



Essentials of Drawing with Brighton Demerest-Smith

Lesson 6: Hands and Figure Constructs

Outline:

Hands

- Hands are the beginning of approaching the human form.
 - The structure is the skeletal system.
 - Start at the forearm, which is made up of the radius and ulna.
 - There are eight small bones in the wrist. In drawing, we think of them as one block.
 - Try to simplify the forms down so we have something to work with.
 - The palm is almost the same size as the block for the fingers.
 - The wrist is a smaller block.
 - Throughout art history, you will notice that the two center fingers almost always move together. They are drawn or painted as a single unity.
 - Think of these blocks like a prism to get closer to reality. Block out the hand as a three dimensional construction. Then you can see which parts are in light and which are in shadow.
 - Fingers are not quite blocks and not quite cylinders.
 - There are three arcs in the fingers for the knuckles
 - In exaggeration, movement can be found.
 - Shading becomes easy after the block construction has been drawn for the hand.
 - Transitional planes gives us the roundness of reality.
 - Detail is the refining of the block structures over the course of a drawing. Detail is about building up half tones, creases, and folds in skin (which are another change in plane).
 - Laying in background helps to differentiate the light from shadow.