Charcoal Eye Drawing: Tonal Blending and Highlight Lift

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

A student draws an eye with iris diameter 40 mm, pupil 16 mm, and highlight 6 mm. They shade the iris at step 3, the outer rim at step 4, and the pupil at step 5. The upper lid runs from step 2 to step 4, and the lower lid from step 1 to step 3. The highlight is lifted to paper white. Check the tonal order and state one improvement.

Answer: The tonal order is consistent: pupil step 5 is darkest, outer rim step 4 is next, iris step 3 is mid, upper lid step 4 at the lash line matches the rim, lower lid step 1 to step 3 is light, and the highlight is paper white. One improvement is to soften the upper lid crease with a clean stump so the step 2 to step 4 transition reads smoothly.