

DRAWING DIGITAL

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Project: Still-Life Sketch

Get ready to draw some of your favorite personal items using your new drawing skills. In this project, you'll be applying your knowledge of creating objects using 2D shapes and 3D forms, and learning how to create a detailed scene by breaking it down into manageable steps.

Collect Some Objects

Gather some everyday objects from around your house, for example:

Bottle, vase, cup, mug or other drinkware, bowl, pitcher, fruit or other food items, dishes, candles, boxes/packaging, books.

Make sure you choose objects that are simple in form, so you don't get overwhelmed by trying to depict something overly challenging.

Set Up Your Still-Life Scene

Stack and layer your objects to create an arrangement. It can be helpful to take a photo of your still-life scene, but keep the real-life set-up next to you while you sketch. Be sure to look at your still-life set-up often as you work. Before drawing anything, look at each item and imagine what 3D form you might use to draw it.



Draw Objects As 2D Shapes

1. The first step is to draw each of the objects as basic 2D shapes, such as circles, rectangles, etc. This step will give you a better sense of the overall shape and proportions of each item. In addition, it will help you lay out the scene, deciding where items overlap.

Draw Everything In 3D

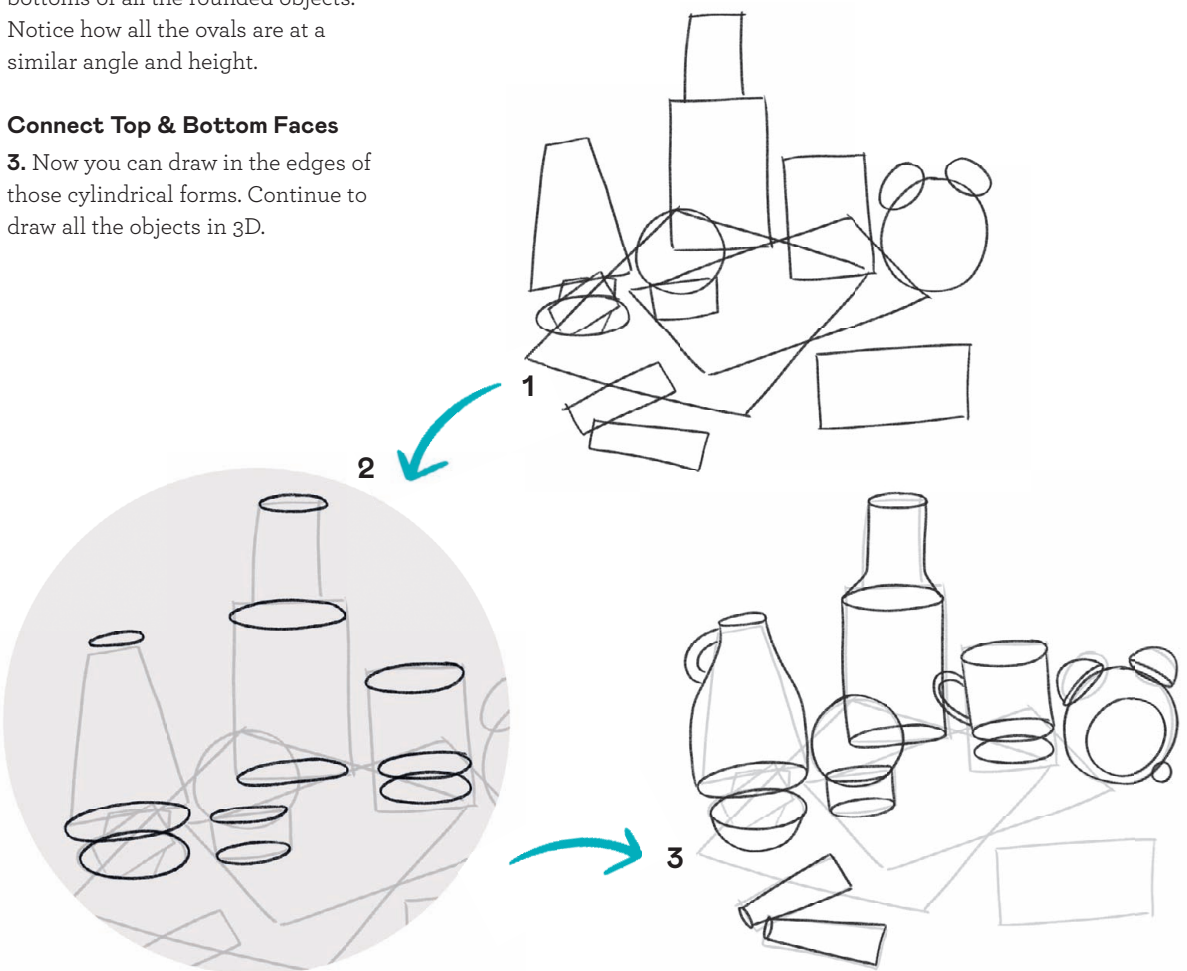
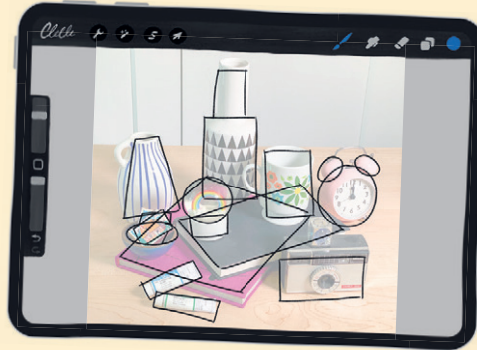
2. Reduce the opacity of this 2D shape layer and create a new layer above it. On the new layer, you'll sketch each object in its simplified 3D form. It helps to start by drawing similarly shaped faces. In my example, I'm drawing the tops and bottoms of all the rounded objects. Notice how all the ovals are at a similar angle and height.

