

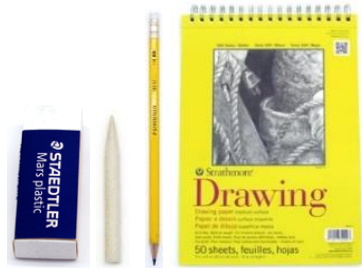
draw from the COLLECTION ... at home!

Stylized Animals

Learn to draw a stylized animal using geometric shapes and close-looking skills.

Supplies:

- pencil
- paper
- eraser
- **optional:**
tortillon



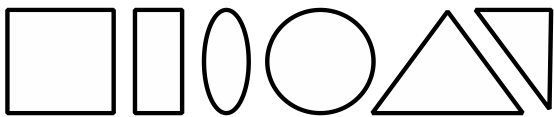
Artist unidentified (Chinese, Tang Dynasty, 618–907 CE),
A Ritual Bottle, early 8th century, silver with gold inlay.
Gift of Mrs. Harrie G. Carnell, 1935.23

Step 1

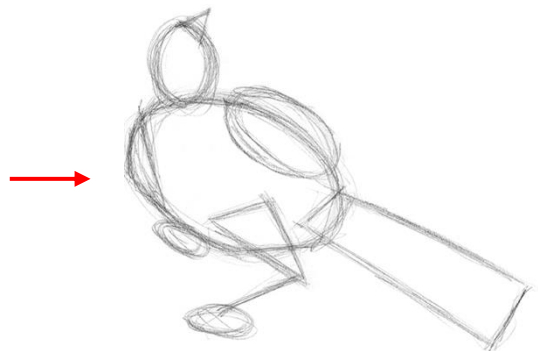
Find an artwork that features stylized (abstract or illustrative in design rather than realistic in detail) animals. Select one to focus on. Look closely at the animal and take a mental inventory of what shapes you see.

Step 2

Draw the basic geometric shapes and simple lines that most closely resemble each part of the animal you chose (ex: circle for the head, triangle for beak, etc.). Draw lightly and allow shapes to overlap.

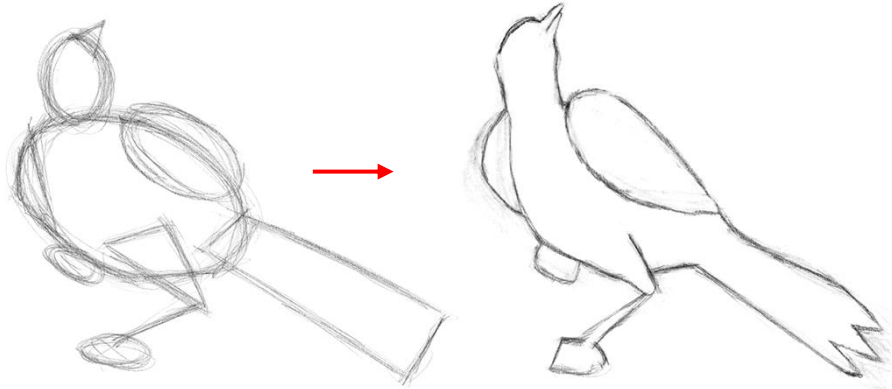


Note: stylized animal features may not appear like animal features in nature (ex: wings may be depicted longer, shorter, look flatter or simpler, etc.).



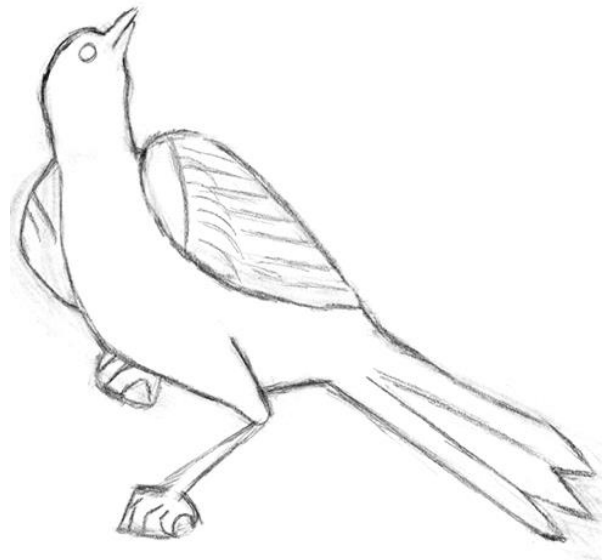
Step 3

Further refine each shape to best depict the outer contour of the animal (ex: round edges of a triangle for a beak). Erase the former basic shapes as needed. Draw lightly.



Step 4

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



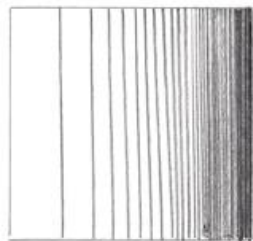
Step 5

Refine the detail shapes to best depict those elements (ex: round the edges of the rectangles into the specific shapes of the feathers). Erase any remnants of the former basic shapes as needed.

