



Abstract drawing

You will need: a pencil, sharpener, and eraser, a small piece of white paper, with a square cut out of the middle (viewfinder). An object of your choice for example, a dried leaf, a piece of jewellery, a piece of popcorn, a shell, bark from a tree, a flower, a rock or a piece of weathered wood.

Draw from an ordinary, everyday object, either man-made or from the natural world. Enlarge a tiny area of this object to a larger format to produce a drawing that may be unrecognisable as the original object but will present a new, almost abstract image.

Examine the object you have chosen. Use the paper with the small cutout square as a viewfinder to choose a composition that you like. Carefully tape the paper viewfinder to the object and place it where you can closely view it. Begin to draw just what you see in the object, enlarging your observations from the square opening to the enlarged format. Draw the main edges, spaces, relationships, light/shadows. Why not incorporate crosshatching in the shadowed areas of your drawing?

At the last stage of the drawing, work within the drawing itself to bring all parts to a point of finish, when you feel nothing needs to be added to the image. Make sure you emphasise spaces. Try to use a range of values, from very light to very dark. Decide on a title. Titles and signatures become part of a drawing.

You have just completed an abstract drawing. You have abstracted, or drawn out, essential qualities from an object of the natural world. This is the definition of 'abstract' art. Even drawing a small part of a very ordinary object, you may have experienced the perception of shape/form during the time you were drawing or after the drawing was finished. I hope this inspires you to look for subjects to draw in unlikely as well as likely places.