Connect Top & Bottom Faces

3. Now you can draw in the edges of those cylindrical forms. Continue to draw all the objects in 3D.

Tracing

If placing everything feels difficult, you can import a photo of your scene to your canvas and trace the basic shapes, but try not to rely on tracing the photo after this step.



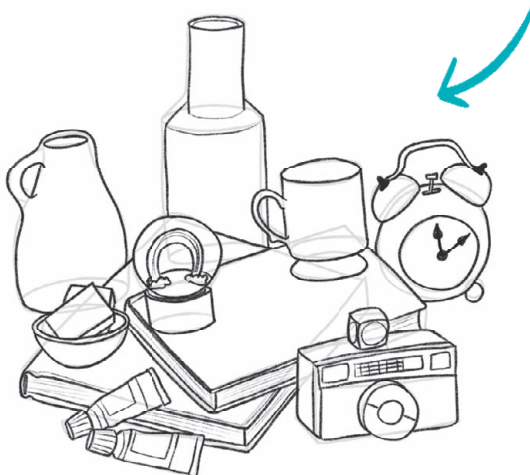
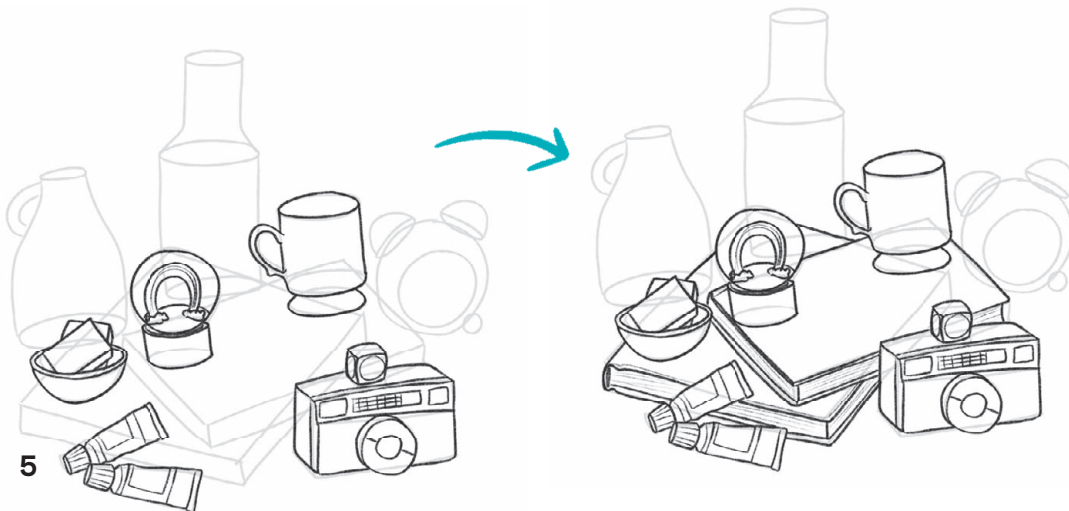
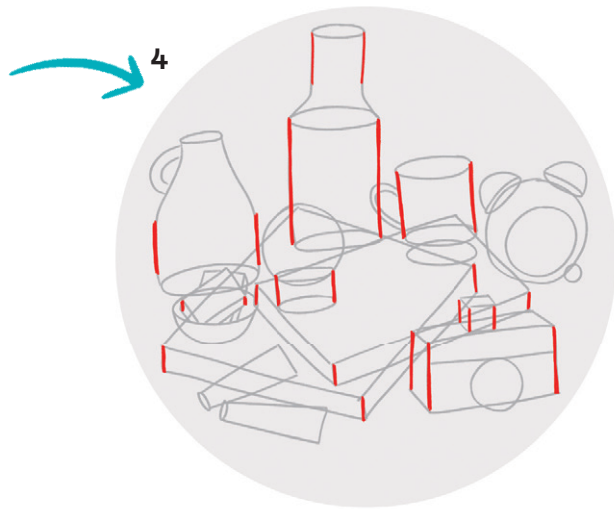
Check Your Parallels

4. Something to keep in mind is that all vertical lines should be parallel. If they aren't, the items could appear to be tilting or out of proportion.

Create the Final Sketch with Details

5. In the Layers panel, turn off your first sketch (2D shapes), and reduce the opacity of your 3D sketch. Create a new layer on top.

Then you can draw each object with all its unique details. Using the still-life set-up as a guide, trace each 3D form, adding extra curves and details. Draw the foreground items first, so you don't have to draw any parts of the background objects that aren't visible.



NOTE: Once you've finished drawing all the objects, you can go back and add some of the more decorative embellishments, if you like.





Admire Your Work!

Congratulations on your first piece.

Let's leave this as a pencil sketch for now, but feel free to revisit this piece to add color and rendering as you learn more later in the book.