

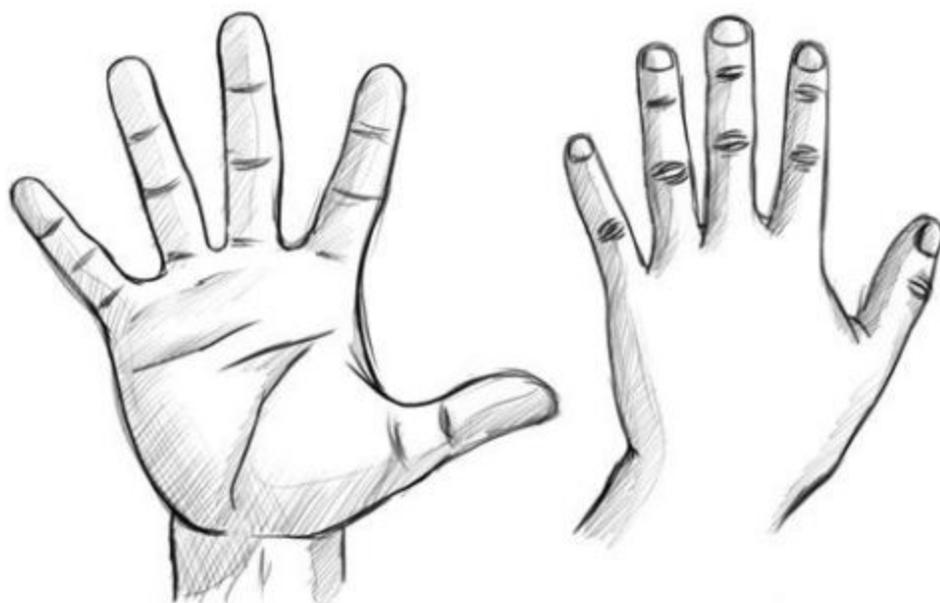
Expressive Hands



Process:

Select one of the options below. Use Pen & Ink, Conté Crayon, or Soft Pastel or Oil Pastel. You may choose color using realistic skin tones or crazy colors or B/W. But be aware that drawing hands are THE most difficult part of the human body to draw. Many budding artists I know go to herculean lengths to avoid drawing them. They're just so COMPLICATED and if anything is off, even a little bit, it's painfully obvious. However, once you've mastered drawing hands, you can add that to your superpowers. Remember, "draw what you SEE, not what your brain thinks it should look like."

