Mark Making Techniques
Drawing and Painting

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Background and Educational Information

There are many different ways you can create value using different mark making techniques.

Value is how light or dark something is. When used in drawing you may have many different values to show depth and form. This activity will apply value to a sphere and how the value shifts throughout the sphere.

In this activity you will be shown 7 different techniques and apply them to a sphere. Then you will be shown how these techniques can be used in different art pieces.
Let’s Get Started: Activity

You will need 7 sheets of paper. Should be 4 inches by 4 inches or bigger. You will also need a writing utensil. A fine tip marker or pen works best for this activity.

On each sheet of paper you will want to draw a circle in the center of the paper. Try to get the circle as accurate as you can or grab an object to trace that is in a circle form.

As you go through the activity you will apply one of the techniques to one of the circles. There are 7 different techniques in this activity which is why you will need 7 sheets of paper.
Stippling

Stippling - Creating an image using small dots.

If there are more dots closer together the value will appear darker. (See value scale for reference)

When shading a sphere using this techniques the highlights will have few dots that are spread out while the shadows will have many dot that are closer together.
Example using stippling
Hatching

Hatching- Creating an image using parallel lines.

The closer or thicker the lines are, the darker the value will be. (See value scale for reference)

When shading a sphere using this technique the highlights will have only a few lines spaced out while the shadows will have many lines close together. All of the lines should be facing the same direction using this technique.
Example using hatching
Cross Hatching

Cross hatching- creating an image using different sets of parallel lines.

Similar to hatching, cross hatching uses parallel lines with another set of parallel lines at an angle to the first. The closer both sets of lines are to one another, the darker the value.

When shading a sphere, both the highlights and shadows will have two or more sets of parallel lines.
Example using cross hatching
Contour lines

Contour lines - An outline of a form. A contour line can be used in value as well.

The closer the lines the darker the value. (See value scale for reference)

When shading a sphere using contour lines, you will outline the sphere. The more outlines you create the darker the value will be.
Example using contour lines
Scumbling

Scumbling is made up of small separate scribble marks.

Scumbling and scribbling are not the same thing but can look similar. Scumbling is separate scribble marks while scribbling is made up of one line rather than multiple.

When shading a sphere, the highlight will only have a few marks while the shadows will have many overlapping marks to create a darker value.
Example using scumbling
Line patterns

Line patterns are made up of small sections of parallel lines.

To create a darker value using line patterns, you can make the lines thinker or put more lines in each section as shown in the value scale.

When shading a sphere, the section at the highlight point should have spread out lines while the shadows should have the lines very close together to create a darker value.
Example using line patterns
Words

You can also use words to create value.

As you can see from the value scale, the more words in the box, the darker the value. You can also overlap the words to create an even darker value.

When shading a sphere, there will only be a few words on the highlight of the sphere. As you get closer to the shadows you will add more words and can overlap the words like you see in the picture.
Ask/Share/Reflect

What is your favorite mark making technique?

How could you apply this into an art piece?

What technique did you find most challenging? Why?
Finished Drawing? Now What?

Grab some paper and sketch up some ideas of how you could use these techniques into different pieces!
Credits

All Pieces are drawn by Samantha Wileman

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