Pencil Still Life: Tonal Buildup and Edge Control

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 hypothetical setup has a cylinder 8 cm tall and a sphere 6 cm wide on a 20 cm by 25 cm sheet, lit from the left. Describe the tonal stages and edge decisions for the cylinder only.

Answer: Outline the cylinder lightly, mark the light arrow pointing right, and label the left side as lit, the right side as core shadow, and the cast shadow to the right. Pass one: apply tone 2 to the core shadow and cast shadow. Pass two: raise the core shadow to tone 4 and keep the cast shadow at tone 3. Pass three: add tone 5 at the base contact and leave the lit side at tone 1. Mark the left contour H because it faces the viewer, and the right contour S because the form turns away. The cast shadow's near edge is H and its far edge is S. Check that the cast shadow points right and that adjacent zones differ by no more than one tone step, except where a deliberate H edge justifies a sharper change.