Objectives: To define what contour drawing is, and to create contour drawings of simple objects.
A line is an identifiable path of a point moving in space. It can vary in width, direction and length.
What is a Contour Line Drawing?
Contour is...
Contour is a slow, intense inspection of parts. A contour line is a single, clean, incisive line, which defines edges. It is, however, unlike outline, which only states the outside edge of an object defining difference between positive and negative space.

A contour line is more descriptive; it can define an interior complexity of planes and shape.
Andy Warhol

Five Views of an Onion, 1950s
ballpoint on Manila paper
16 3/4 x 13 7/8 in.
(42.5 x 35.2 cm)
Alexander Calder

Acrobat, 1929
Wire and wood
28 3/4" x 15 3/4" x 4 1/4"

Circus Scene, 1929
Wire, wood, and paint
50" x 46 3/4" x 18 1/8"

Elephant, c. 1928
Wire and wood
- Draw slowly and deliberately, not sketchy
- Contour lines drawings are made up of only lines, no shading
- For interest, modify how thick or thin your lines are: Thicker for major lines, Thinner for highlights, or soft implied edges.
- Great practice to improve seeing and drawing skills
3 Types of Contour

- Blind contour is so named because you **do not look at the paper** as you draw. You look only at the subject.

- You draw slowly, centering your vision on each section of the subject to be drawn, studying one section at a time.

- The drawing is formed with a single contour line specific to the contour of the form and to the surface of the subject. This technique is a test to challenge the unity of the hand and eye.
2. Continuous

- In this type of line study, the pencil will never leave the page. The artist's eye may go back and forth between object and drawing.

- The continuous line drawing is unbroken from beginning to end.

- The drawing utensil stays in uninterrupted contact with the face of the paper during the entire length of the drawing.

3 Types of Contour
3 Types of Contour

3. Modified Contour

• Look at object more than you look at paper.
• Can lift pencil.
• Edits can be made.
Advanced Contour

- You can give contour drawings personality by using different line qualities (bold, thin, curved, jagged). You do this by changing the angle of your pencil or paintbrush.

Why do we practice contour drawings?
Practice blind and continuous line contour.

TIPS:
- Keep eyes on subject
- Imagine your drawing tool is in actual contact with subject
- Keep eyes and hands coordinated. Do not let your eyes move more quickly than your hand
- Draw only where there is an actual structural plane shift, or where there is a change in value, texture, or color
- Draw only existent planes. Do not make meaningless lines
- Do not erase for correction
- Remember contour line is a single, incisive line
- Vary weight of the line to relay information about space and weight to offer contrast.
Elmer's Glue-All
Multi-Purpose Glue

Bonds Strong
For All Your Needs
Safe, Non-Toxic

4 FL OZ (118 mL)