



## Learning to See in New Ways

### A Unique Reflection on Drawing Fundamentals 1

*By Deborah Daun*

When I decided to take the Drawing Studio's Drawing Fundamentals 1 course recently, I was delighted to find that many of my classmates were attracted to the course for introspective reasons, as I was. During introductions, things they said included: I want to get out of my head. I hope it will calm me. Doing art is soul searching and peaceful. Everything falls away and my troubles are gone when I draw.

I had heard that learning to draw wasn't so much about drawing, but about learning to see in new ways. That appealed to me.



But first there were skills to learn, attention to cultivate, resistance to overcome, and the tools of the trade to figure out. Who knew that there are at least three kinds of erasers that do more than wipe the slate clean; a quick, short sweep of a charcoal eraser also lightens a dark swatch, allowing, for example, the petals of a lighter flower to emerge from a dark background. And then there is the physical skill of drawing with your hand, adding some elbow grease and eventually engaging the shoulder.

It's reminiscent of an approach to teaching yoga that I learned years ago. First, you teach your students the basics of breathing and moving correctly so that they don't hurt themselves. Then you show them how to stay with a pose and hang out with whatever arises, including wandering minds and resistance. You then create a space through modeling and language that allows students to move into a flow that facilitates experiencing oneself in new ways.

#### Shape and Measurement

We started with the concept of shape and, of course, I started to play with the word. The shape of things to come. Ship shape condition. You better shape up, which, I realized I had to do when I misunderstood the first homework assignment: draw just the outline of a simple object. I'd drawn a lot of interior detail, perhaps because I wanted to explore something our instructor Nancy had us do when we arrived for the first of six classes.

Draw what you remember, she had suggested. A cat, truck, cactus, telephone, lamp. I drew my favorite lamp from memory and then went home and practiced drawing what I actually saw. It made me think of my brother, a police lieutenant, who once told me that first-hand accounts from witnesses are not often very accurate. They tell you what they remember, not necessarily what they actually saw on that cold and windy day.

Back to shape. When I understood the concept, I began to notice just the shape of everyday things around me. I stopped in the alley behind my house while walking the dogs and stared at the particularly interesting shape of an outdoor heater that was visible above the neighbor's fence. It was beautifully spherical with a glow from the morning sun.

I began to understand that my eyes take in the world in two dimensions and my brain adds a third. I have to extract my brain and focus just on what I see (not on what I think I see) to draw a shape.

On to measurement, a concept Nancy introduced by employing the type of wooden sticks used to skewer meat and vegetables for kebabs. Hold the stick, extend your arm and measure the object you are about to draw. Compare the height to the width at the widest point. Close one eye and then the other to get a more two-dimensional view. Keep your arm extended the same distance from your body when comparing. A lot to think about and, like anything, mastery takes repetition.

Measurement helped me better understand the concept of shape. I drew the outline of a painted water pitcher from my kitchen that is higher than it is wide. Or so I thought. When I held my stick out in front of me and compared the height to the width, they were the same. As it turns out, the thin handle makes the pitcher as vertical as it is horizontal.

To read Deborah's full article, click [here](#) to visit her story on our website

*Deborah Daun is a Marketing/PR pro with passion for supporting mission-driven organizations with heartopening and data-driven strategies and stories. She's never taken an art class before this Drawing Studio course, but when she interviewed founder Andy Rush a few years ago, her curiosity was piqued when he told her that learning to draw was really about learning to see in new ways.*

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## Support What You Love!

BECOME A MEMBER

Members are a dynamic network of art-makers and advocates who support TDS with sustaining gifts.

Your membership lasts for a year from the date you donate, and we'll automatically send you a reminder to renew before it expires.

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### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- **Student:** \$45
- **Individual:** \$60
- **Family:** \$100
- **Friend:** \$150
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With your membership, you receive:

- 10% discount The Drawing Studio Adult Classes, Barb's Frame of Mind, Lewis Framing Studio and Professional Art and Design Supplies at SUVA
- 20% discount at Sarnoff Artist

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## SAVE THE DATE

*April 26th, 2018*  
*Leo Rich Theatre*



*Enjoy an evening honoring The  
Drawing Studio Founder  
**Andrew Rush***

\$60 General Admission  
\$75 Select Reserved Seating  
\$150 VIP Reserved Seating

Tickets available at  
[Ticketmaster.com!](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

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## ArtMoves Exhibit and Event

The Drawing

Supplies, Arizona Art Supply and Posner's Art Store

- 25% discount The Drawing Studio merchandise

*All memberships are fully tax deductible!*

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## Josh Goldberg Art Show

*Josh Goldberg, teaching artist at The Drawing Studio, is currently a featured artist at the Davis Dominguez Gallery.*

*Stop by and see Josh's paintings and work on paper.*

**Davis Dominguez Gallery**  
154 E 6th Street  
Tucson, AZ 85705

Art Showing through February 24th



Studio's **ArtMoves** outreach program presents a free exhibit of artwork and mini-demo of

ArtMoves in action on **Friday, March 9, from 5 - 7 pm** at The Drawing Studio.

*Exhibit will be open from March 1st - 16th.*

ArtMoves combines instruction in dance, music, and art to bring the life-enhancing benefits of creative expression to people with the least access to it. ArtMoves was developed by two longtime TDS teaching artists Pat Dolan and Lynn Fleischman from their own personal experience and training in multiple art forms.

Currently, ArtMoves works with men living in emergency shelter, veterans dealing with serious mental illness, veterans living in long-term care, and refugee children. Classes are funded through a combination of individual and corporate gifts, public and private grants, and special events.

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## Class Openings

Take a look at our amazing youth classes and due to popular demand, we added a DF1!

[See Youth Classes here!](#)  
[New February Drawing Fundamentals 1 here!](#)

**CHECK OUT FEBRUARY CLASSES**

Connect with us online!

