



## “Drawing Hands”

*Lesson plan designed for DVI by  
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*Boy's Hands, Albrecht Durer*

### SUMMARY

Most beginning artists (and some seasoned artists) know how challenging drawing hands can be. Of course, like anything else it gets easier with practice. The truth of the matter is that hands are complicated forms with many very specific angles arranged in a beautiful and functional way. Continuing in the Atelier fashion we can approach the hand in the same way we

approach drawing any form, i.e. starting with the notional space, envelope, dividing space into progressively smaller and smaller shapes using follow through lines that eventually become a contour. This process comes with intense observation and checking and rechecking and rechecking angles...and lots of erasing and revising.

But oh my, the finished product can be so lovely that it makes it all worthwhile.

This lesson on practicing drawing hands will break down the process of drawing hands into achievable steps that will result in a realistic contour drawing.

### OBJECTIVES

- explore the various steps that a drawing goes through to assure a realistic image
- experiment with drawing using: a notional space *box*, an envelope, follow through lines, observation and revision, and lastly a contour drawing
- drawing from a Bargue plate, a *silly* hand and from a live model's hands

STANDARDS

NATIONAL ART STANDARDS:

VA: Cr2.2.3a  
 VA: Cr2.2.4a  
 VA: Cr2.2.5a  
 VA: Cr2.2.6a  
 VA: Cr2.2.7a  
 VA: Cr2.2.8a

VA:Re.7.1.3a  
 VA:Re.7.1.4a  
 VA:Re.7.1.5a  
 VA:Re.7.1.6a  
 VA:Re.7.1.7a  
 VA:Re.7.1.8a

ACTIVITY 1:

BARGUE PLATE 16 DRAWING

The first activity uses a copy of the Bargue plate 1, 16 as the subject. Make one copy per student of the detail of Bargue plate 1, 16 labeled A1 in the attached handouts.

The students will watch the attached Keynote presentation called “Drawing Hands”. This presentation shows the steps to follow to draw a copy of the Bargue plate (notional space, envelope, follow through lines, revisions, contour).

Make two copies of each of the other A1 handouts of the master drawings of hands. Group students and rotate the examples of masters drawings from group to group. Ask groups to discuss how they think the artists drew the hands...specifically deciding on a step by step process. Share out ideas of process theories.

Once the students have seen the Keynote presentation and have looked at and discussed the master’s drawings of hands, review the Keynote again, stopping at the first step which is the notional space *box*. Distribute a copy of the Bargue plate detail, an 8 1/2 X 11” piece of drawing paper, drawing pencil and eraser to each student. If you do not have access to projecting the Keynote, then you can demonstrate the steps by making an 11 X 17” copy of the detail and posting it somewhere visible to all students.

The attached rubric covers each step of the drawing. You can save it for the end of the drawing, or use it intermittently, checking each step of the process as you go. If you make a copy and distribute the rubric along with the drawing materials, the student can use the rubric for self analysis and encouragement for success on each step (as the steps start easier and become more difficult.) The rubric can be paper clipped to the drawing and filled out throughout the process by you or the student, or both.

Continue through the steps of the drawing process, mingling and offering critique and encouragement to support what is not an easy process.

Note: Depending on your student’s grade level, skill level, persistence and physical capabilities, students that are reaching a high point of frustration can actually put the drawing paper over the top of the Bargue copy and put it up to a window and draw the angled lines with your direction. If it was me, I would work individually with a student that needs this for success for reasons you may know because you know your students.

## MATERIALS:

- Keynote entitled, Drawing Hands
- copies of A1 master’s hand drawings to rotate throughout classroom groups
- copies of A1 Bargue plate 1, 16 detail, one per student
- drawing paper
- drawing pencils
- erasers
- (optional) 11 X 17” copy of Bargue plate detail for demonstration

## ACTIVITY 2:

### SILLY HAND DRAWING

As art teachers we collect all kinds of strange and interesting things. For this project you may need to purchase some things or you may have some of the “props” need to direct the Silly Hands Drawing.

See the attached handout labeled A2 for images of silly hands that you can use as still life objects to *lighten up* the difficult process of drawing hands. The idea here is that drawing any hand follows the same steps (notional space, envelope, follow through lines, revisions, contour). These are the steps to drawing anything!



Drawing either of these objects follows the same process.

Depending on how many props you have and what kind of classroom set up you have, you can group students around the props and draw. The attached rubric is

available for this process in whatever way you see fit for your students.

## MATERIALS:

- a variety of silly hands to use for still life
- if needed, Keynote presentation entitled, Drawing Hands
- drawing paper
- drawing pencils
- erasers
- (optional) copies of attached rubric

## ACTIVITY 3:

### STUDENT HAND DRAWINGS

This last drawing is from life as pairs of students will pose for one another keeping hands very still for careful observation and drawing.

If needed, review the steps of the drawing process using the Keynote presentation, Drawing Hands before starting.

