

Drawing Fundamentals: Seeing and Simplifying the World Around You

Ruby Red Workshop
Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
6-week session, October 15 – November 19, 2026
Educator: Behnaz Ahmadian, behnazahmadianart@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the art of seeing and drawing in this 6-week hands-on observational drawing class. They will learn how to break down everyday objects into shapes to simplify the form, then add details to bring sketches to life. Using a range of graphite pencils, students will discover how to create depth and dimension through value, shading, and texture. By the end of the class, students will gain a stronger understanding of form, light, shadow and composition, and build confidence in their drawing skills.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$240 / Member: \$255 / Student: \$255 / Non-Member: \$300

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$20-40.*

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a make-up day will be scheduled on a later THURSDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email Access@DenverArtMuseum.org at least ten

(10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials cost is \$20-40. Additional materials will be supplied.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before picking up prior to the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
9" x 12" sketch book	1	Top Spiral Bound 9"x12" Sketch Book Or Up to you!
Graphite drawing pencils	1 set	Steadtler Art Drawing Pencils-Set of 12
Hi-polymer eraser	1-2	Pentel Hi-Polymer Block Eraser
Kneaded eraser	1-2	Faber-Castell Kneabable Eraser
Blending stump	1 pack	Blending Stumps-Set of 12

What to Expect:

Students can expect a hands-on, supportive drawing experience. Each class will begin with short demonstrations and warm-up exercises focused on observational skills, graphite pencils, and understanding value. Students will practice breaking subjects into simple shapes to simplify what they see, then gradually add details, shading, and texture.

The class focuses on guided exercises and small studies rather than one finished artwork, allowing students to build skills and confidence without pressure. The

class will also visit the galleries as a group to draw from selected works in the DAM collections and study how artists use line, value, and form.

No prior drawing experience is required. The class is open to beginners and those looking to strengthen their foundational drawing skills in a relaxed, encouraging environment.

Timeline:

Week 1 – Materials & Seeing in Shapes

Introduction to drawing pencils and supplies, and how to use them effectively. Learn how to observe and break a single object from a reference photo into simple shapes first, then gradually add details.

Week 2 – Multiple Objects & Composition

Practice breaking down two to three objects into simple shapes and drawing them from a reference photo. Focus on basic composition and how objects relate to each other in space.

Week 3 – Value, Shading & Blending

Learn how to shade and blend using graphite pencils and blending tools. Explore value ranges, light and shadow, and how value creates form and depth.

Week 4 – Still Life from Observation

Learn how to set up a strong still life with good composition and draw from real objects. Apply shape, value, and observational techniques learned so far.

Week 5 – Independent Drawing (Start)

Begin an independent drawing based on a still life or chosen subject. Students will work at their own pace with one-on-one guidance from the instructor.

Week 6 - Independent Drawing (Finish)

Continue and complete the independent drawing. Focus on refining details, values, and composition, with individual feedback and support from the instructor.

Educator:

Behnaz Ahmadian is a self-taught artist, art instructor, and interior designer based in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. She works in acrylic, mixed media, and collage, and is known for her love of color, pattern, and layered surfaces. Alongside her colorful work, drawing plays an essential role in her practice. She creates graphite drawings and pet portraits, finding the simplicity and focus of drawing both grounding and rewarding. Behnaz teaches a variety of art classes and draws inspiration from nature and everyday observation.

WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. Students can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

Cleanup:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org.

QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org or Sarah Rockett at srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at info@denverartmuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!