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*To send light into the darkness of men's hearts
- such is the duty of the artist. Schumann*

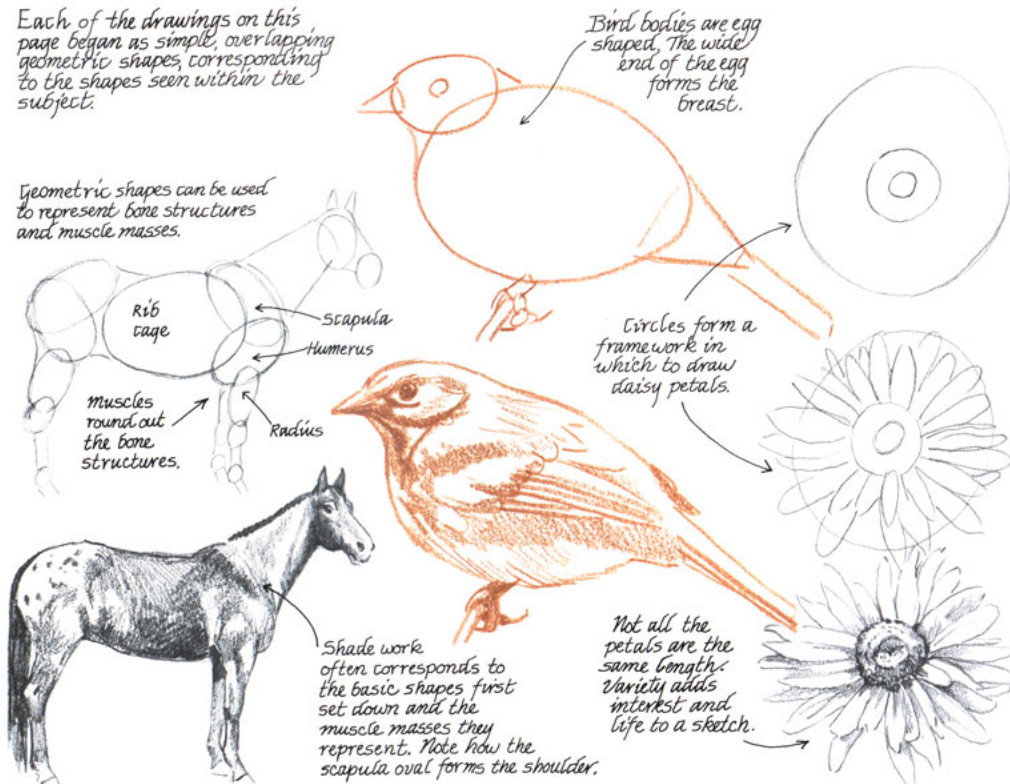
Seeing & Drawing Simple Shapes

- Develop the habit of locating and recording the basic simple shapes in your subject.
- “The most critical information lies in the biggest shapes, & those become clearer when squinting.
- “Spend time looking before you start to draw...& look in a physically different way to help break preconceived visual notions.”
- “I reserve the beginning part of a drawing almost exclusively for pattern seeking. Writers often draft a thesis statement before beginning a project, a few sentences that summarize their entire work; this helps keep them focused... In drawing, similar logic prevails. “
- A great artist can turn even the most mundane subject into a revelation—not by recording every detail, but by making careful choices that create patterns that guide the eye...
- “Much of the lasting power of art comes not from the obvious content of the image but from the more subtle impact of harmoniously arranged lines values, and colors. These form the bedrock of masterful artwork.”

Quoted material from **Lessons in Classical Drawing** by *Juliette Aristides*

Each of the drawings on this page began as simple, overlapping geometric shapes corresponding to the shapes seen within the subject.

Geometric shapes can be used to represent bone structures and muscle masses.



Notice how much better you can see simple & abstract shapes when you squint.

Nikolai N. Baskakov, *Milkmaids*, 1962. Oil on canvas, 119 × 229 cm (47 × 90 in.). Private collection.



See how many shapes you can find in this image.

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Wildlife Sketching

Wildlife enthusiasts, and beginning and advanced artists alike—here is the most complete guide to wildlife sketching around. You'll learn how to see as well as how to render the inhabitants of the wilds—beautifully and accurately.

From songbirds to flowers, animals to trees, reptiles to mushrooms, herein are more than 600 instructional illustrations, showing you step-by-step techniques for reproducing nature's wonders. Pen, pencil, crayon, and charcoal methods are clearly explained in simple, personal terms.

With *Wildlife Sketching* in hand, true-to-life renditions are only a pen and paper away.

