Realistic Phoenix Drawing: Feather Anatomy and 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

On a 20 cm wide sheet, place a wing with three covert rows, five secondaries, and four primaries. Shade overlap edges with a 2 mm dark band. Describe the order and one check.

Answer: Draw the leading edge first. Place three rows of small coverts near the shoulder, then five secondaries along the forearm, then four primaries at the hand. Shafts stop before tips. Shade a 2 mm band under each overlapping feather, keeping the upper vane light. Check at arm's length that the primaries read as the longest layer and that no outline surrounds a whole feather.