Animal Negative Space Drawing: Shade the Surround, Reveal the Form

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 simple standing animal silhouette has one enclosed gap between its front legs and one under its belly. The body is unshaded. Describe how to shade the surround and verify the result.

Answer: Shade the outer surround in two light passes, stopping at the contour. Shade the gap between the front legs and the space under the belly with the same pressure and direction. Leave the body unshaded. Step back and cover a short section of the contour; the animal should still read as a light shape against the darker surround. If it does not, add one more light pass to the surround rather than shading the body.