Again, depending on your classroom set up, its best to pair students in twos and start out by each student deciding on how they would like their partner to pose her/his hands. If students have cell phones, they can take a picture of the positioned hands in case their partner is absent.

Then each partnership decides how they will structure their drawing time, whether they alternate class times or split them between drawing and modeling. The goal here is for them to get equal time, although if one is faster at drawing, they may want to adjust to that variable too. Distribute materials and draw. Mingle and guide as needed and again, the attached rubric can be used in a teacher, student partner or student self assessment tool.

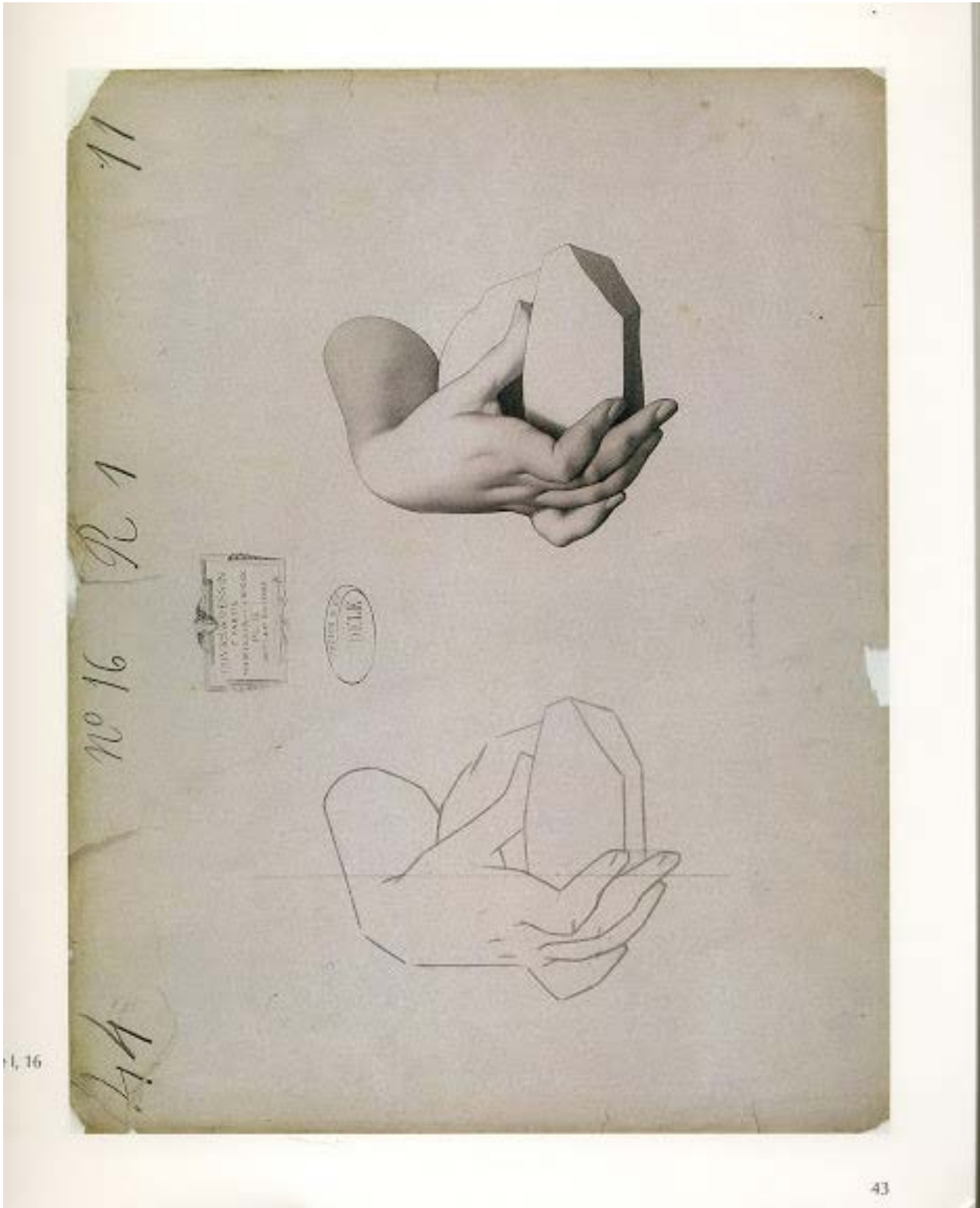
## MATERIALS:

- drawing paper
- drawing pencils
- erasers

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## DRAWING HANDS RUBRIC

OBJECTIVES	CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experiment with drawing using: notional space <i>box</i></li> </ul>	Student's work shows evidence of parallel horizontal and vertical sides of a notional "box" that touches the outermost point of the object on all four sides.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experiment with drawing using: envelope</li> </ul>	Student's envelope drawing is made of a minimal amount (approximately 3-6 lines) accurately angled to "envelope" the object.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experiment with drawing using: follow through lines</li> </ul>	Follow through lines are drawn at accurate angles and go from one end of the drawing to the other (passing through the notional space and envelope).					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experiment with drawing using: observation and revision</li> </ul>	Student's drawing shows evidence of revisions, in the way of erasing and re-drawing to indicate observation and corrections. This may be observed visually as teacher-mingles with students during the drawing process.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experiment with drawing using: a contour drawing</li> </ul>	The resulting drawing resembles the object (hand) with accurate angles that with revisions and refinement have become curves that represent the edges of the hand.					



