



Surrealist Hand-Scapes

Surrealism, a 20th century movement, sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind. Surrealists were influenced by Sigmund Freud, an Austrian psychoanalyst, who had theories about human's struggle between the unconscious and conscious mind. With this project you will combine observational skills with imaginative ideas to create your very own surrealist creation.

Learning objectives

- Learn more about Surrealism and demonstrate the concept in their artwork. This can be done through incorporation of juxtaposition, distortion, transformation, etc.
- Practice drawing from observation. Noticing light, shadows, and general hand anatomy highlights observation skills.
- Recognize what feelings, moods, and ideas their Surrealist pieces evoke.

Materials needed

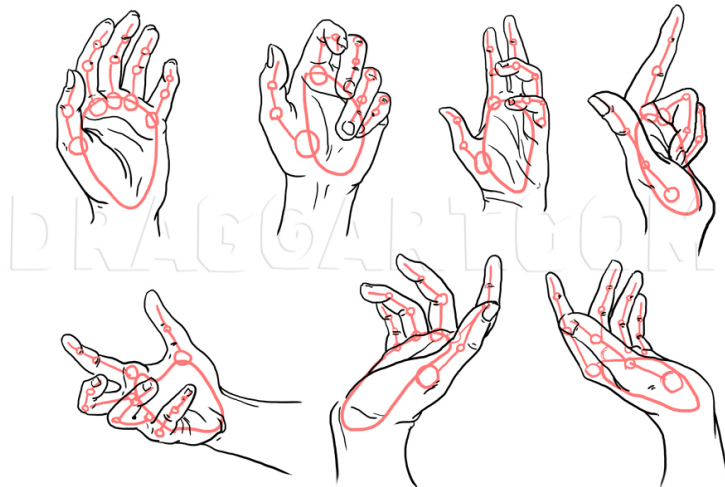
- Paper
- Pencil
- Glue
- Scissors
- Old magazines and/or newspapers
- Phone (something to take a picture with)

Step 1: Decide on a hand pose to draw.

The basis of your creation will be a drawing of your hand. Play around with different poses and think about how you can use that pose to build off of for your hand-scape. Where you place the hand on the paper can also play a role of how your drawing is interpreted.

Step 2: Draw the pose.

Take a picture of your hand and use that as a reference when drawing. To help with proportions, sketch the overall shape and mark the joint areas with circles. Then, refine the shape and include details.



NeekoNoir. "How to Draw Hands." DragoArt, 5 Mar. 2018.

Step 3: Add shading to your hand drawing.

Tilt your pencil at a 45 degree angle and shade in small areas at a time. Start off lightly with minimal pressure, then build up to darker shades when necessary. Note the shadows and lightest part of your hand and use those shades as references while shading.

Step 4: Look through magazines, newspapers, and the internet for inspiration.

Cut out images that you think will help you build your creative piece. Experiment with pieces that don't necessarily go together and ones that reflect juxtaposition, placing two things side by side to compare, contrast or to create an interesting effect.

Step 5: Experiment with different images and placement on the paper.

Initially, try and place images in a way that might tell a story. Then, rearrange the pieces randomly, even if they don't seem to "make sense" there. By shifting things around on and off of the page, you can find an idea of what you want to present. Remember, the more unconventional and "dream-like" the artwork is, the more surrealist it is. Connect to your unconscious mind create a scenery that showcases your imagination.

Step 6: Glue down your final design and observe your finished piece.

If a stranger were to look at your project, what might they perceive about the artist (you)? How does your piece reflect you or your interest? If possible, take a look at others' pieces. What do you see? What might that person be thinking or feeling? [Check out works of Surrealist artist Salvador Dali and apply these questions.](#)

Want to keep going?

- Use markers, colored pencils, etc to add color to the background.
- Incorporate items from home to glue onto your artwork. (buttons, cloth, bottle caps, etc).
- Include a photo of yourself in the collage.

When you're done with your project, take a picture and share it with us too! You can tag us on social media (@designmuseumchi on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) or email us at info@designchicago.org. We're looking forward to seeing your work!