long or short lines, light or dark lines, combinations of different types and lengths of lines, or no lines at all. *Hatching* is a series of lines (called a set) drawn closely together to give the illusion of values. *Crosshatching* is a technique for rendering an infinite range of values within shading, in which one set of lines crosses over (overlaps) another set.

Some sets of hatching and crosshatching have noticeable spaces between the lines, and others have lines drawn very closely together so they appear to be solid tone.

1. **Look closely at the shading techniques in illustrations 06-01 (hatching) and 06-04 (crosshatching) and take note of all the different types of lines.**
2. **Find your drawing supplies and try your hand at drawing some of these different ways of making sets of shading lines.**

ILLUSTRATION 06-01

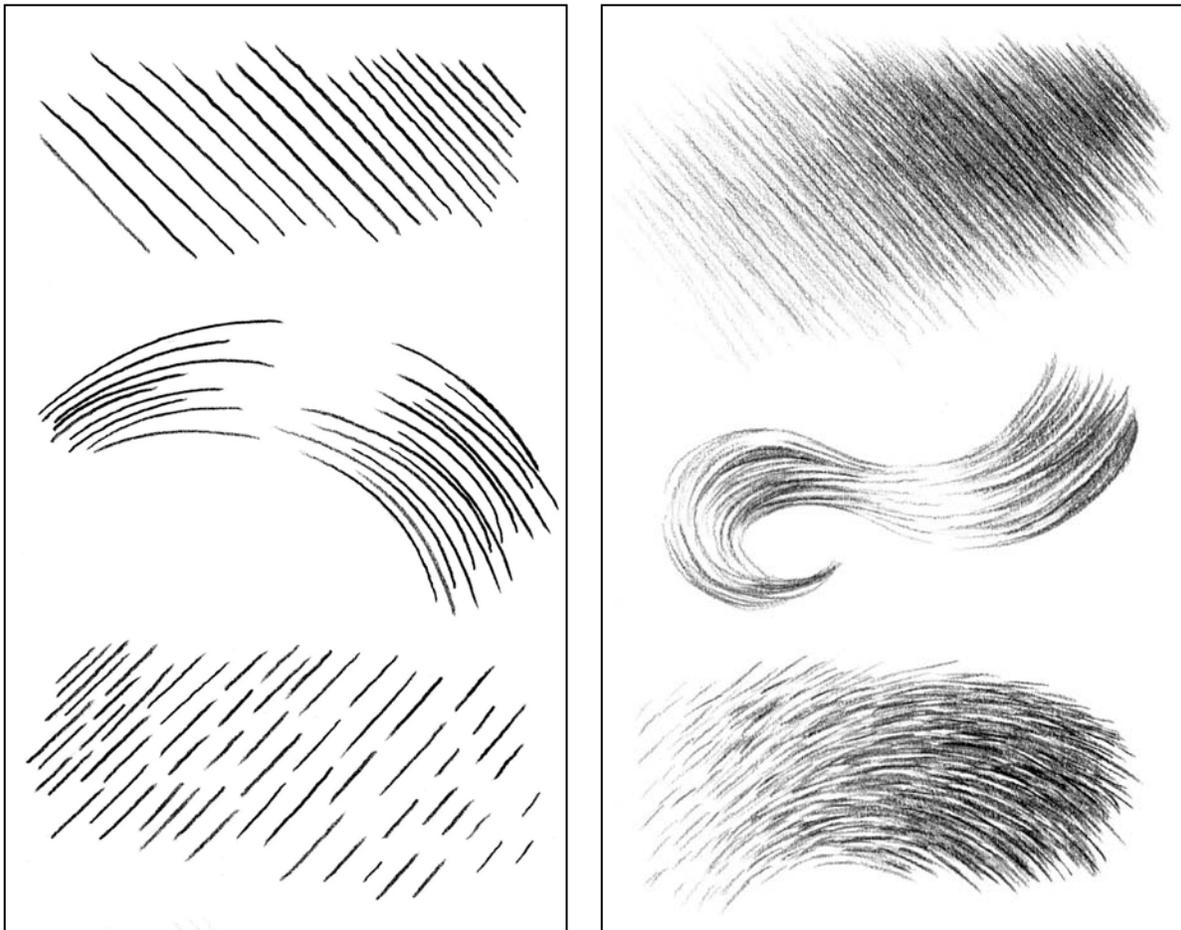


ILLUSTRATION 06-02

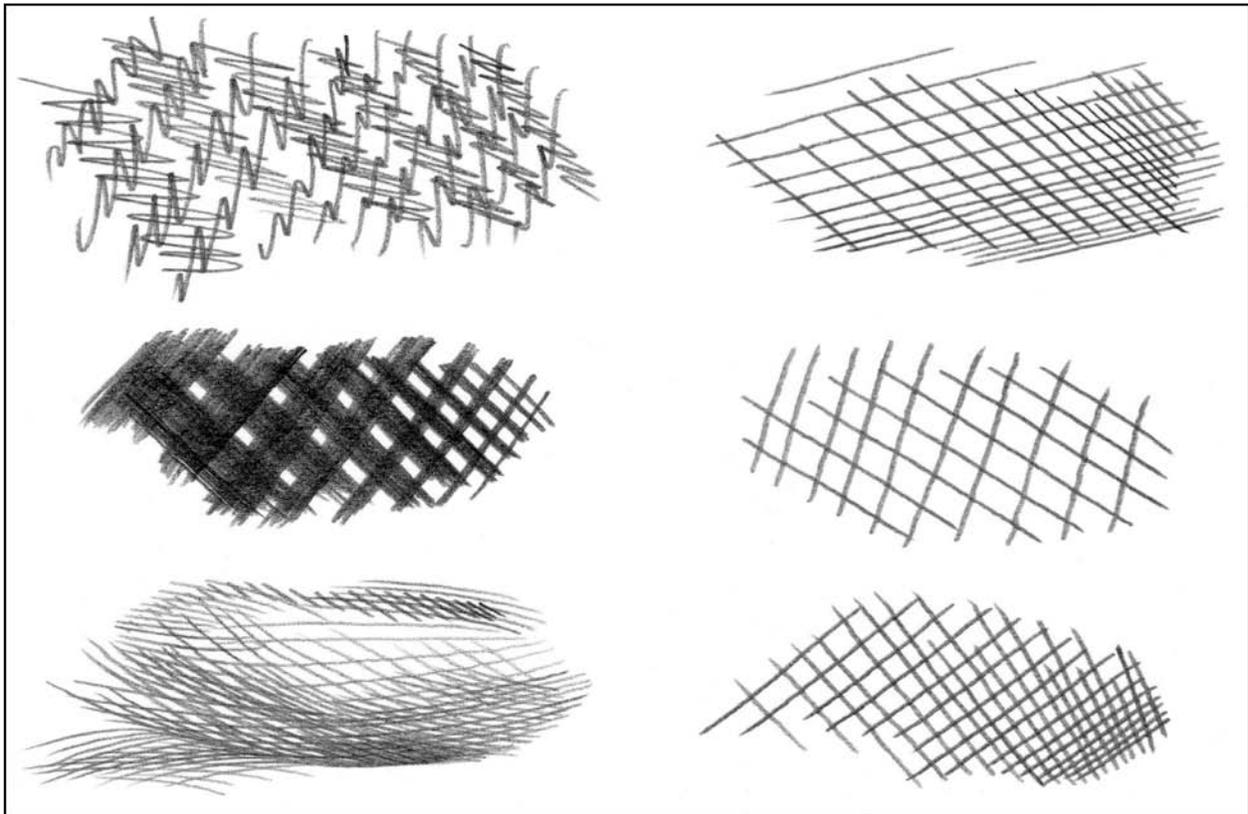
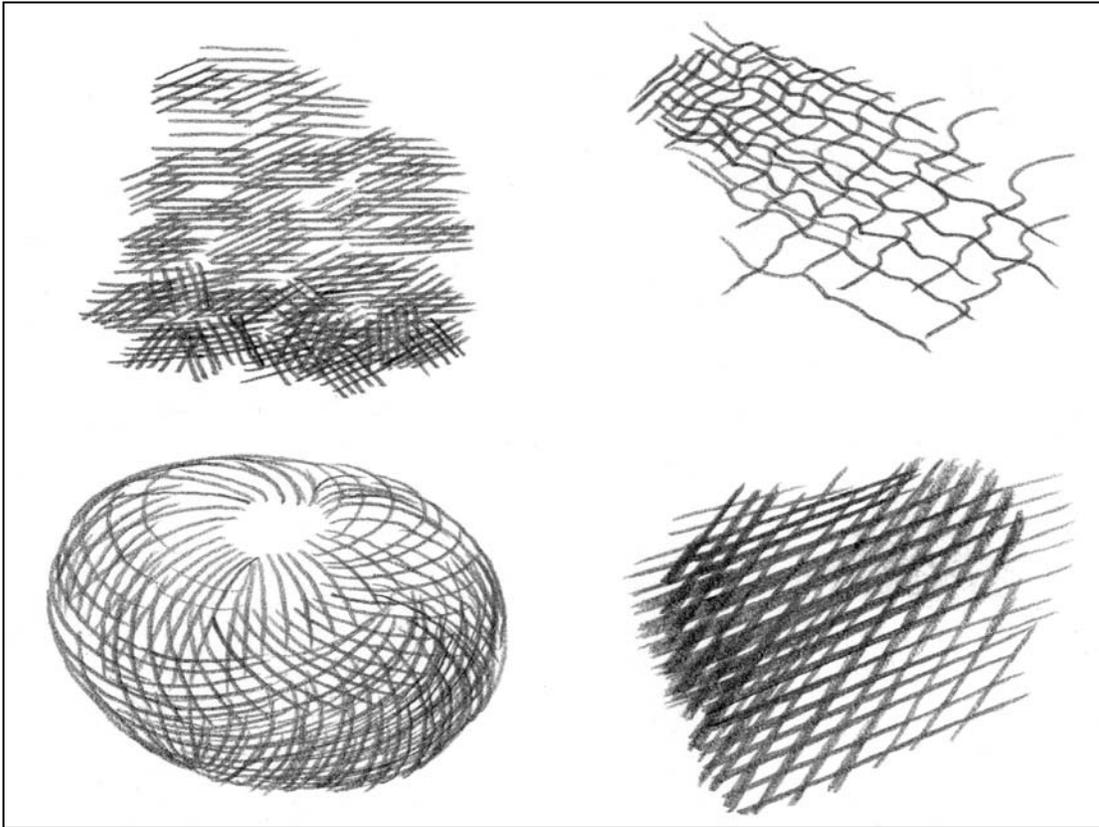
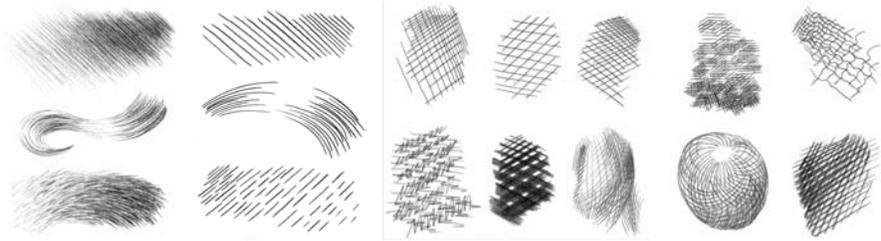


