

Drawing in Pen and Ink

DDLETB Art Lesson

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Materials Used:

Bottle of Black India Ink

*(Any colour ink will do)

***(or you may use a permanent pen)

Pen nib with holder

Pencil

paper

rubber

ruler

jar of clean water

1. To begin, get comfortable drawing with the pen nib and ink by creating a series of small boxes and filling them in with a variety of different types of "Hatching." These are a variety of different marks that you can create. Variety is key!
2. One such Hatching is drawing in parallel strokes moving from right to left or left to right depending on what is comfortable. Continue with the Hatching on the second box but this time build on the previous layer with a second layer of Hatching, moving now from left to right or the opposite to what you started with. Continue along on the third and fourth box with consecutive layers.
3. Notice with each layer the tone becomes darker as you build on top and create more Hatching. This is how you will build shading. Because you are limited with black ink alone to draw you will need to use the white of the paper as a buffer between strokes. Allowing more white of the paper to show through between strokes will create more light and condensing the strokes limits the white paper and hence will limit the amount of light showing in the drawing.
4. Continue varying strokes until you are comfortable using the pen nib.
5. Now draw out your subject using anything at home. I used an old banana. I first drew the banana in pencil. This ensured I was happy with the drawing. Take your time.
6. Once the pencil drawing is complete I can now begin the inking. Be sure that you work from left to right or vis versa depending on which hand you hold your pen with. This way you won't smear your drawing.
8. Take your time and try using the variety of Hatching strokes you came up with earlier as texture for your subject. Be careful not to rush into "Outlining" the entire drawing first, otherwise you might end up with a flat drawing. Build the texture first and feel free not to ink everything in. Allow breaks in the contour or outline. You will be amazed at how your eye will "Fill -In" the blank spaces where you haven't inked.
9. Then decide how to crop your drawing. This will give your drawing a "Finish" and completeness. I used a ruling pen and metal ruler. After dipping the ruling pen in the ink I then held the ruler at a 45 degree angle and glided the metal ruling pen against the ruler. This allowed for a nice straight line. With practice will come mastery. You may also use a permanent marker or pen which is easier.
10. Once the ink is dry you may then erase the pencil lines away and you are left with a beautifully inked drawing. Be sure to clean the nibs as you work by dipping them into the jar of water. This will prevent the ink from clogging your nibs as you draw.
11. Patience is key. Drawing in ink requires a level of concentration which is almost a form of meditation. It is a wonderful way to spend a few hours.