

Hands

Learn how to draw hands by using close-looking skills and applying geometric shapes.

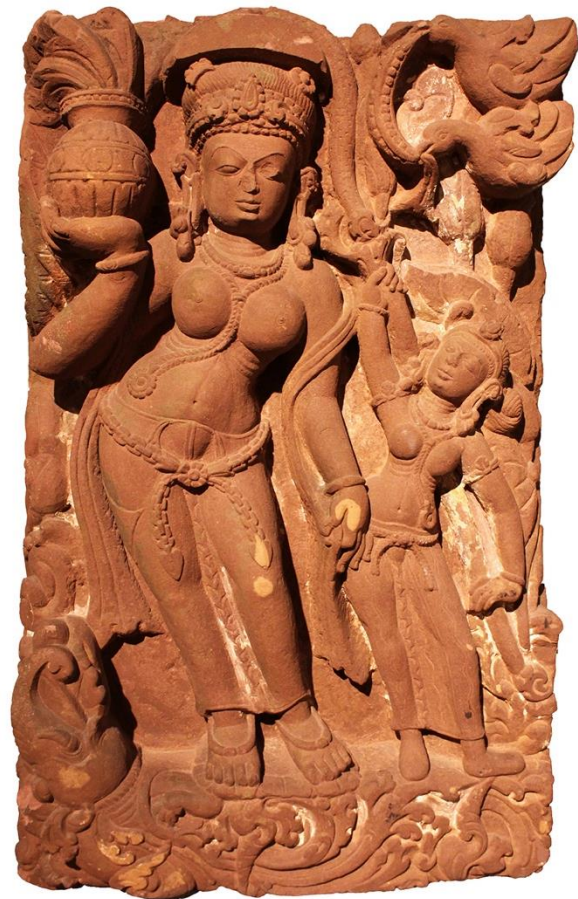
draw from the
COLLECTION
... at home!

Supplies

- pencil
- paper
- eraser

Optional

- ruler
- tortillon



Artist unidentified (India, Rajasthan, Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty, 8th–11th century), *Ganga and Attendant*, 9th century, red sandstone. Museum purchase with funds provided by the 1966 Associate Board Art Ball, 1966.25

Step 1

Find an artwork that features hands. Select a hand in the artwork to focus on or form your own hand into an interesting pose. Look closely at the hand and take a mental inventory of what you see, noticing where shapes may overlap or be foreshortened.

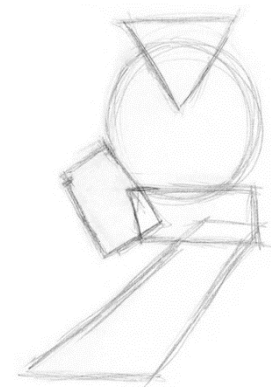
Step 2

Draw the basic geometric shapes and simple lines that most closely resemble each part of the hand (ex: circle for the palm, rectangles for fingers, etc.). Draw lightly and allow shapes to overlap each other.



Helpful hint: if drawing from your own hand, take a picture for easy reference in case any shifts in the pose occur.

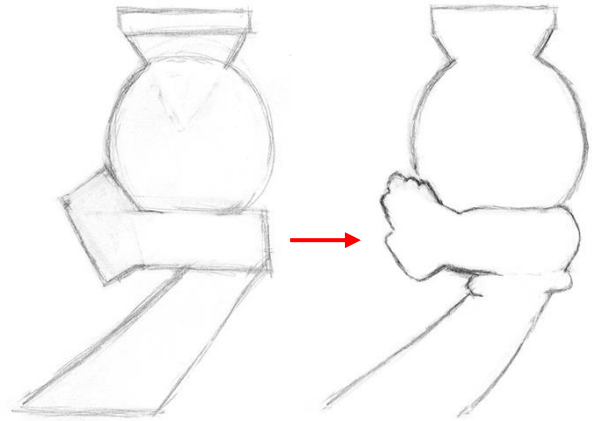
Note: hands in artworks may be more stylized than your own hands (ex: fingers may be depicted longer or shorter, etc.). If the hand is holding an object, include that object in the drawing for context.



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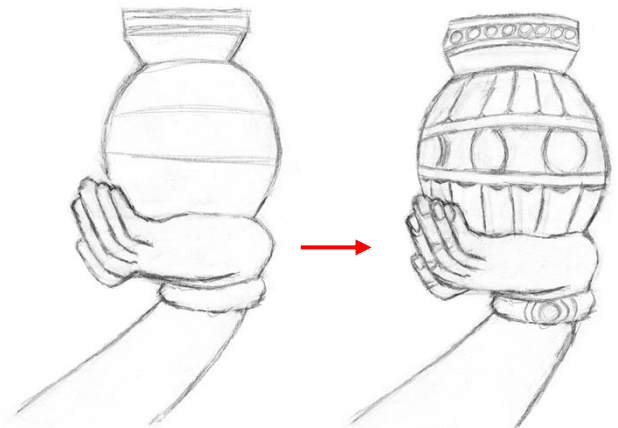
Step 2

Refine each shape to best depict the outer contours of each part of the hand (ex: curve edges of rectangles into fingers). Erase the former geometric shapes as needed. Draw lightly.



Step 3

Add the general shapes of interior details (ex: rectangles for fingernails). Draw lightly.



Step 4

Refine the detail shapes to best depict those elements (ex: adjust basic circles to the specific shapes of the knuckles). Erase any remnants of the former geometric shapes as needed.

Step 5

Add value and shadows using the **blending** technique of smearing pencil marks with a tortillon or with your finger. Use an eraser to create highlights.



Resources

[Learn more about drawing hands](#)

[Video tutorial: pencil shading techniques](#)

[See another Indian artwork in the DAI collection](#)

draw from the
COLLECTION
... at home!

Questions about or ideas for Draw from the Collection? Email edu@daytonart.org

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