ILLUSTRATION 06-03

Depending on the types and sizes of the lines used, shading can create the illusion of any texture from silky smooth to jagged and bumpy.



SHADING VARIOUS SPACES

In the following four worksheets you combine lines and shapes in a drawing and then add shading. You first observe closely the lines you see within each drawing space and then identify the values used for shading. Finally, you draw the lines and values you see in the spaces provided. Grab your drawing supplies and complete the following four worksheets.

1. Look closely at only the lines and draw them inside the drawing format provided under my drawings.

To help you to draw these lines more accurately, consider the following as you work:

- Find horizontal and vertical lines.
- Are the lines curved or straight? If lines are curved, in what direction do they curve?
- Find the places where the straight lines meet to form angle lines. Are the spaces inside the angles big or small?
- Do you see any curved lines that change directions to make compound curves, such as in the letter “S”?
- Look for the outlines of shapes, such as circles, ovals, rectangles, triangles or squares.
- Look at the size and shape of the spaces on either side of each line.

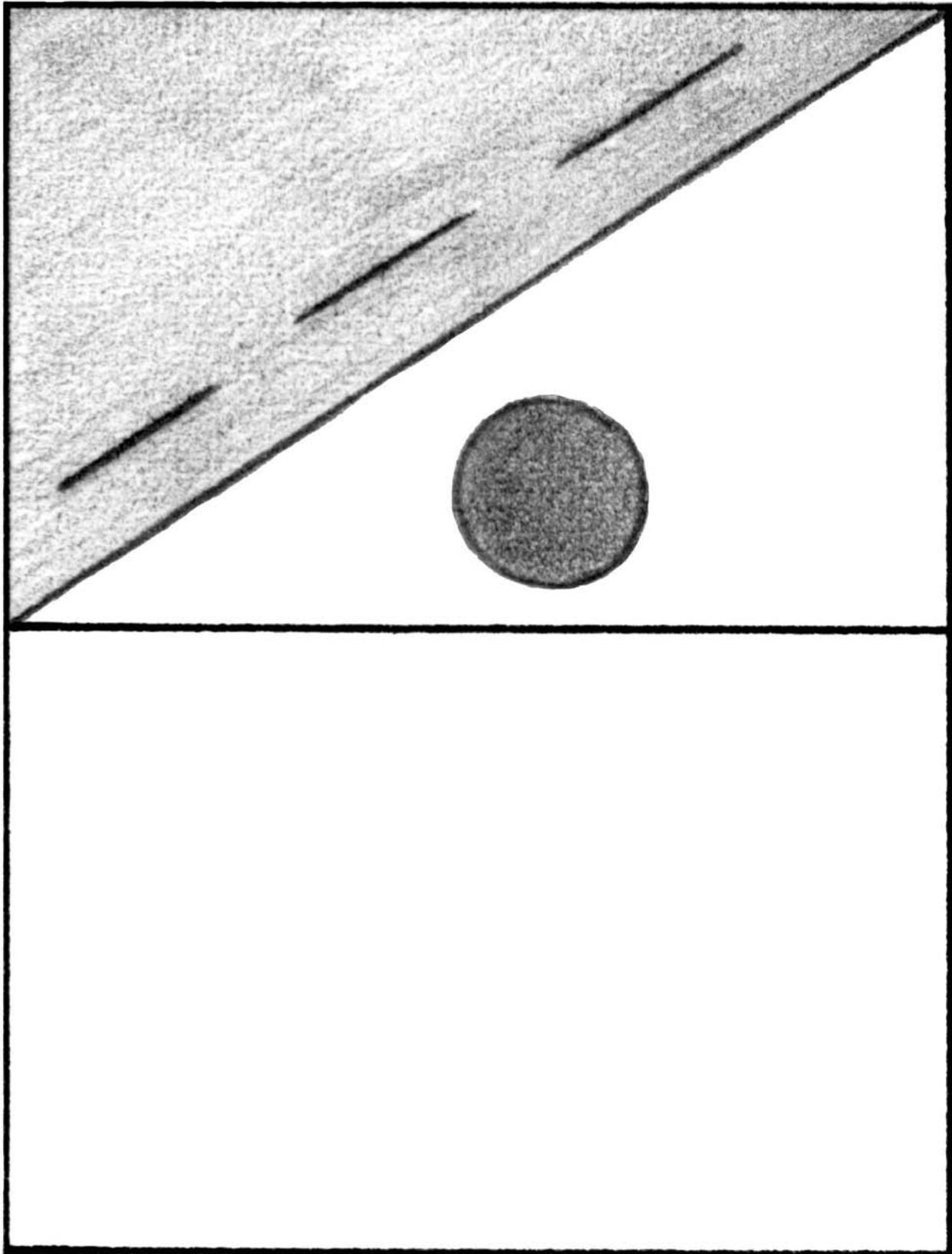
2. Observe closely and then draw the different values used in each section of the drawings.

