

5th and 6th Class Observational Drawing

Observational drawing is drawing what you see. It's as simple as that.

It can be a flower, a person, a still life, a landscape, whatever. But it's drawing what you see in front of you as realistically and as true to life as possible.

Observational drawing is a great exercise in seeing.

When we look at something with the intent of drawing it, we tend to look more carefully than usual. We see, *truly see*, the shapes, the patterns, the perspective, the colours, the shadows, the contours, and how all of the details interact.

Observational drawing is also a great way to improve drawing skills.

In translating 3D objects to 2D drawings on paper, we practice getting shapes and proportion right, we learn how to show depth with shading, and we try different techniques for showing texture and detail.

Some artists do observational drawing exclusively and some simply use it as a drawing exercise to improve their skills but then draw from the imagination or make abstract art.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Paper
- Pencil or charcoal
- Other drawing tools, such as colored markers or pastels (optional)
- Rubber (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Set your paper and art materials down in front of the item you want to draw.

Sketch the overall form loosely, and as large as possible, on the paper, then go in and define the contours and shapes. Look back and forth from the object to your paper, as you translate what you see to what you are drawing.

Once you have the big picture outlines of your drawing subject on paper, you can begin to add details, shading, patterns, and colours as desired.

Why not set yourself up in the garden, or a favourite spot outdoors and draw what you see. It's beautiful this time of year and you might notice things you never did before!

Enjoy! 😊