Drawing a Female Arm Pose with Foreshortening

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 female arm pose has the shoulder at the upper left, the elbow lower and slightly right, and the wrist pointing toward the viewer and inward. The upper arm measures 6 x-heights and the forearm measures 4 x-heights. Describe the drawing steps and the final check.

Answer: Draw the shoulder point, then a line 6 x-heights long toward the elbow. Mark the elbow with a small bend curve. Draw the forearm line 4 x-heights long (shorter than the 6-x-height upper arm to show foreshortening), angled inward to match the described pose. Wrap a tube around the upper arm, wider at the shoulder, and a tube around the forearm, wider at the elbow. Let the wrist end overlap the upper arm because it is closer. Final check: upper arm 6 x-heights, forearm 4 x-heights, forearm shorter and angled to match the pose, wrist overlaps upper arm.