

## Seeing Lesson 2: Blind contour drawing

**Main Objective:** To focus students attention on the object not the paper.

**You will need:** A piece of card for every student, paper, pencils and objects to draw. For this exercise I would use more complex shapes such as Skulls, flowers, dried seed heads or a whole still life composition.

**Exercise:** get the students to spend a few minutes in silence studying the object. Perhaps they might be able to touch and feel the objects as well. When you are ready for them to begin, ask them to punch a hole in the centre of the card with their pencils. (With smaller children you may need to do this in advance)

They then place the card over their drawing hand whilst they draw the objects.

The card should prevent them from seeing the paper whilst they draw. It is good fun watching their cries of exasperation at the difficulty of this exercise. Some times they just want to give up doing it and look at the paper. Try to avoid them doing this.

You should focus them to draw all of the fine details on the object, such as the edges of shadows, the textures, the highlights and the patterns. They really begin to look in intense detail at the object.

If you repeat this as a warm up exercise for 10 or 15 minutes before any still life drawing or painting then the standard of their work will improve.

When you have completed this exercise, remove the blind cards (keep them for another lesson) and let them see their work. Obviously the work will not be realistic. But hopefully they will learn a little about composition and measuring when drawing.

## Seeing Lesson 2 cont'd

**Assessment:** A nice thing to do after the students have finished this and whilst it is still fresh in their minds is to ask people what it was that they were struggling to draw the most in their work. It can prompt a whole class debate about the most amazing things like: “I was looking at the texture on the surface of the coffee bean, but I just couldn’t draw that many lines.....”

It is not usual to grade this type of work into any rigid assessment, I would try to display them in a place where the class could see them all and discuss them.