Frank J. Lohan is the author of *Pen and Ink: Step by Step* and *Pen and Ink Techniques*.



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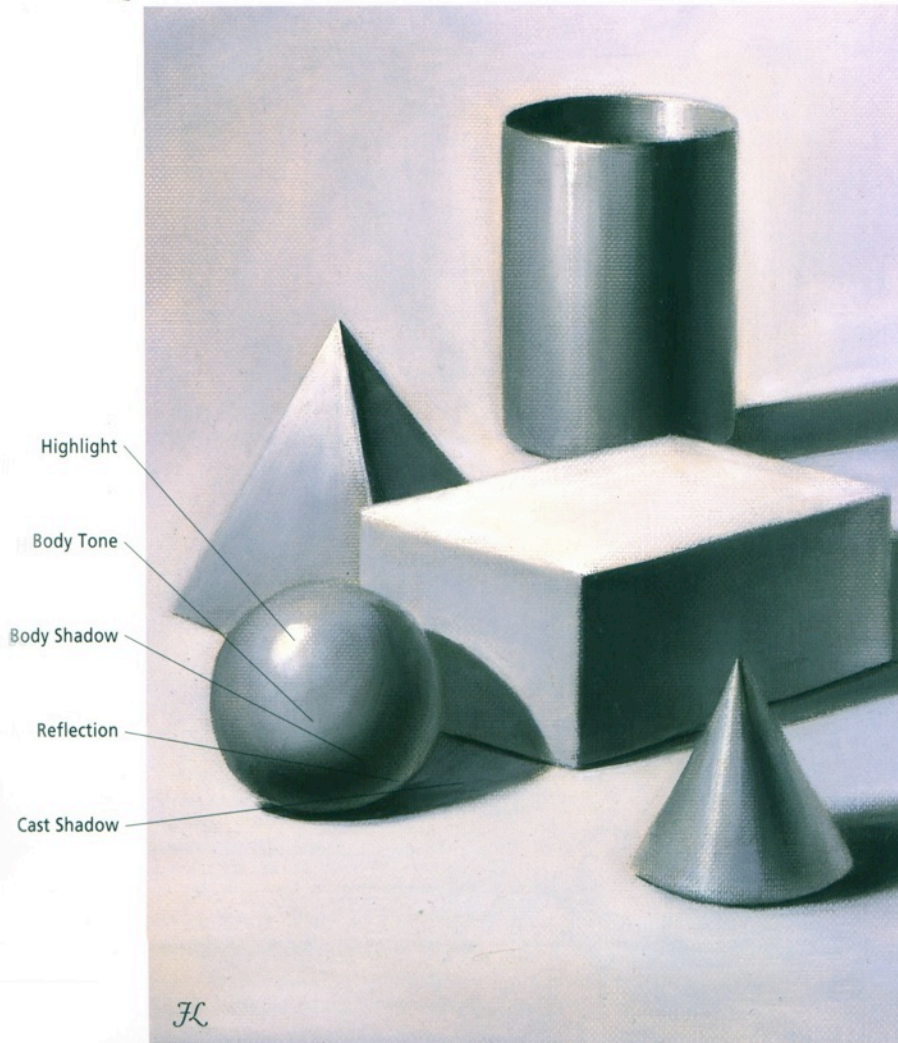


ISBN 0-8092-5048-9

The Five Basic Shapes

The five basic shapes are the building blocks of all other shapes.

LIGHT SOURCE
↙



These same five values show up on the other shapes. Can you find them?

SPHERE
CUBE
CYLINDER
CONE
SOLID TRIANGLE

Figure 9-14
Structure drawing for the
wood duck.

