

## Edward Burke - Drawing Class - Lesson 1

### Drawing Lesion # 1: Blind Contour Line Drawing

#### Guidelines

- Draw the subject **without looking at the drawing paper** - you must resist the temptation to "peek" at your paper, if you look once, you will not be able to continue without looking again and again. This type of drawing takes a great deal of concentration and focus. A good way to describe the blind contour drawing process is that you are **learning to see through your sense of touch**. If you imagine that the point of your pencil is on the edge of the subject you are drawing, the same position where your eyes are on the subject, then moving your eyes very slowly along the contours of the subject and allow your pencil on the paper to feel all of the details that your eyes are tracing.
- Use a continuous line - **do not take your pencil off the paper**.
- Proceed carefully. Concentrate, focus, and draw the object as if you are tracing or feeling your way along its contours.
- Keep the line "fluid" but **do not scribble**. Move your pencil in a slow and steady pace much like tracing.
- Follow both outside and inside contours. Inside contours are called "**cross contours**." They follow the form much like a string would do if it were wrapped around the object you are drawing. This is not an outline drawing; an outline drawing defines only two dimensions length and width. The blind contour drawing you are creating defines three dimensions length, width and depth. Cross contour line is what defines the third dimension (depth).
- Fill the page. Draw large don't be afraid if your drawing runs off the paper in any or all directions.
- Do not be concerned about how your drawing will "look." This is an important exercise in "seeing." You will be drawing the object(s) as you see them, not as you think you know them!
- Read carefully the criteria on which your work will be evaluated. Do not judge this drawing by the standards you usually use to assess your drawings. If you carefully follow the guidelines above, (believe it or not) you will find great satisfaction in the results!

### Studio Drawing Assignment 1

Blind contour line drawing of your hand following all the guidelines listed above.

**Media and Support:** 6B Wood or Woodless Graphite Pencil, 18 x 24 multipurpose drawing paper.

## Home Drawing Assignment 1

After the in-class exercises you will be familiar with the technique of blind and contour line drawing and ready for this home assignment.

**Sketchbook** - Complete **5 blind contour** line drawings in your sketchbook. Choose a variety of subjects with challenging contours. Suggestions: sleeping pets, your hands, portraits, flowers, the inside of your closet, or the stuff under your kitchen sink!

**Media and Support:** Wood or Woodless Graphite Pencil, 9 x 12 Sketch pad.

**Note:** The sketchbook assignment is an important step toward mastering blind contour line drawing. Complete it before you begin work on the assignment itself.

**Drawing** Complete **1 blind contoured line drawing** observing some organic object, lettuce leaf(s), flower(s), etc. The subject should have enough details that cross contours will be evident.

**Media and Support:** 6B Wood or Woodless Graphite Pencil, 18 x 24 multipurpose drawing paper.

Your home assignments are due at the next class for evaluation and critique.

**Reading Assignment:** Chapter 2, pages 10 – 15 and Chapter 3 pages 16 – 19. Be prepared to discuss the reading in class.

### Skill Development

Eye-hand coordination, discipline, attention/concentration, honesty, suspension of judgment or preconceptions, (drawing exactly what you see),