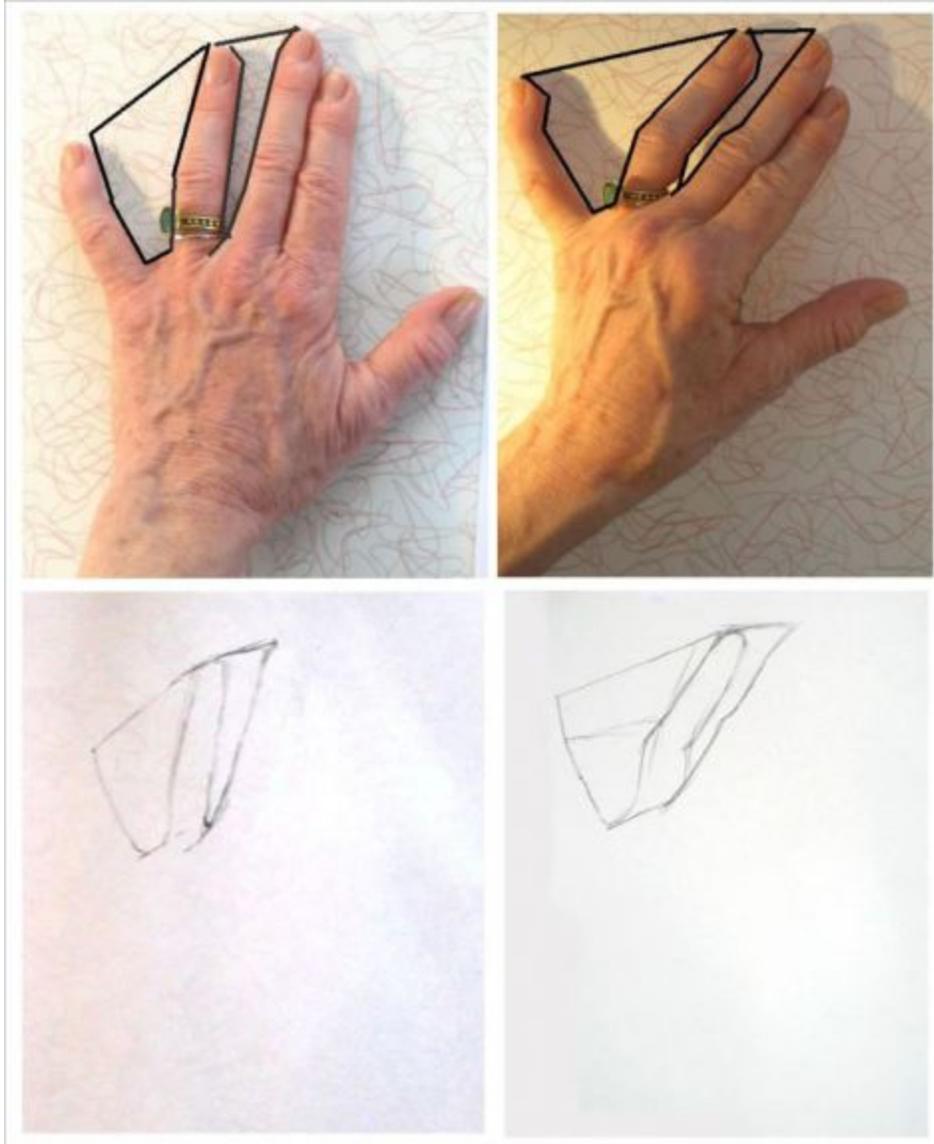
WHAT I'M TRYING TO
DRAW



WHAT MY BRAIN KEEPS
TELLING ME TO DRAW



Also, look at the NEGATIVE SPACE between the fingers! Get those shapes right and you will also have drawn the hand correctly.



Option One: 1 GIANT hand- at least 5 to 6 times larger than life

Instructions:

1. The position of the hand must be "difficult"- fingers bent, slanted, foreshortened, etc. No fists, open palms, etc.
2. The hand may be holding something- but make it a significant object and it can't be so large that it hides too much of the hand.
3. Don't forget about the negative space- the space around and behind the hand. Put something in the background- a tone, a pattern, something!
4. As always, contrast is important

Option Two: 2 Big hands- at least 2 times larger life

Instructions:

1. Hands must be touching or interacting in some way. They may overlap, interlock, clasp, snuggle, etc. If the hands don't at least overlap, it will affect your grade.
2. Use the positioning of the 2 hands to tell a story, show meaning or convey emotion.
3. Consider contrasting expressions or character in the hands- tense vs. relaxed, active vs. passive, bony and angular vs. fleshy and round, rough vs. smooth, old vs. young, etc.

4. Don't forget about the negative space- the space around and behind the hands. Put something in the background- a tone, a pattern, something!

5. As always, contrast is important.

Option Three: 5 hands- slightly larger life (advanced students only)

1. Explore a variety of hand positions. Draw each one from a very different angle and have each hand doing something very different.

2. Create firm, solid forms with a clear sense of the structural anatomy and volume. Use block, cylinders, planes freely to help figure out the structure and firm-up forms.

3. Explore different approaches and various degrees of finish. There's no need to draw them all the same way; a little variety is a good thing.

4. Arrange the hands to compose the whole page in an aesthetically pleasing way. Composition is vital.

5. Don't forget about the negative space- the space around and behind the hands. Put something in the background- a tone, a pattern, something!

6. As always, contrast is important.

Option FOur: hands in action- size determined by # of hands (advanced studnets ONLY)

Instructions:

For this option you may include more of the arms and body to make the action clear. Objects may also be included.