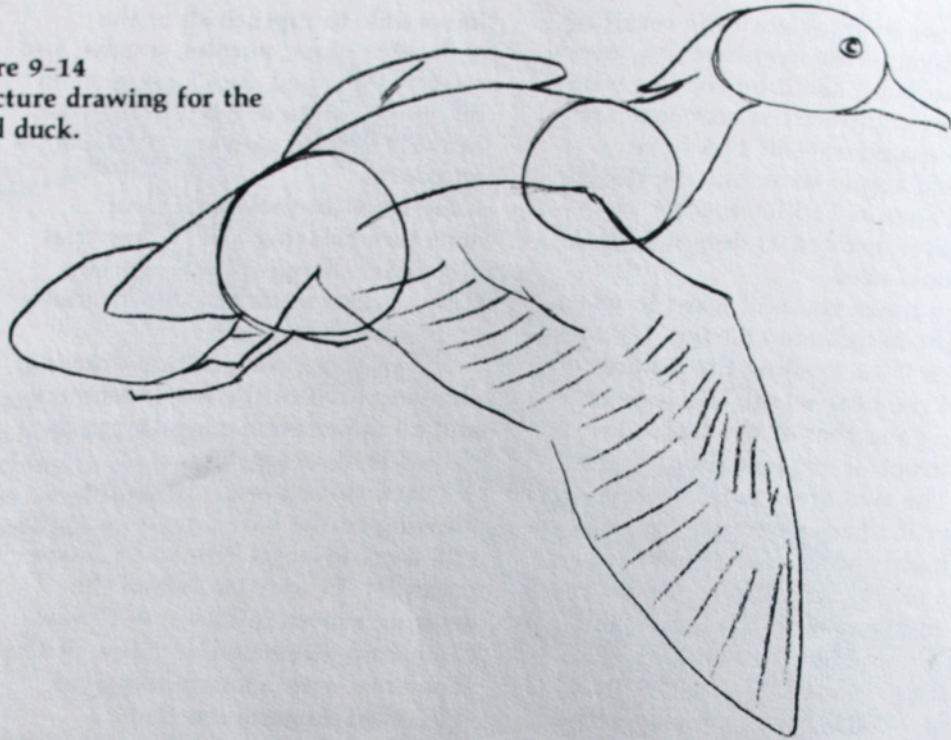
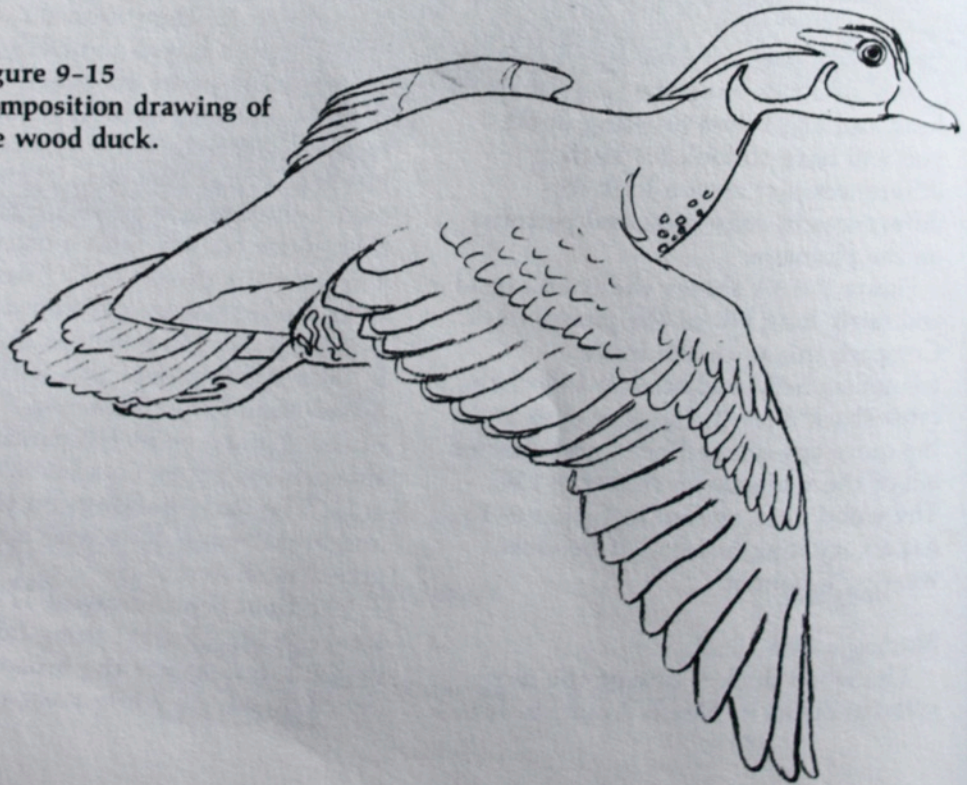


Figure 9-15
Composition drawing of
the wood duck.





Drawing on tracing paper on top of master works affords a wonderful opportunity to practice finding the major masses of the body. I found the three major masses of this body and the orientation of the limbs.

OPPOSITE: MICHELANGELO
BUONARROTI, *Study for Battle of*
Casina, 1504, chalk and silverpoint on
paper, 13 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches (35.6 x 23.5
35.6 cm), collection of the Galleria degli
Uffizi (Florence, Italy), courtesy of Art
Renewal Center

EXERCISE for this week: Seeing and using shapes as you draw, use tracing paper or just by searching, identify simple shapes in your current project.