Use any technique of shading you wish. A couple of options include:

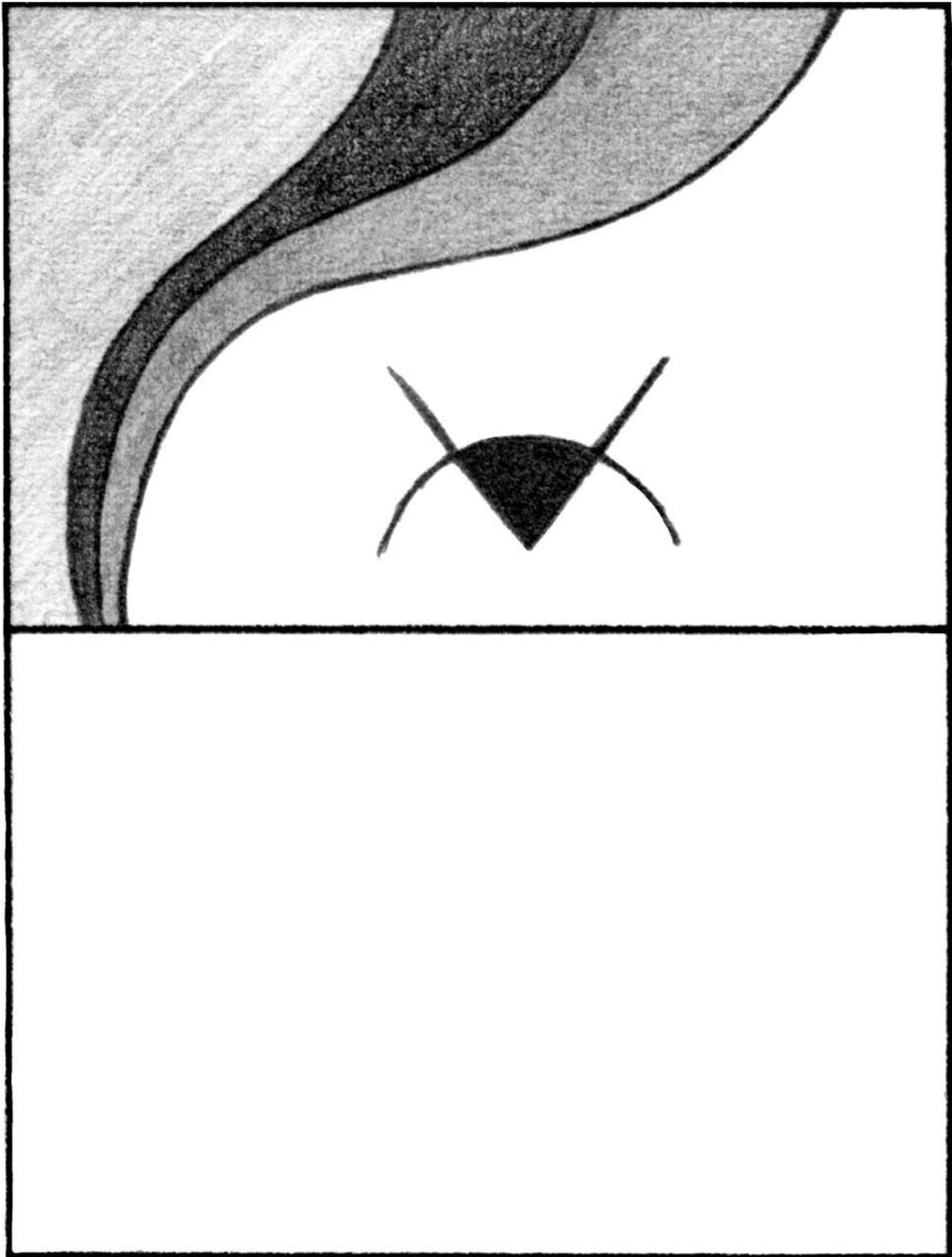
- Let your various pencils help you render the different values of shading in these worksheets. Keep in mind that a 2H pencil makes a light value, while a 6B makes a very dark value.
- Use only a 2B pencil to draw all the different values. By varying both the density of the lines, and the pressure used in holding your pencils, you can achieve many values.

