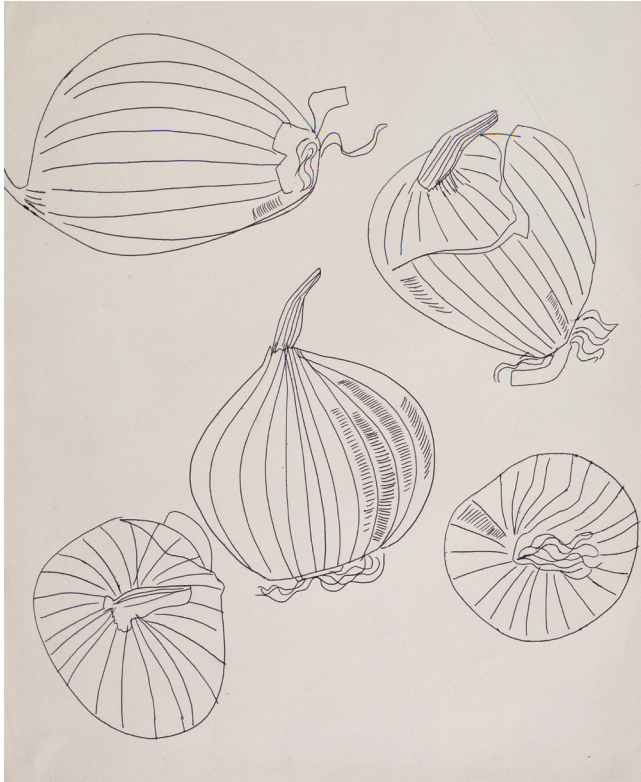


Art & Activities / Still Life & Observation Drawing Activity



Overview:

This drawing lesson outlines the basics of contour line drawing using Andy Warhol's artworks as examples. Students will create simple contour line drawings of onions, followed by longer observational drawings from simple still life arrangements.

Grades: K-12

Subjects: Art, Graphic Arts

Pennsylvania State Standards:

Arts and Humanities:

9.1.A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities

Career Awareness and Preparation:

13.1.8 A. Relate careers to individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes

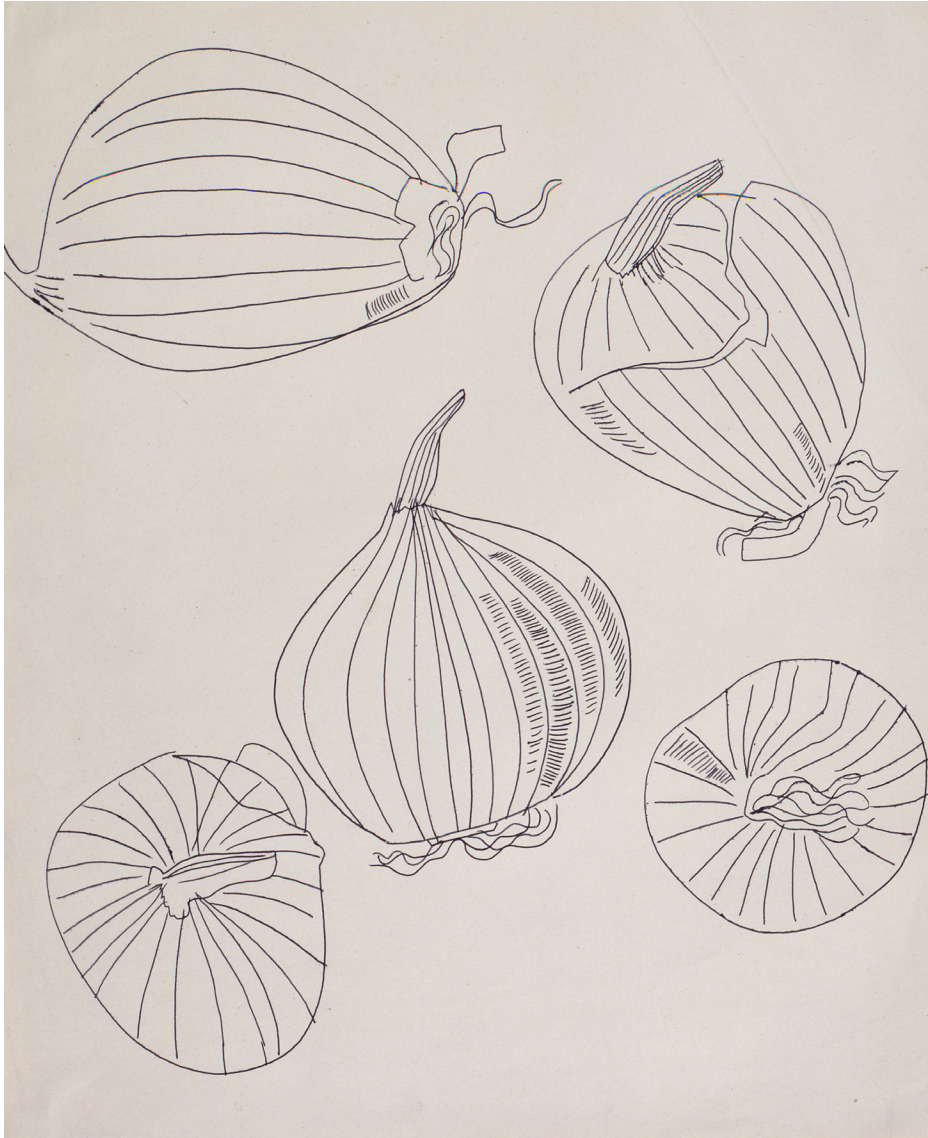
Objectives:

