

HOW MASTERS USED SHAPE



GENERAL INFORMATION

Bacchus by Michelangelo da Caravaggio
(Mee-kell-AHN-jay-low duh Kar-rah-VAH-gee-oh) 1573-1609

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, an Italian painter and principal originator of the Baroque style of painting, painted detailed pictures of baskets of fruit and flowers and scenes of everyday life. His painting was contrary to the popular style of the day, and much of his earlier work was rejected. Eventually, however, his style spread throughout Europe, influencing particularly the artists of Spain and the Netherlands.

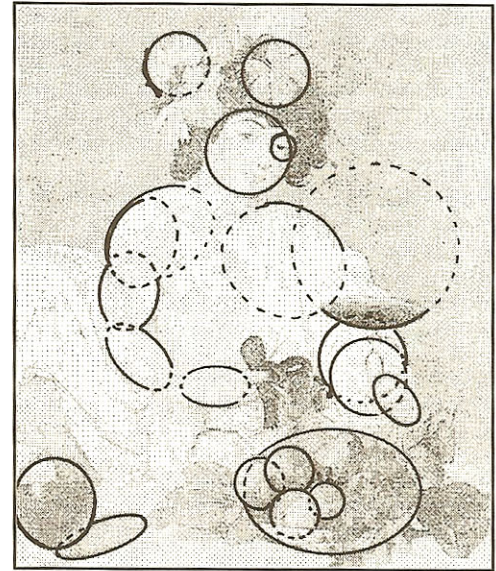
HISTORY

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio was born on 28 September 1573, in the small town of Caravaggio. When he was about eighteen, he moved to Rome, where he became known by the name of his birthplace. In Rome he painted self-portraits for the Cavaliere d'Arpino. Caravaggio lived a stormy life. He had a violent temper that brought him many problems and eventually caused his early death.

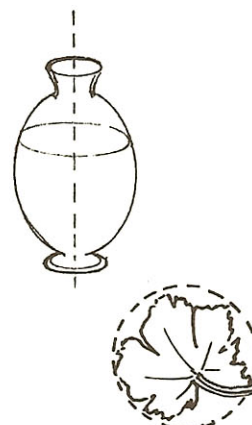
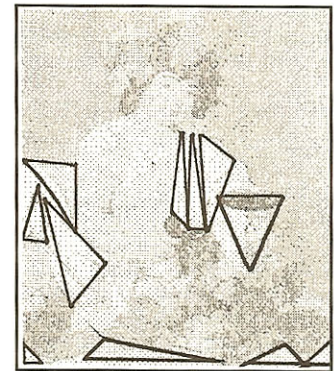
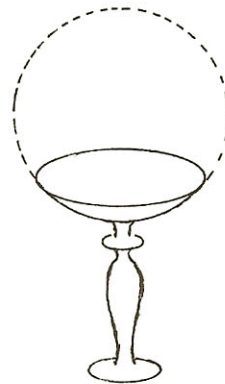
STYLE AND WORKS

During Caravaggio's early years, "Mannerism" was the popular style, based on the practice of copying from the examples of former masters. Caravaggio rebelled against this movement and insisted on painting from live models. Once he was shown a Greek statue to study and copy but made no reply. He only pointed to a crowd of people to show that nature had provided him with plenty of models and he didn't need to copy anyone else's. Today, Caravaggio is most famous for his religious paintings. When they were painted, however, they were often rejected by the patrons because they found them shocking. Instead of painting the religious or angelic figures radiating glorious light, he depicted them as ordinary men of his time. He wanted the stories from the Bible to seem more real than depicted by other artists.

He emphasized contrasts of light and shadow by spotlighting his subjects and using highlights to outline forms. Because his works broke with tradition, they were rejected for several years. However, his dynamic style eventually became the most popular and began to be practiced by artists throughout Europe.



Notice how Caravaggio used the basic shapes to design his picture. Most of the shapes are circular, some are triangular, and only a few are rectangular. Some are easily recognizable and others are implied. When all the simpler shapes are put together they create more complex shapes. Notice the axis of the shapes, some are vertical and others are tilted. Each of these aspects are important in a drawing.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Head of a Man by Paul Klee (Pahl CLAY) 1879-1940

