

Zara's Guide to Sketching: Capturing the World

Grab your graphite, sharpen your focus, and let's sketch the world around us!

- A contour line sketch focuses on the outer edges and visible interior details of an object to define its shape.
- Tonal shading is achieved by pressing harder with your pencil for dark areas and using a light, feather-like touch for highlights.
- Cross-hatching involves drawing overlapping sets of parallel lines to create depth, shadow, and texture on a surface.
- Proportion is the relationship between the sizes of different parts of your subject; checking these ensures your drawing looks realistic.
- Composition refers to how you arrange your subjects on the page, using the rule of thirds to create visual balance.

Did you know? Did you know? Before famous artists paint a masterpiece, they often create a series of 'thumbnails'—tiny, quick sketches used to plan the composition and light of their final work. It is the best way to test an idea without committing to the canvas!

Key vocabulary: cross-hatching · stippling · gradient · perspective · contour · composition · proportion