

# Perceptual Abstraction: Ascertaining Structural Features

Compositional Principles in Generalizing Objects

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- Drawing an image on any subject one views, transforms it.
- Every artist's perception of what is viewed is different as it reflects their individual response to it.
- Van Gogh's drawings for example of wheat fields and sunflowers transform them into mystical landscapes and powerful flowers. They are not realistic and if one studies a section, an inch, it seems abstract. As a whole an image is recognized for example as a tree, mountain, etc.

**Examples of Van Gogh's Drawings:**

<http://www.google.com/search?q=van+goghs+drawings&sa=G&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&ei=YQHJUdPIA4bA4AO1vYCYCg&ved=0CC4QsAQ&biw=1090&bih=505&sei=ZAHJUaPrldK64APzwoH4DA>

- Artists go further in their work and eliminate details, working with outline(s) of a subject matter.
- They create outline(s), a shape(s) of the subject viewed. The outline is called a Contour.
- Contour outlines are all around us.
- For example, walking a well-lit street in the evening, your shadow follows you in a contour format. The shadow is a dark shape outline. This is similar with objects that cast a shadow. The shadow is a flat outlined **contour** shape.

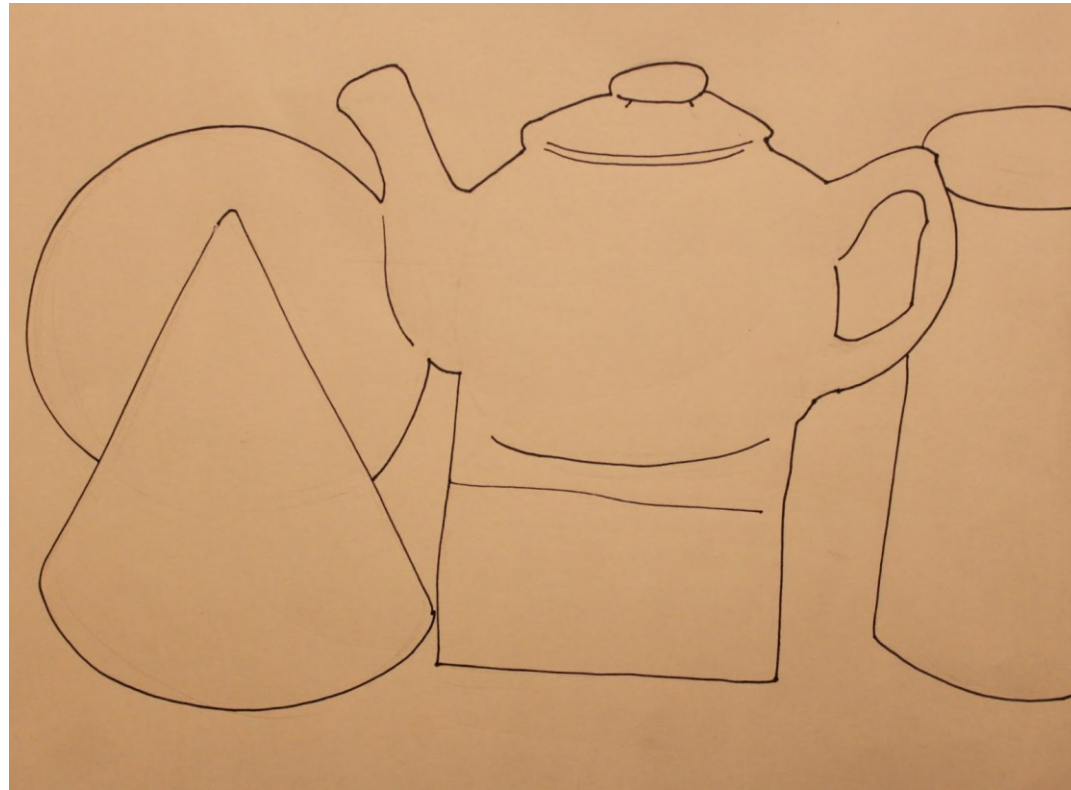
## CONTOUR DRAWING

Contour drawing is basically an outline, a shape of any subject. Below is a famous contour drawing by Picasso:



