



A DAY IN THE ARTS

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May 8, 2009 ADA0055 www adayinthearts.com

EASY STEPS FOR DRAWING HANDS

By Annette Labedzki

Drawing hands may initially seem difficult to the most of us. The unique shapes of fingers, nails, and palms add complexity to the structure of the hand. While drawing hands, it is necessary to draw the shapes of all its elements in correct position and proportion. When observed, you may find hands with different sizes and shapes such as, short, long, fat, and slender. Moreover, we can find variety in the length of middle and the little fingers, and the size of joints, to mention some.

The best way to draw anything is to reduce hypothetically its structure to basic geometrical shapes. Similarly, imagine the shape of hand to be a complex of circles and ovals. Once your eye is trained to visualize hands in the dimensions of ovals and circles,

overlapping each other, the observations can be put up on paper easily. This is the simplest method for drawing hands.

METHOD 1: GEOMETRICAL SHAPES

- **Basic Framework.** Imagine your hand enclosed in a cotton glove, and sketch the basic shape of palm and fingers. In addition, draw imaginary lines to illustrate the folds of hands and its joints. Remember to keep the pencil strokes as light as possible.

- **Fingers and Thumb.** Now, observe the gap between the fingers and their placement in the respect of the thumb. Draw as per your observation, and check if the position of the fingers you have drawn is right.

- **Detailing.** After you have drawn the basic structure of complete hand, it is time to detail it now. For this, draw all the curves along the outline of hand, especially near thumb, the elevations



Hand study by Leonardo Da Vinci

WORD OF THE DAY CHARLES BARGUE

Charles Bague is mostly remembered for his *Cours de dessin* ("*Charles Bague, Drawing Course*"), one of the most influential classical drawing courses conceived in collaboration with Jean-Léon Gérôme. The course, published between 1866 and 1871 and composed of 197 lithographs printed as individual sheets, was to guide students from plaster casts to the study of great master drawings and finally to drawing from the living model. Among the artists whose work is based on the study of Bague's platework, is Vincent van Gogh who copied the complete set in 1880/1881, and (at least a part of it) again in 1890.

<http://tinyurl.com/o29ny5>

"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way--things I had no words for." - Georgia O'Keeffe

ART AEROBICS

Practice your drawing skills

Find an old family photo of a living relative. Do a charcoal sketch of it and mail it to the person in the photo. No time limit. 📧

due to folding. Next, concentrate on the creases of your Hand and sketch them. carefully draw the curves near the joints of fingers and palm.

- **Shade.** Observe the light and shadows on the hand surface and accordingly shade the hand you have drawn. This will give a more realistic look to the hand you have sketched. If the drawn hand has a dorsal view, then do remember to shade it light, while drawing the veins



Drawings by Charles Bargue

and bones, actually visible on that surface of hand.

METHOD 2: HAND PRINTS

- **Hand Prints.** Take an imprint of hands dipped in color and pressed on paper.

- **Geometrical Figures.** Now, take a tracing paper and mark the shapes of fingers in the terms of oblongs and circles, while that of palms as circles.

- **Hand Framework.** Now, trace the drawn geometrical figures on a fresh sheet of paper. You will get the oblongs and circles, arranged in the format of a hand.

- **Shapes and Joints.** Develop the rounded shapes of fingers and palms. Look at your finger. It is divided into three sections between knuckles and tip. Now observe the joints of the hand along with the thickness and the distance between the joints. It has to be shorter on the inner side.

- **Drawing Fingernails.** Keep your pencil strokes light to draw nails, indicating their white portion. Different hands have different shape of nails. Some have rounded or flat squared tips, some extend past the finger, some are short, some nails are tiny, while some are long.



- **Cuticles.** While drawing a close up of the hand, make sure to draw cuticles.

- **Drawing the Thumb.** A thumb has a very different shape. It has two joints, while the fingers have three. Notice that the thumb curves outwards from the hand. The thumb is rounder in shape than fingers and it has a fleshy fat shape at its base. ➤

*Annette Labedzki received her BFA at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver, B.C. Canada. She has more than 25 years experience. She is the founder and developer of an online art gallery featuring original art from all over the world. It is a great site for art collectors to buy original art. It is also a venue for artists to display and sell their art. Artists can join for free and their image upload is unlimited. Please visit the website at <http://www.labedzki-art.com>
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