- Students will identify formal elements of drawing
- Students will apply contour line techniques
- Students will translate visual data into line drawings

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Art & Activities / Still Life & Observation Drawing Activity



Andy Warhol, Five Views of an Onion, 1950s
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About the Art:

Although Warhol is best known for his silkscreen prints, he was also an excellent draughtsman. Drawing was a constant part of his artistic practice. As a child he took classes at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and later won awards for drawings he had made in high school. At Carnegie Institute for Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University, which Warhol graduated from with a degree in pictorial design) Warhol's offbeat, nontraditional drawing style did not meet all his professors' academic standards, and he was forced to do extra work in this area over summer break.

In the 1950s Warhol's signature style for his commercial art career was the blotted line drawing technique. During the decade he also filled sketchbooks with freehand drawings, mostly done in ballpoint pen, of friends and still life objects. Several books of his drawings from this era were published including: *Wild Raspberries* and *Boy Book*.

In his Pop artwork, Warhol used mechanical drawing techniques and processes such as the opaque projector to draw out-lines of images either in preparation for paintings or as drawings in themselves. He also incorporated drawn lines in his later silkscreened images such as *Mao Wallpaper*, *Mick Jagger*, *Gems*, and his 1980s commercial work.

Art & Activities / Still Life & Observation Drawing Activity

Points of View:

"I was doing my [drawing] technique and then they told me I had to go to summer school, and if I didn't go to summer school I couldn't come back, so then I went to summer school and learned how to draw like they did."

Andy Warhol in *Success is a Job in New York: The Early Art and Business of Andy Warhol*, Donna M de Salvo, ed. Grey Art Gallery and Study Center: New York University and The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, 1989, p. 26.

"One Sunday . . . we went down to the flower market and bought some irises and came back and spent the afternoon drawing . . . He would just draw one line and then leave it, and when I would draw things, I was always erasing, chang-ing, and improving. And he never improved on anything. Rather than do that, he would draw a new one, which is some-thing I never thought of doing in those days."

Charles Lisanby, interviewed by Patrick Smith Nov. 11, 1978, *Andy Warhol Art and Films*, p. 369.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the lines Warhol used to draw his subjects.
2. How does he achieve volume without much use of shading?
3. Warhol did not use an eraser; he would just start a new drawing. Why do you think he did this?
4. If you had to draw without an eraser what might you do differently?

Art & Activities / Still Life & Observation Drawing Activity

Activity: Still Life, Observation Drawing

Materials

Still life objects: onions, other fruits or vegetables, flower arrangements
Paper
Ballpoint pen, litho crayon, or pencil

Project Procedure:

1. Explain what a contour line drawing is:

Contour lines - Lines that surround and define the edges of a subject, giving it shape and volume. These should not be confused with a form's outlines. (From artlex.com)