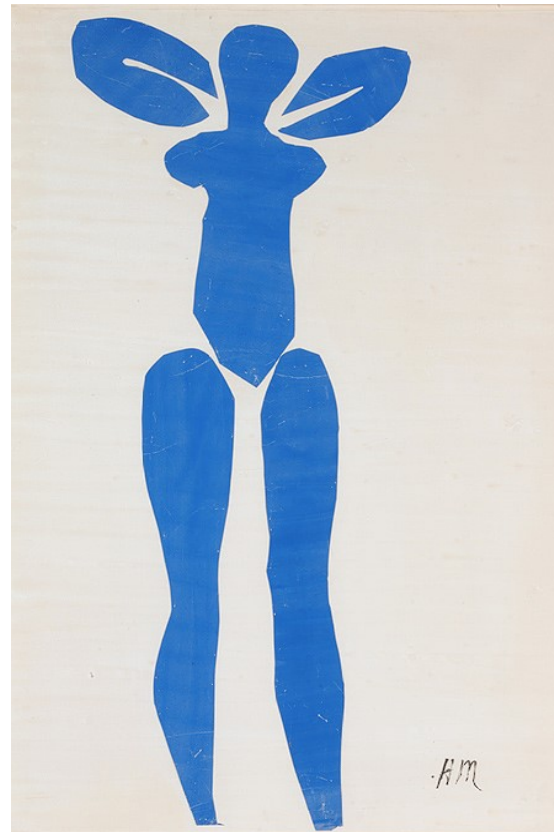
[https://www.google.com/search?q=picassos+contour+drawing&biw=1280&bih=590&tbm=isch&imgil=lufRneX-b2TM4M%253A%253BU7uXohPHODPu7M%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fapplesloveorangespdx.blogspot.com%25252F2011\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html&source=iu&pf=m&fir=lufRneX-b2TM4M%253A%252CU7uXohPHODPu7M%252C\\_&usg=\\_rBkC86nzqu3RXEeAbwZjA1rC8zs%3D&dpr=1.5&ved=0CDsQyjc&ei=wHxIVb\\_YGMeTsQT424LwAg#imgrc=lufRneX-b2TM4M%253A%253BU7uXohPHODPu7M%253Bhttp%253A%252F%252F4.bp.blogspot.com%252F-YeWbAD68xqw%252FTIzhypupT1I%252FAAAAAAACA%252F64-mf8Ik\\_J8%252Fs1600%252Fxfmas-picasso-dove-large.gif%253Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fapplesloveorangespdx.blogspot.com%252F2011\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html%253B600%253B449](https://www.google.com/search?q=picassos+contour+drawing&biw=1280&bih=590&tbm=isch&imgil=lufRneX-b2TM4M%253A%253BU7uXohPHODPu7M%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fapplesloveorangespdx.blogspot.com%25252F2011_08_01_archive.html&source=iu&pf=m&fir=lufRneX-b2TM4M%253A%252CU7uXohPHODPu7M%252C_&usg=_rBkC86nzqu3RXEeAbwZjA1rC8zs%3D&dpr=1.5&ved=0CDsQyjc&ei=wHxIVb_YGMeTsQT424LwAg#imgrc=lufRneX-b2TM4M%253A%253BU7uXohPHODPu7M%253Bhttp%253A%252F%252F4.bp.blogspot.com%252F-YeWbAD68xqw%252FTIzhypupT1I%252FAAAAAAACA%252F64-mf8Ik_J8%252Fs1600%252Fxfmas-picasso-dove-large.gif%253Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fapplesloveorangespdx.blogspot.com%252F2011_08_01_archive.html%253B600%253B449)

Below is an example of a contour drawing of a still life



<http://ehoeltge.blogspot.com/>

Below is an example of Henry Matisse Contour Paper Cut out from the Metropolitan Museum Collection:  
<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/2002.456.58>



Links to additional examples of contour drawing:

<http://www.google.com/search?biw=1090&bih=505&tbm=isch&btnG=&q=contour%20drawings%20by%20artists%20in%20history>

<http://www.google.com/search?biw=1090&bih=505&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=contour+drawings+by+famous+artists&btnG=>

[http://www.google.com/search?q=contour+drawing&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=UPvIUZD-LdGj4APqloDIBg&ved=0CD0QsAQ&biw=1090&bih=505&sei=m\\_vlUYu0FoXe4APstlCoAw](http://www.google.com/search?q=contour+drawing&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=UPvIUZD-LdGj4APqloDIBg&ved=0CD0QsAQ&biw=1090&bih=505&sei=m_vlUYu0FoXe4APstlCoAw)