These technical exercises may not be as much fun as doing actual drawings, but they are very important if you wish to improve your skills quickly. You become more comfortable with using shading in your drawings when you know how to draw lots of different values. Don't give up if you don't get your shading to look the way you want the first time you try. As a matter of fact, you should expect your first few attempts to not look exactly as you wish. Hatching and crosshatching require lots of practice and patience before you can do them well.

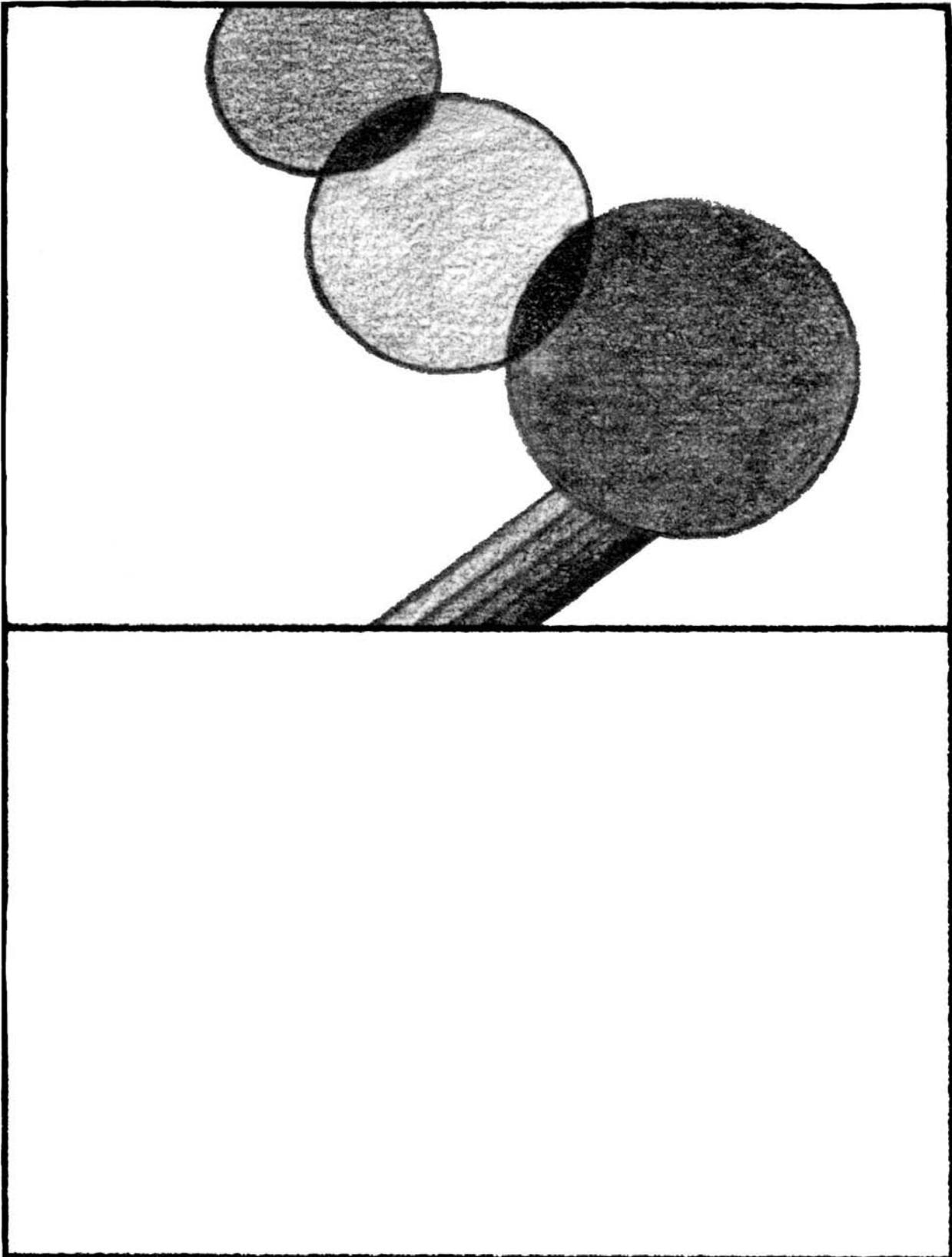
WORKSHEET ONE



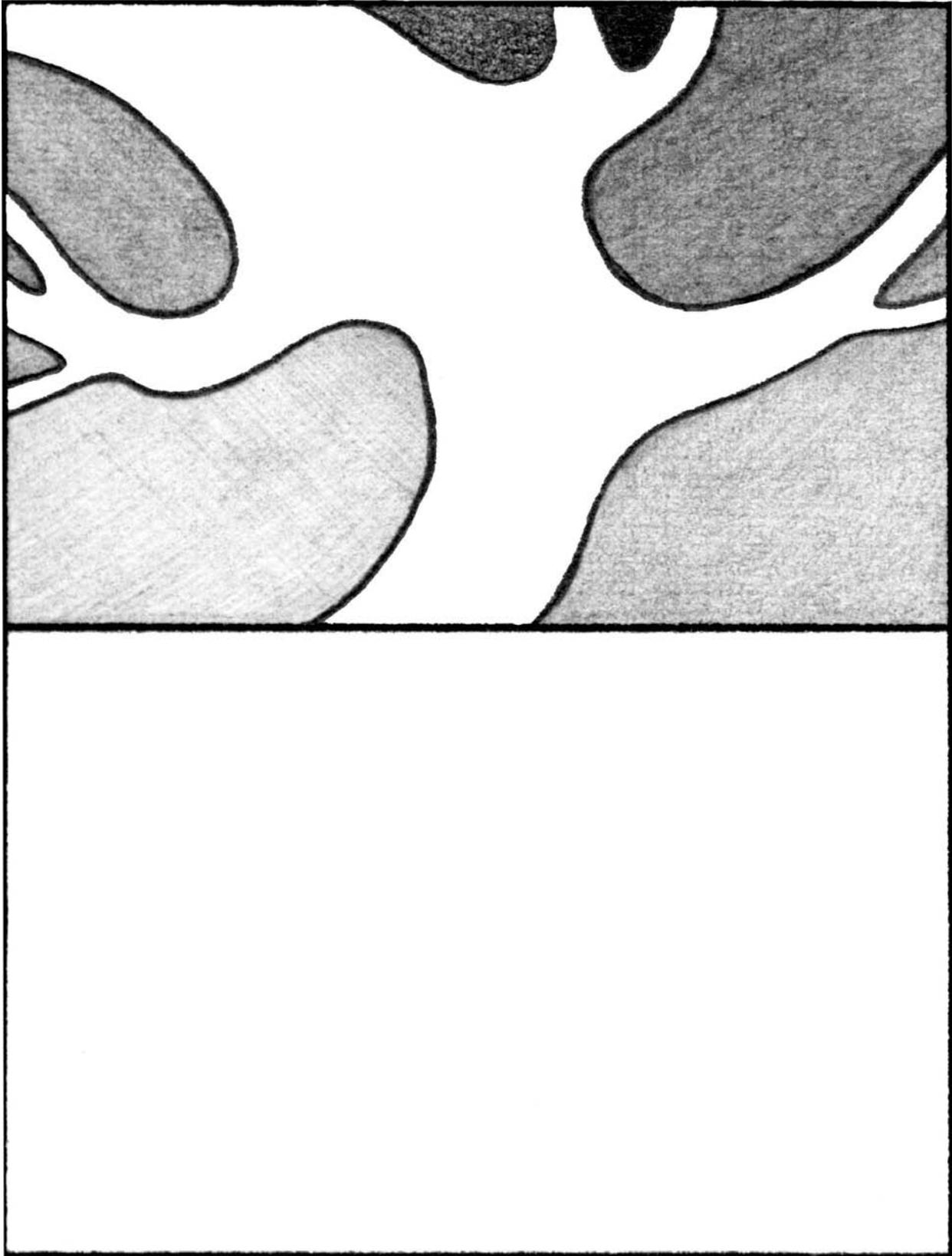
WORKSHEET TWO



WORKSHEET THREE



WORKSHEET FOUR



SEEING SHADING IN DRAWINGS

Shading really makes a drawing jump out at you. I've learned a lot about shading by studying drawings or photos of drawings, by various artists.