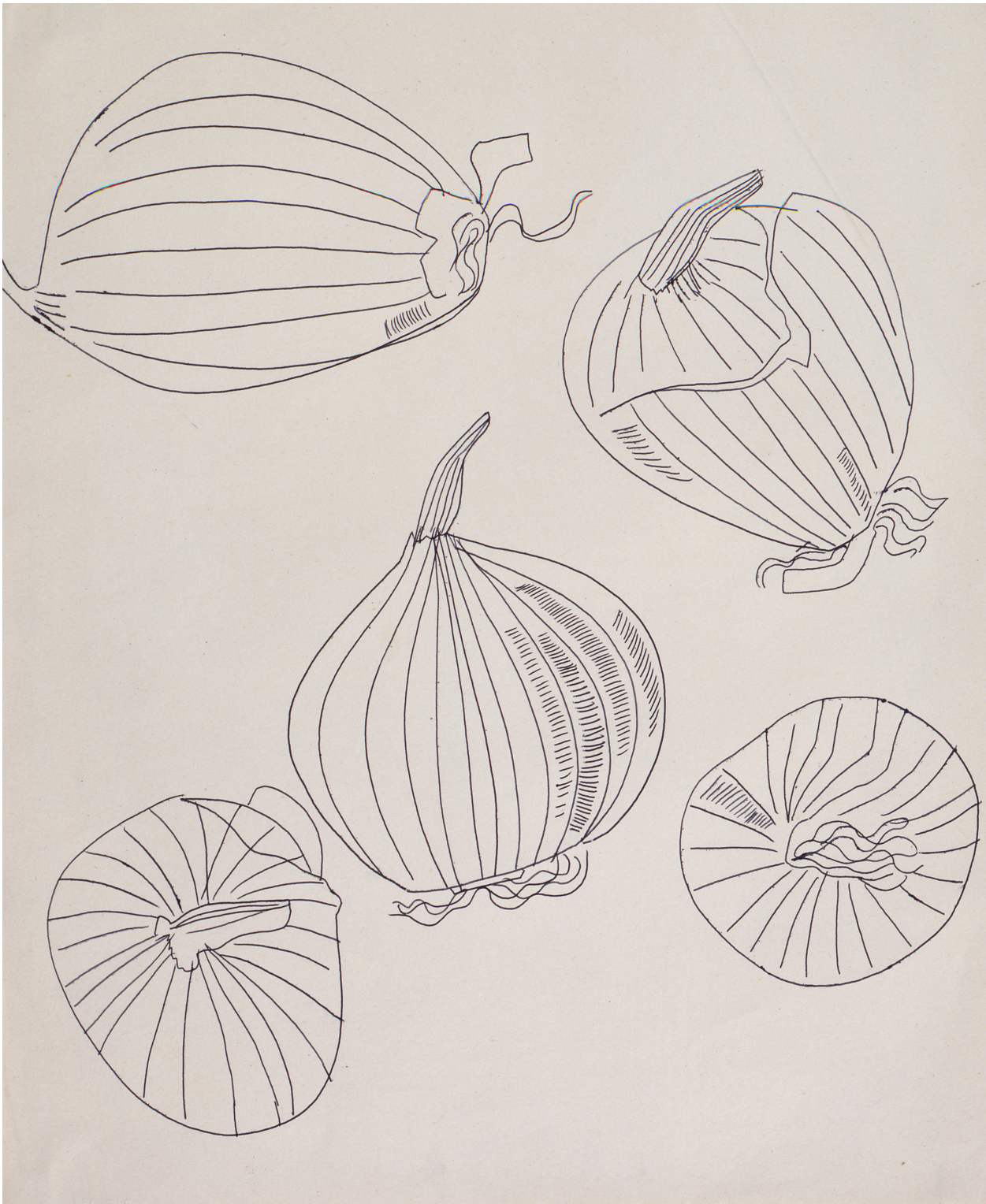
Contour drawing - Drawing in which contour lines are used to represent subject matter. A contour drawing has a three-dimensional quality, indicating the thickness as well as height and width of the forms it describes.

2. Making a contour drawing with a continuous line is a classic drawing exercise (sometimes modified as a "blind continuous-line contour"): with eyes fixed on the contours of the model or object, draw the contour very slowly with a steady, continuous line without lifting the drawing tool or looking at the paper. There are other variations on this method.
3. Practice creating simple contour line drawings of onions. The pattern on the skin of the onion helps students to see cross-contour lines, which help to give a shape volume.
4. Create longer observation drawings from simple still life set-ups. You may wish to include flowers, vases, jars, fruit, or simple objects.

Assessment and Wrap-up:

Students self assess their work and the work of their peers by using a rating scale from 1-5. 1 = unacceptable; 2 = needs work; 3 = mediocre; 4 = well done; 5 = outstanding. Students group the drawings according to each rating. As a class, discuss the criteria the students used to make their choices.





