Drawing Eyes in Pencil: Iris, Catchlight, and Lid Shading

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Draw a single realistic eye on smooth paper using a 2B pencil for line and tone and a 4B for darks. Use a light source from the upper left. Include iris texture, one main catchlight, lid crease shading, and a tear duct. Keep the lid opening about 2.5 times wider than tall and let the upper lid cover about one fifth of the iris.

Answer: The finished drawing shows an almond lid opening with a partly hidden iris. Radial iris lines vary in spacing, the ring near the pupil is darker, and the outer band is slightly lighter. The main catchlight sits on the upper-left iris as a small rounded shape lifted with a kneaded eraser; a faint secondary reflection sits opposite. The upper lid is darkest at the crease and lightens toward the lid edge, the lower lid has a thin shadow thicker at the outer corner, and the tear duct is lightly shaded with a tiny highlight. The pupil is the darkest area and the catchlight the brightest.