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## Learn To Draw Online - Principles of Creating Outstanding Composition

A good composition makes the difference between a mediocre artwork and your interesting, eye-attracting drawing. So once you learn to draw online, it's important to acquire some basic skills about composition and its principles.

**Principle 1: Balanced Pictures**A good way to ensure that your composition is balanced is to think of your drawing as a scale. If there is something on the right, you need something to balance it on the left. If there is a lot going on in the top half of the picture, you need something to balance it in the bottom half of the picture.

If you don't balance your composition the viewer's eye will be drawn out of the picture, instead of into the picture. As an artist you want to keep the viewer looking at your work for as long as possible.

You can use objects, or tone, or colour to balance a drawing. If you have dark areas, they need to be balanced with lighter areas; large objects in a drawing can be balanced by smaller more intricate objects or by similarly large objects.

Another way to create balance in your work is to make sure that you do not put the main objects in your drawing too close to the edge. On the other hand, always putting the main focus in the centre can lead to a boring composition.

Balance can be symmetrical (top and bottom or left and right are the same &ndash; like a mirror image) or asymmetrical. Symmetrical balance is easier to achieve, but asymmetrical balance is more interesting.

**Principle 2: Find Pleasing Compositions**There are a number of ways to create pleasing compositions but you will probably find that as you gain experience, creating a pleasing composition will become second nature. You'll have learned then to adjust any picture's composition with ease.

While beginning to learn to draw, it's much easier to resort to finding and re-creating pleasing compositions instead of creating them from scratch. One of the most helpful tools in creating a pleasing composition is a view finder.

Cut two L-shaped pieces of cardboard and hold them together to form a rectangular frame. Then hold that frame between yourself and the scene you will be drawing and move it around until you find an interesting and pleasing composition.

This is the drawing equivalent of 'zooming-in' when taking a photograph and it will help to ensure that you do not include too many details in your drawing. You can also use the viewfinder to make sure that the format you use (landscape or portrait) matches the subject matter of your drawing.

**Principle 3: Create Pleasing Compositions**If you are more experienced it makes sense to try to create scenes to have a pleasing composition.

So you can arrange scenes to have some depth, that is to say, scenes that have a foreground, middle ground and background. Overlap some of the objects to emphasize this depth. An odd number of objects is often more pleasing than an even number, just as asymmetry is generally more interesting than symmetry.

You could try using the 'Rule of Thirds' to ensure that your composition is not too static or boring. Using a variety of shapes and textures and taking note of the negative space (the space around your object/s) will also prevent your drawing from being boring and static. Also beware of objects that seem to just touch as this can be distracting. Objects should overlap or there should be a space between them to prevent this kind of distraction.