Andy Warhol, Five Views of an Onion, 1950s
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Andy Warhol (American, 1928-1987)

Still-Life: Flowers, 1950s

Blue ballpoint on Manila paper

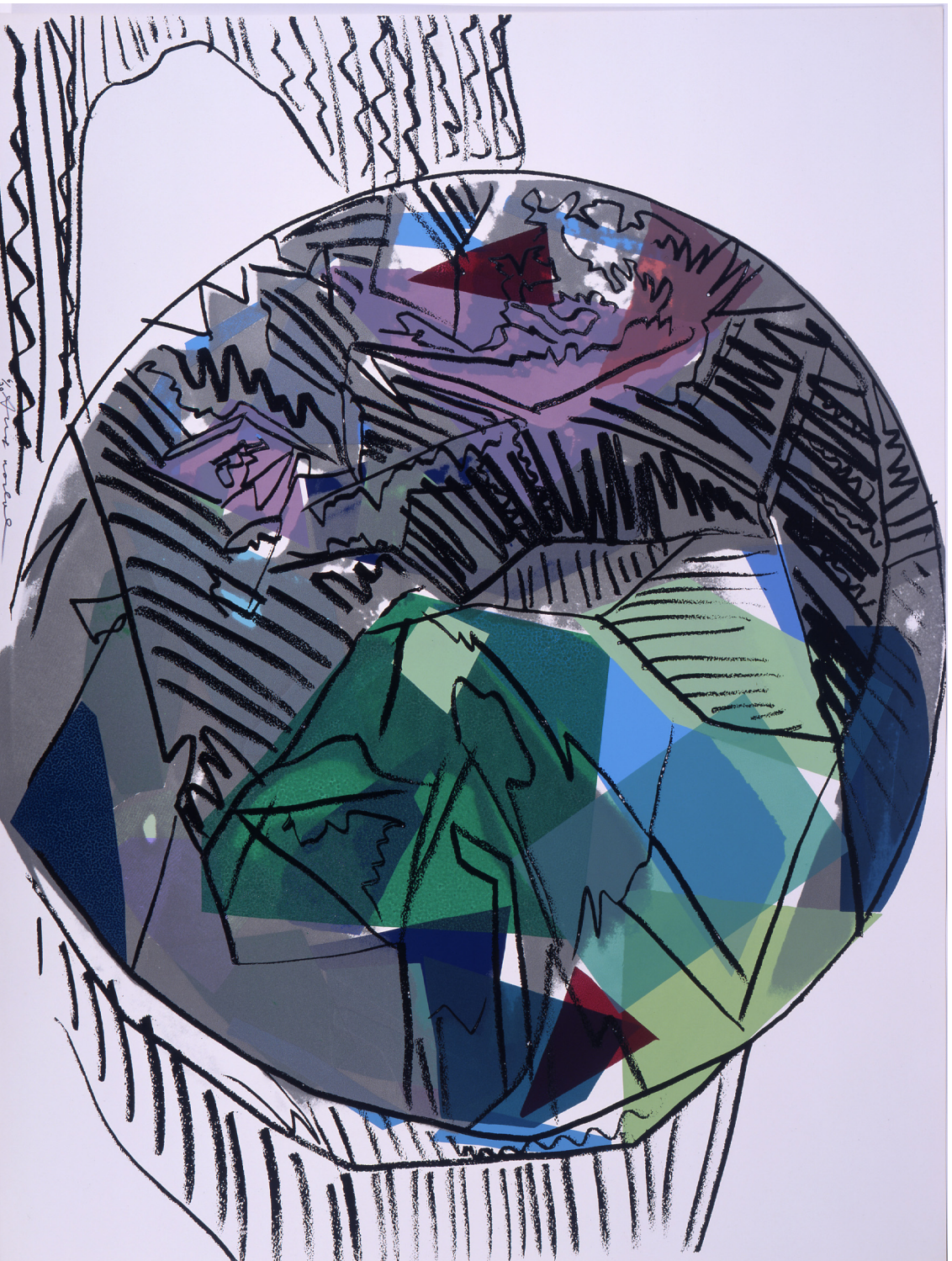
16 3/4 x 13 7/8 in. (42.5 x 35.2 cm.)

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Andy Warhol

Gems, 1978

screenprint on Strathmore Bristol Series 500 paper

30 x 40 in. (76.2 x 101.6 cm.)

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