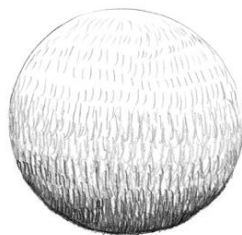
Step 6

Add texture (ex: hair, feathers, etc.) using the **hatching** technique of closely drawn, short parallel lines.

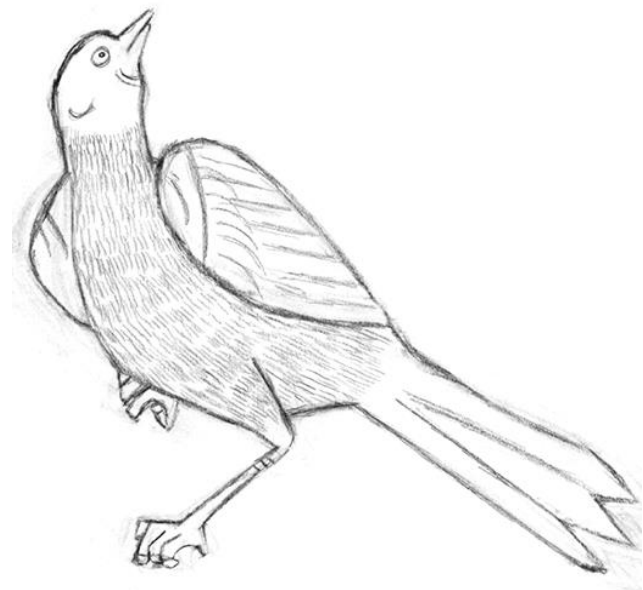
Helpful hint: when adding texture to a rounded shape (ex: feather lines on a bird's chest) drawn lines should curve along with that shape. Overlap and layer hatching marks for best effect.



Hatching
(flat surface)



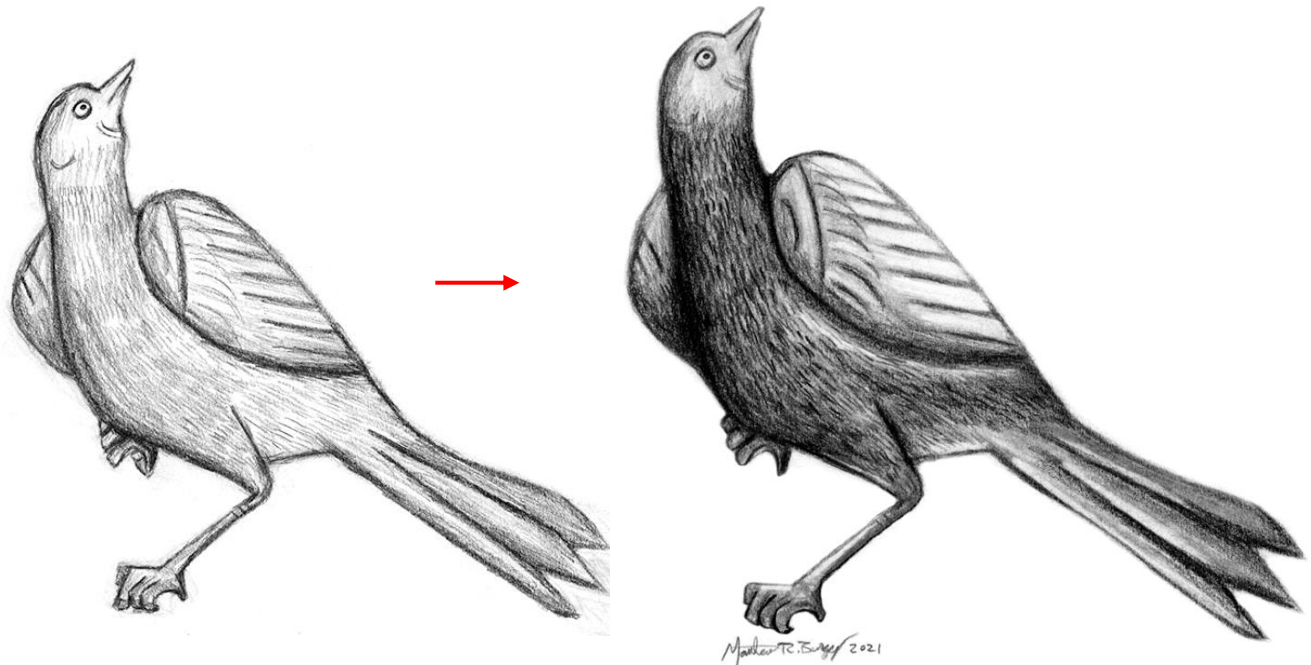
Hatching
(rounded surface)



Step 7

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

Helpful hint: add even more texture again after blending for extra detail. Press hard with pencil or use softer lead (ex: 4B, 6B) for extra dark values and definition of details.



Resources

[Video tutorial: pencil shading techniques](#)

[Learn more about the featured artwork, *A Ritual Bottle*, in DAI's collection](#)

draw from the
COLLECTION
... at home!

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