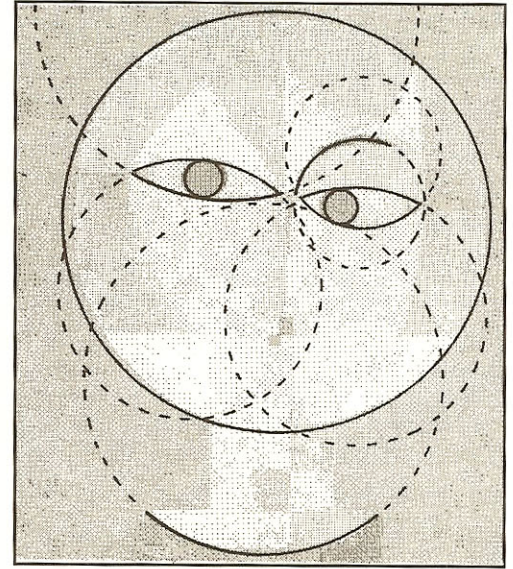
Paul Klee was a Swiss painter and etcher. He was trained in Munich, went to Italy, then returned to Switzerland and began etching. His art is based on personal fantasy and the symbolism in the art of children and primitive minds. His personal style developed after experimentation with the styles of Cezanne, Van Gogh, Ensor, the Blue Rider group, Dadaism, and Surrealism.

HISTORY

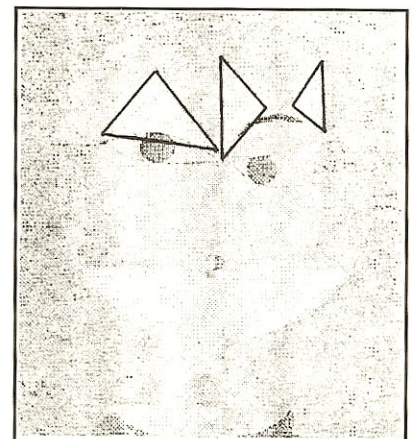
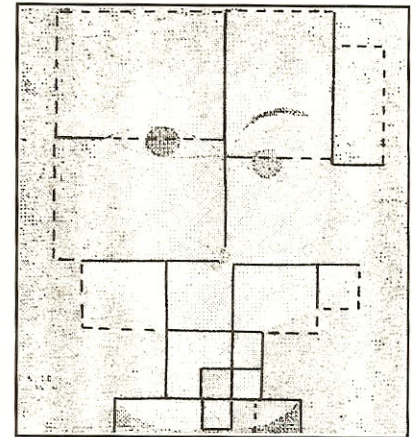
Paul Klee was born near Berne, Switzerland, on 18 December 1879. At the age of ten he began to paint. At a very early age, he seemed aware of the value of his imaginative and artistic abilities and wanted to devote himself fully to the dream-fantasies that seemed so important to him. In 1906, at age twenty-seven, Klee married the pianist Lily Stumpf and settled in Munich, where they lived until 1920. The only money the family received during this time was from the music lessons given by his wife Lily. Klee was not able to sell any of his paintings. In 1921, after he had spent time in the armed service during World War I, he began his career teaching at the Bauhaus, the most famous school for architecture, design, and craftsmanship of modern time. In 1931, he resigned his position at the Bauhaus and accepted a professorship at the Dusseldorf Academy of Fine Arts, where he remained until 1933. At this time Hitler ruled Germany. As the Nazis didn't like his abstract art they forced him to resign. The dictator ordered all the artist's paintings removed from all the museums in Germany. Klee then left Germany for good and moved to Berne, Switzerland, where he lived until his death.

STYLE AND WORKS

Klee's pictures are recognized by the simple geometric shapes, arranged in a very childlike manner. He used these shapes to represent the objects in his pictures. All his life, Klee worked to develop his own style, different from all others, and this he accomplished. There has been no artist like him. "He saw the invisible, heard silence, listened to mute laughter, and felt the movement of growing things." These experiences he put down on canvas for others to see.



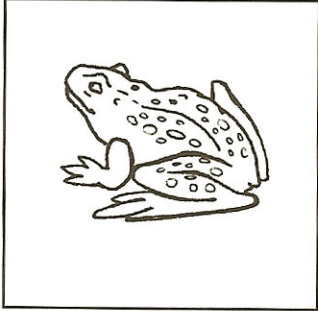
Notice how Klee designed his picture. He has also used simple shapes to create a portion of a figure. His picture is more abstract than Caravaggio's, but he has used many of the same kind of shapes. Klee's picture is composed mostly of circles, or portions of a circle. There are several rectangular shapes. Only a few triangular shapes can be found in the painting. Klee has also used implied shapes in his picture.



