Matisse-Inspired Blind Contour Drawing: A Guided Practice

Original task 1 / answer and diagram

Task 1 / complete key

In a measured study box, draw a blind contour profile face with one continuous line. Allow one deliberate break at the neck. After drawing, count total breaks and score line continuity using the rubric.

Answer: A valid study shows a simplified profile with forehead, nose, lips, chin, jaw, and one ear curve. Total breaks: 1 deliberate at neck plus any accidental breaks. Line continuity score depends on total breaks: 4 if only the deliberate break, 3 if one accidental, 2 if two accidental.

Reason: The convention allows one deliberate break; accidental breaks are counted. The profile must remain recognizable and simplified.

Check: Compare drawn contour to the subject; count breaks; verify no shading and one ear curve only.

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Original task 2 / answer and diagram

Task 2 / complete key

Draw a blind contour fruit study with a stem curve in a 10 cm by 15 cm box. Use one continuous line. Do not look at the paper. After finishing, write the number of breaks and one sentence about what your eye noticed.

Answer: A valid study shows a simplified fruit silhouette and one stem curve. Breaks may be 0–2. The sentence should mention a specific edge or shape noticed. Any fruit shape is valid if recognizable.

Reason: The task tests continuous line and observation. The stem curve is an interior branch. The reflection ties eye to hand.

Check: Count breaks; confirm stem curve is present; read the sentence for a specific observation.

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Original task 3 / answer and diagram

Task 3 / complete key

Draw a blind contour dancer study with one limb arc. Use a single continuous line. After drawing, score observation fidelity and expressive simplification. Then repeat the same motif once and compare scores.

Answer: Two valid studies show simplified body outline and one limb arc. Scores may differ. A higher second score often means better observation or slower pace. Mirrored orientation is valid.

Reason: Repetition reveals improvement. The rubric allows varied line weight and start points.

Check: Check both studies for one limb arc and continuous line; compare rubric scores and note the difference.

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Original task 4 / answer and diagram

Task 4 / complete key

Choose one motif from leaf, face, fruit, or dancer. Draw it blind contour in a study box you measure. Then use the rubric to score all four criteria. Finally, circle the lowest criterion and write one improvement sentence.

Answer: A valid response includes one study, four scores, a circled lowest criterion, and one specific improvement sentence. Any motif is valid. Scores must match the rubric definitions.

Reason: This exercise integrates drawing, self-assessment, and planning. The improvement sentence should be actionable.

Check: Verify scores match break counts and recognizability; confirm the sentence addresses the circled criterion.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity: 4 = 0 breaks, 3 = 1 break, 2 = 2 breaks, 1 = 3+ breaks.
- [ ] Observation fidelity: 4 = motif clearly recognizable, 3 = mostly recognizable, 2 = partly, 1 = not recognizable.
- [ ] Expressive simplification: 4 = strong rhythmic simplification, 3 = some, 2 = little, 1 = none or over-detailed.
- [ ] Convention compliance: 4 = followed all stated rules, 3 = one minor lapse, 2 = two lapses, 1 = major lapses.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: mirrored orientation, different start point, varied line weight, and varied letter style in face motifs are acceptable.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?