

draw from the
COLLECTION
... at home!

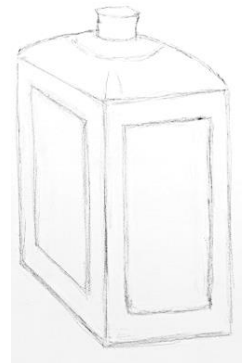


Japanese. *Wine Bottle with Seasonal Flowers*, 1700-1720. Porcelain with underglaze blue and overglazed enamels. Museum purchase with funds provided in part by an anonymous donor. 1982.37.

Theme: Flowers and Plants

Although plants and flowers often feature non-geometric shapes that might seem difficult to draw, we can use geometric shapes as our starting point on the journey into a freeform, flower-filled world. This lesson also explores complex surface decoration on a three-dimensional surface.

Step 1: Start by very **lightly drawing** the **basic geometric** shape of the vase and then the **basic shapes** of the inlay borders on each side of the vase.

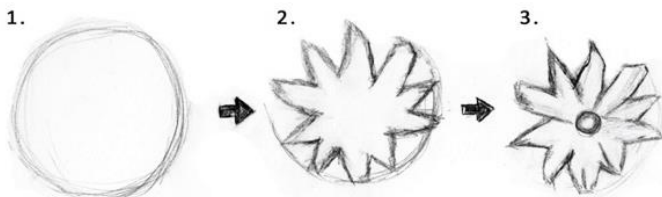


Step 2: Lightly draw the **basic geometric** shapes of all the decorative designs on the vase. Focus only on the outlines and not on the details. Choose the shapes that most closely resemble each design (ex: flowers are circles, leaves are triangles, etc.).

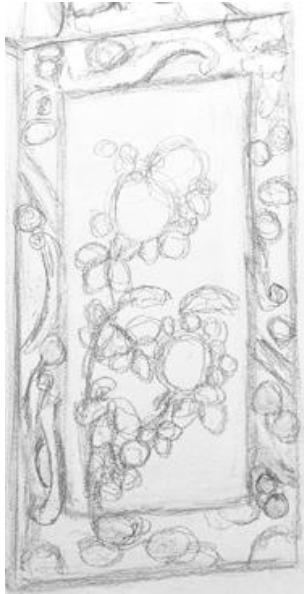


Step 3: Once you like the placement and size of each of these geometric shapes, **closely investigate** the details of the flowers and border designs.

Redraw the outline of each shape to more closely match the shape depicted. Erase away any parts of your original geometric shapes that are no longer necessary.



Step 4: Once the new outlines are complete, draw the smaller, interior details of each larger shape (ex: the shapes of each flower petal). Afterwards, refine these using the same process as step 3.



Step 5: Add value to each design element and a shadow to the vase to give both dimension and depth to your drawing.

Extra Challenge: Use colored pencils to add color and / or value to your drawing!

Helpful Hints!

1. There are many details featured in this vase—we recommend dividing your focus into three sections (top, left side, front) for even greater success.
2. Draw out from the center of each of the three sections. This reduces smearing.
3. Draw very lightly until you are committed to those marks.
4. Try a mechanical pencil for fine details.
5. Use your pencil eraser to draw white lines and a 6B or 8B pencil for extra dark lines.
6. Use a tissue or other blending tool for gradient or to make an area even in tone.