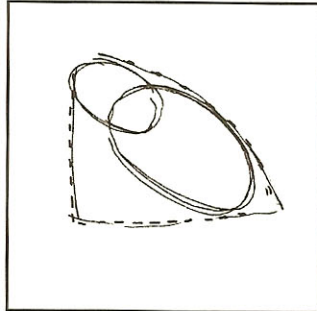
SHAPE PRACTICE SHEET #1

NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

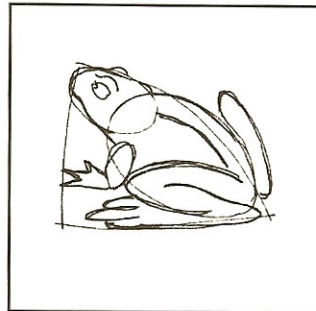
An important part of learning to draw is using *simple shapes* to build the shape of the object. A *blocking-in* process can be very helpful in starting and building the drawing. This practice sheet gives you an opportunity to practice using simple shapes to start and complete a drawing. Notice how the frog is drawn in the example below. Use the same idea to complete the boat and the dog. Be sure to use simple shapes and follow the instructions for each box.



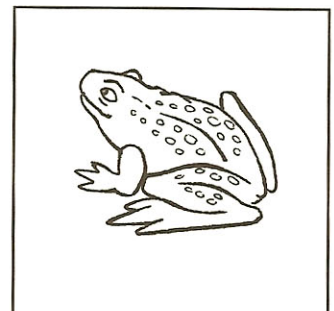
The Subject



1. Draw the implied shape or the most simple shape of the subject.

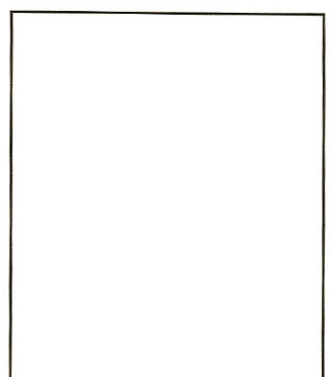
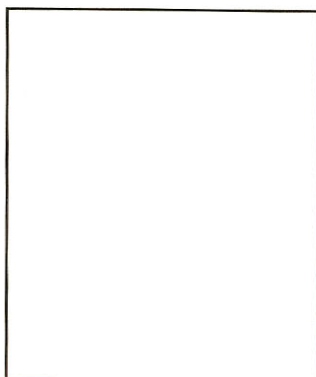
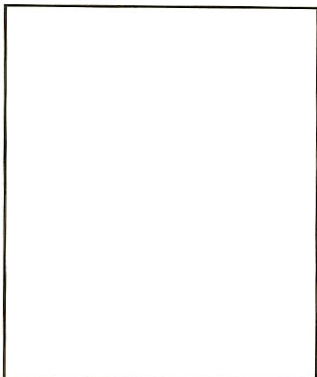
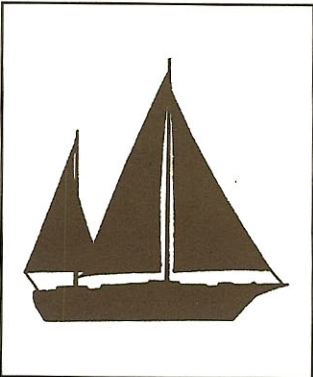


2. Repeat step 1 and add smaller shapes.

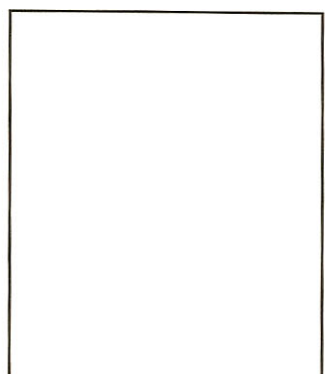
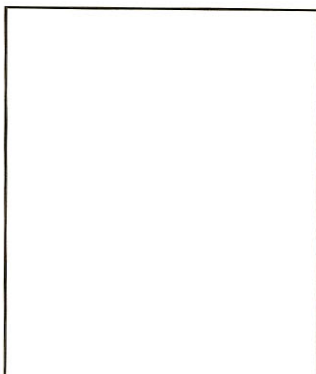
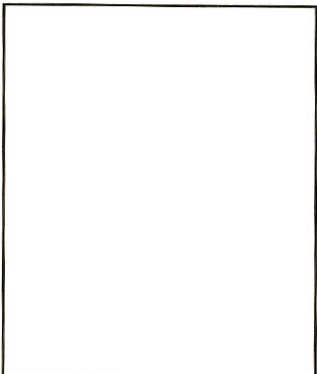
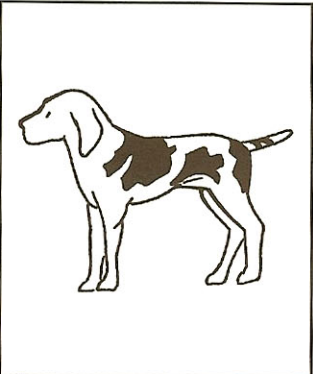


3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 and complete the drawing by adding the smallest shapes and detail.

