

## REDUCTIVE VALUE DRAWING

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**Materials: Strathmore Drawing Paper, Soft and Medium Vine Charcoal, Charcoal Pencils- Hard and Medium, Kneaded Eraser, Staedtler Hard White Eraser, Measuring Stick, Viva Brand Paper Towels, Mahl Stick**



Begin by using the side of your soft vine charcoal or charcoal powder, to tone your drawing paper to an approximate middle value.



Using your medium vine charcoal, block in the overall mass shape of your subject or subjects, if you are drawing multiple objects.



Next, begin to block in the shapes that make up the division of light and shadow. Remember not to draw too dark in the beginning. You need to be able to easily make corrections.



Solidify your bulk shapes with straight rectilinear lines.

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Mass in the shadow with a general value slightly below the value of the toned paper.



Using a paper towel or your fingers, (make sure you have clean hands), even out the tone of the shadow.



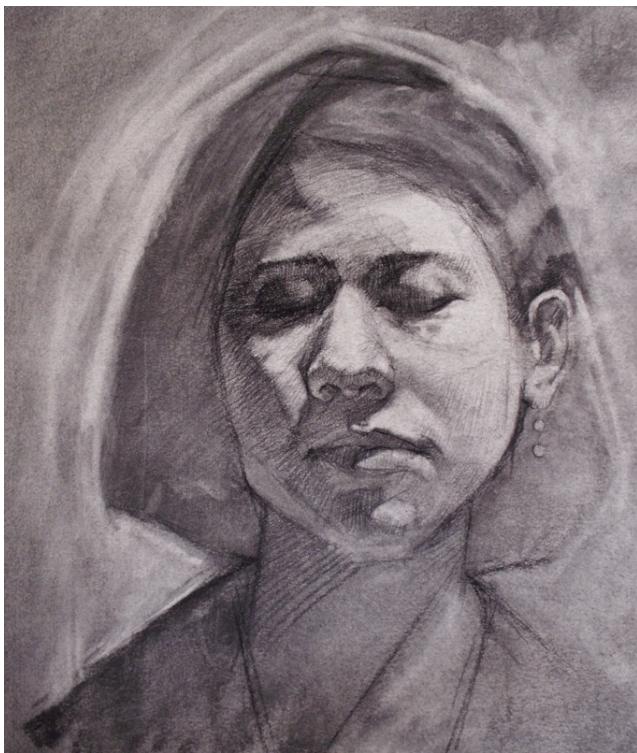
Using your kneaded eraser, erase out the mass areas that are lighter than the middle tone of your paper. Do not erase out the reflecting lights from the shadows. The value of the even tone that was created in the previous stage will serve as your lightest light in the shadow. Make sure that you give clarity to the division of light mass and shadow mass.



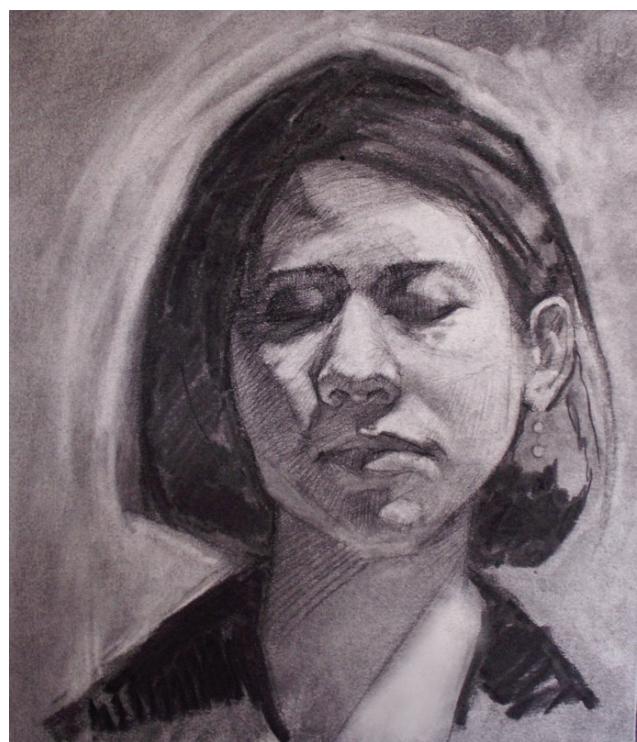
Once you have clearly separated the light and shadow, assess where the darkest darks and lightest lights are and use them as a reference to assess other values. Remember that just because something is dark, it does not mean it is necessarily black. Use a sharpened Hard and Medium Charcoal pencil to begin to develop the half tones, core shadows and darkest darks.

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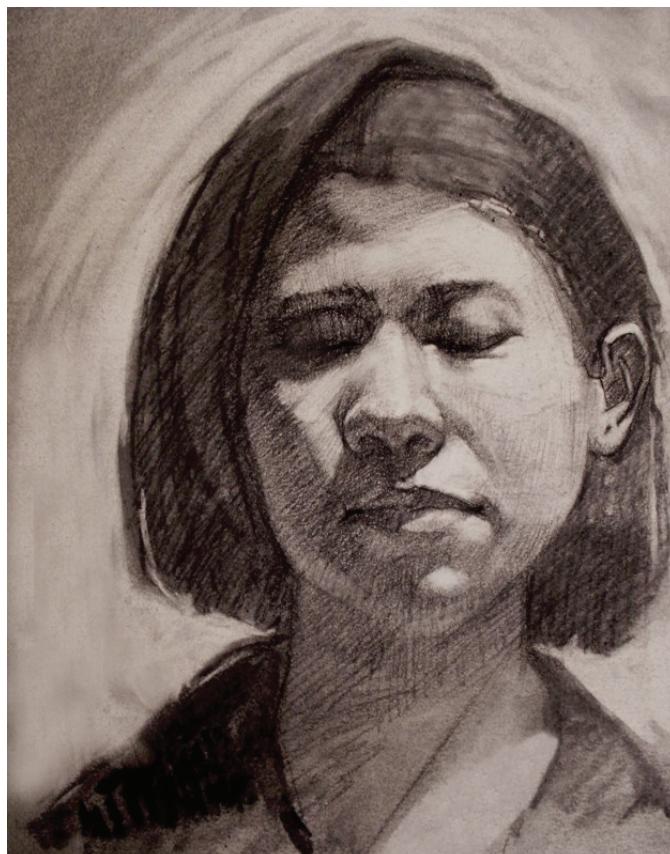
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Using your charcoal pencils, continue to refine the value relationships and edge relationships. Remember to vary the pressure you give to your pencil when drawing to help in varying and gradating edges.



When necessary use your medium vine charcoal to bring down and dark values. Using your pencils for the darkest values can present problems when making adjustments. Mass dark values made with vine charcoal are easier to adjust than mass dark values made with a pencil.



Make small, minor refinements toward the end of your drawing with your hard charcoal pencil.

To prevent your drawing from smudging, rest your hand on your mahl stick when drawing. Lay a piece of tracing paper or glassine over your drawing when you are storing it in between drawing sessions.