Realistic Human Figure Drawing: Proportion Landmarks and Tonal Shading

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Draw a standing figure using a head unit of 3 cm. The figure is eight head units tall. Place the shoulder width at two head units, the hip line at four head units from the top, and the knee line at six head units from the top. Add tonal shading with light from the upper left.

Answer: Total height is 8 × 3 cm = 24 cm. Shoulder width is 2 × 3 cm = 6 cm. Hip line is 4 × 3 cm = 12 cm from the top. Knee line is 6 × 3 cm = 18 cm from the top. Mark these on a vertical center line. Draw the head from 0 to 3 cm, shoulders at about 3 cm down, hip at 12 cm, knee at 18 cm, ankle at 24 cm. Shade with highlight on the upper left, core shadow on the lower right, and cast shadow to the lower right on the ground.