BOAT



DOG

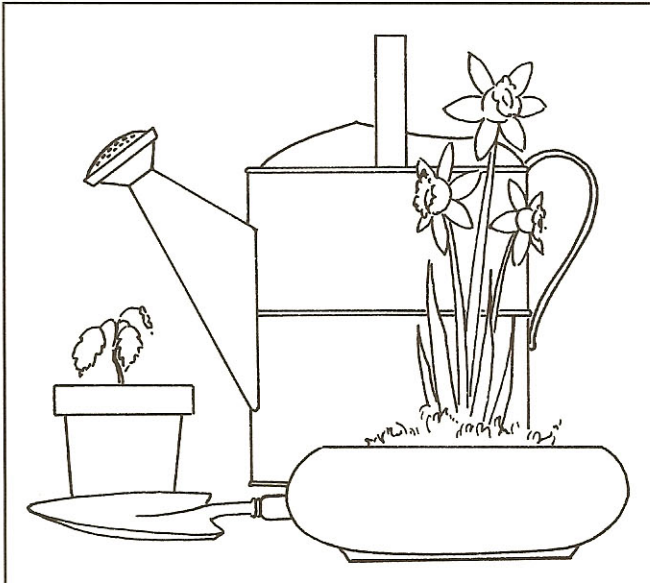


SHAPE PRACTICE SHEET #2

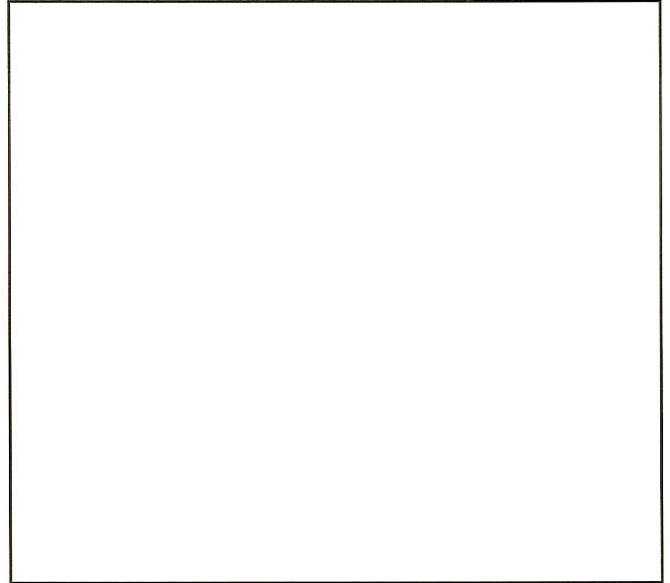
NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

Below is a still life drawing containing simple and compound objects. The illustration has implied shapes, axes, etc. Use the blocking-in process to re-draw the still life scene. Do not erase any lines you draw. Leave all the lines drawn during the blocking-in process. Darken the final lines of the drawing.

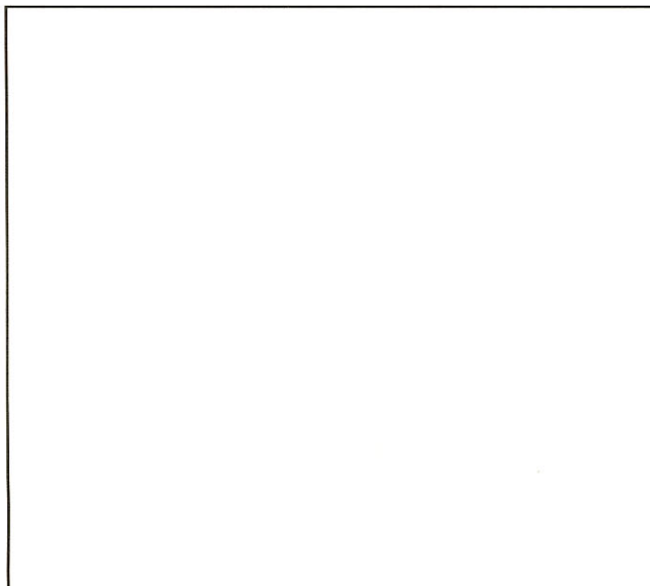
STILL-LIFE



1. Draw any implied shapes that may be helpful in placing the shapes in the picture. Also begin by drawing the simplest shapes first.



2. Repeat step 1 and add smaller shapes to your drawing.



3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 and complete the drawing by adding the smallest shapes. Also add any detail needed.

