



# Appetite for Art

Just like discovering a favorite food and tackling a new recipe, artists develop their own creative palettes by perfecting their process over time. Creating a picture is like making a meal; the ingredients you choose and how you use them affects the final product. As with food preferences, those who make art have a personal appetite for specific artistic styles. Use the materials in this Art Kit to explore approaches to drawing, a fundamental creative skill. Try other materials, too, and discover which art ingredients you enjoy the most.

**Abstraction** focuses on ideas, interpretation, colors, marks, and forms, not accurate depictions of a subject.



**Realism** refers to the recognizable and life-like appearance of a subject.



Artworks in **Abundant Future** showcase realistic depictions of cultivated plants. For scientific illustrations, accurate detail is required.



# One Space at a Time

The grid method breaks an image down into sections of simpler shapes, allowing artists to construct a composition one square at a time. This technique empowers artists to recognize and recreate the precise proportions of objects.

Use the gridded paper and reference images in this Art Kit to practice this drawing technique. Beginning in A1, build your drawing as if you were to complete it “brick by brick.”

**Tip:** Imagine each square as a blank sheet of paper, paying close attention to the edges of shapes and intersecting lines.

## Training the Eye



© Denise Walser-Kolar, *Roxbury Russet Apple*, 2020, watercolor on vellum

Looking and seeing aren't the same. You may know what an apple *looks* like, but to truly *see* a subject and draw it means trusting your eyes over your memory. “Blind” contour is a drawing technique that helps train your eyes, hand, and pencil to communicate and work together using the artful language of observation. The success of the outcome will not be the drawing itself, but the knowledge gained throughout the process.

### Ready to Try?

- Find a plant, fruit, or vegetable to use as your subject
- Place the tip of your pencil through the center of the cardstock, creating a shield for your eyes as you draw
- Select an edge of your subject to focus on
- Without picking up your pencil or looking at your paper, create a contour (outline) drawing with one *continuous* line
- Avoid the temptation to look at your paper; be surprised by the results!

### Looking for more?

Create your own grid using this step-by-step guide.



### Still hungry?

Get more blind contour ideas here.



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