A full range of values is the core of realistic shading. Find the following in each of the two drawings on this page:

- areas that are left the white of the paper
- very light values
- medium values
- dark values, and
- very dark shadowed areas

This simple cartoon character of a cone is rendered with hatching lines drawn so closely together, that they look like a solid tone. The light source is from the left.

Light source refers to the direction from which a dominant light originates. The placement of this light source affects every aspect of a drawing. The light source tells you where to draw all the light values and shadows.

ILLUSTRATION 06-04

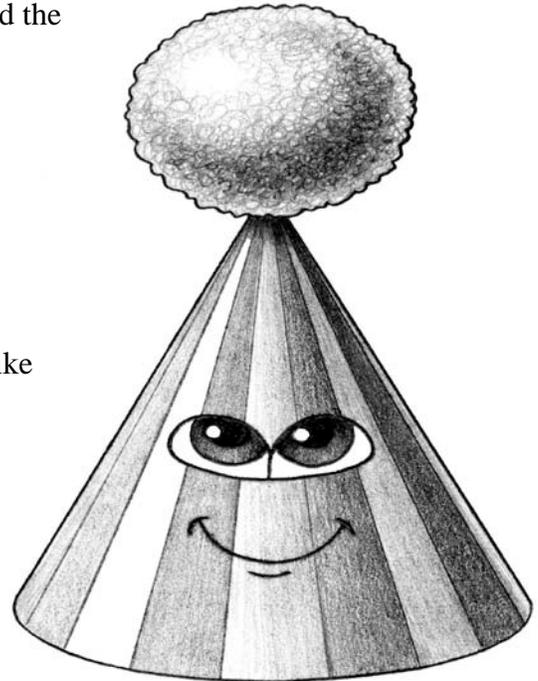


ILLUSTRATION 06-05



This crystal angel is drawn with crosshatching lines drawn very closely together (actually touching one another in most places).

Lots of time and a ton of patience is needed to render a drawing with this much detail. The light source is from the upper left.

Next time you are on the Internet, in an art gallery, or in your Public Library, use this opportunity to research drawings. Don't limit yourself to a specific period in history. You find lots of inspiration when viewing the diverse drawings of both classical and contemporary artists.

Practice drawing sets of shading lines every chance you can find! With only half an hour a day of practice, there will be a significant improvement in your drawings very soon.

BRENDA HODDINOTT - BIOGRAPHY

As a self-educated teacher, visual artist, portraitist, forensic artist, and illustrator, Brenda Hoddinott utilizes diverse art media including graphite, technical pen, colored pencil, chalk pastel, charcoal, conté crayon, and oil paints.

My philosophy on teaching art is to focus primarily on the enjoyment aspects while gently introducing the technical and academic. Hence, in creating a passion for the subject matter, the quest for knowledge also becomes enjoyable.

>Brenda Hoddinott<

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brenda grew up in the small town of Corner Brook. She developed strong technical competencies with a personal commitment to self directed learning, and the aid of assorted "Learn to Draw" books. During Brenda's twenty-five year career as a self-educated civilian forensic artist, numerous criminal investigation departments have employed Brenda's skills, including Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal police departments. In 1992, Brenda was honored with a commendation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Membership from "Forensic Artists International".

Her home-based art career included graphic design, and teaching recreational drawing and painting classes. As supervisor of her community's recreational art department, Brenda hired and trained teachers, and designed curriculum for several children's art programs. In 1998, Brenda chose to end her eighteen-year career as an art educator in order to devote more time to writing, drawing, painting, and developing her websites.

Drawspace <http://www.drawspace.com> incorporate her unique style and innovative approach to curriculum development. These sites offer downloadable and printable drawing classes for students of all abilities from the age of eight through adult. Students of all ages, levels and abilities have praised the simple step-by-step instructional approach. These sites are respected as a resource for fine art educators, home schooling programs, and educational facilities throughout the world.

LEARN-TO-DRAW BOOKS BY BRENDA HODDINOTT

- ✚ **Drawing for Dummies (2003):** Wiley Publishing, Inc., New, York, NY, this 336 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.
- ✚ **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Drawing People (2004):** Winner of the Alpha-Penguin Book of the Year Award 2004, Alpha - Pearson Education – Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN, this 360 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.