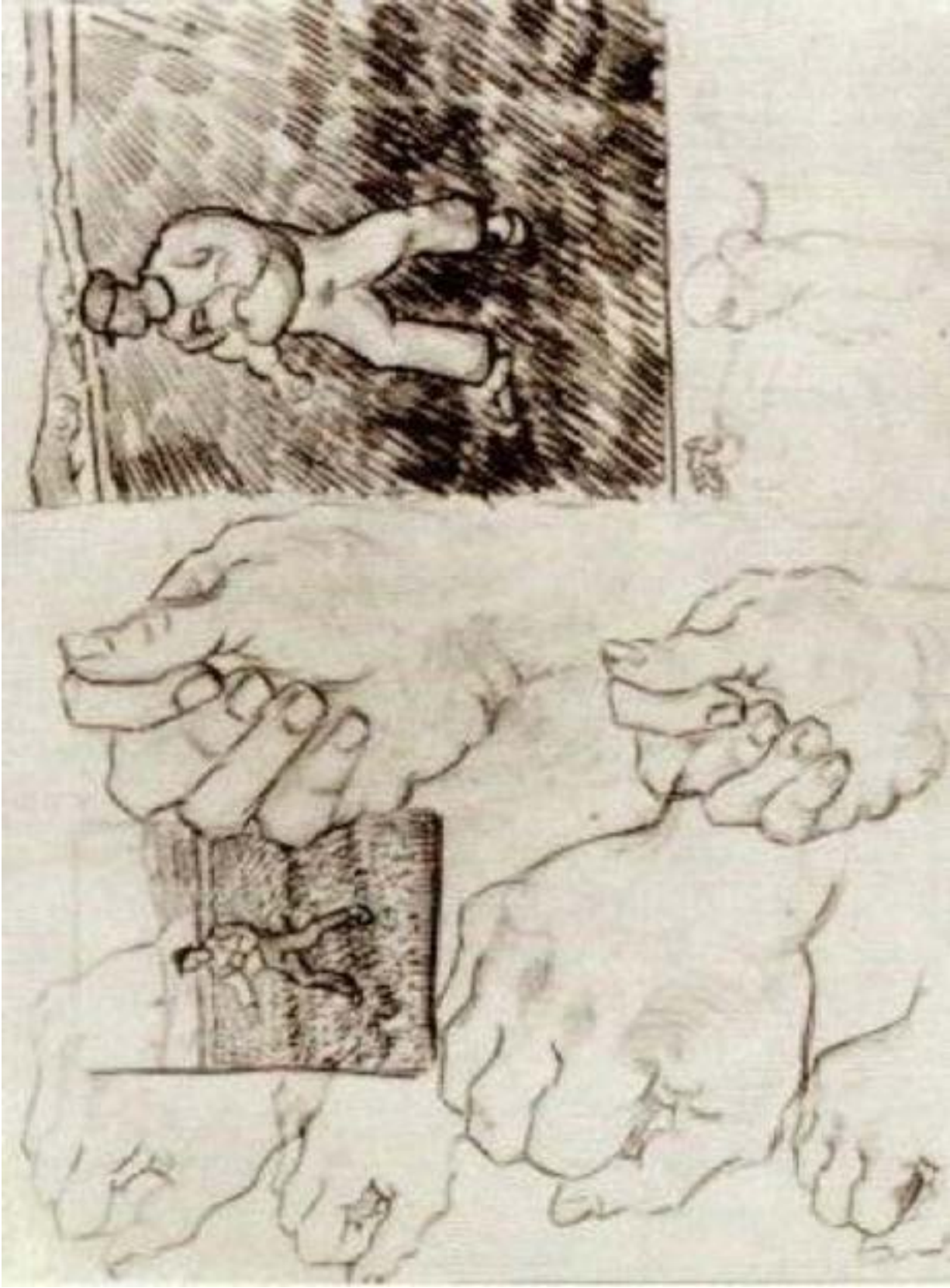
Bargue Plate 1, 16



Bargue Plate 1, 16 (detail)



*Boy's Hands*, Albrecht Durer



*Study of Hands and Sower, Vincent van Gogh*





*Study of Heads and Hands*, Peter Paul Rubens



Three Studies for Adam's Arms, Albrecht Durer



*Study of Hands, Vincent van Gogh*

FUN STILL LIFE HANDS TO PRACTICE WITH:



Halloween prop



Hulk Smash Hands



Halloween prop



Blick Male Hands



Blick Human Hand Stand



Dr. Manhattan hands



Cartoon Hands