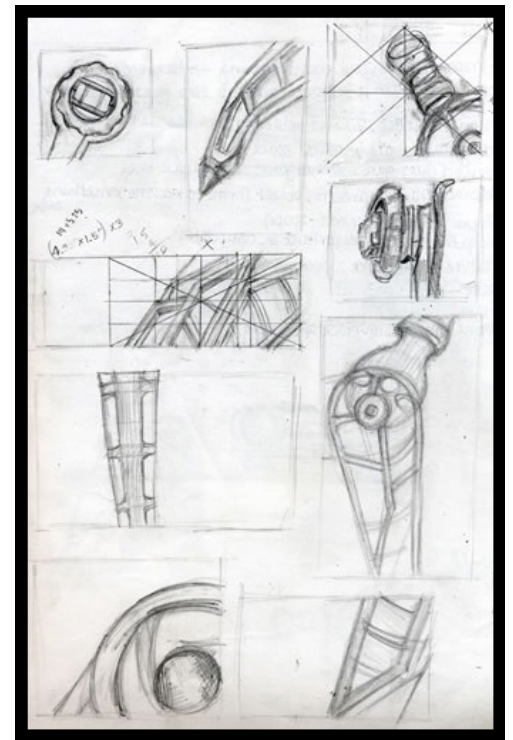
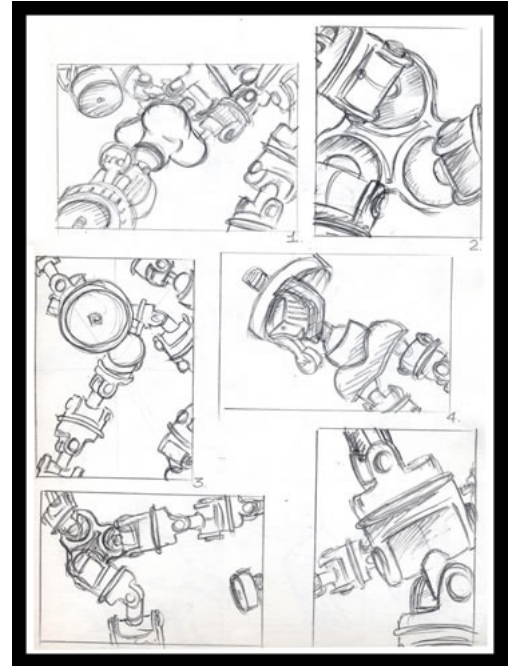


Thumbnail Sketch and Composition Exercise

The purpose of the thumbnail sketch is to provide a economic and efficient means to develop concepts and compositional options in visual shorthand. Thumbnail sketches are not meant to be comprehensive in nature and should not take more than a few minutes each. For this exercise, students will explore compositional possibilities of a single observed subject by creating a minimum of twelve thumbnail sketches utilizing a rectangular format.

- The formats of the sketches may vary (horizontal, vertical, square), but the sizes shouldn't exceed more than four to five inches and several sketches should fit on a single sketchbook page.
- To avoid emphasis on object renderings (I'm not concerned with details or proportional accuracies in these drawings) first draw the rectangular containment and then consider the interest in the compositional crops of the object. Each composition should have clearly defined borders, so please provide space between sketches and do not utilize the edge of the page for borders.
- Thumbnail sketches may be created in any media, but HB-B pencils are recommended.
- Rulers are not required for creating borders for thumbnail sketches.
- Sketches need not include the objects in their entirety and should focus on compositional balance to create interest in both the figure and ground space.
- Try to avoid centering the object in the composition and avoid uncomfortable crops.
- Students may also want to explore variations of scale and viewer's perspective within the compositions for diversity.
- Each thumbnail sketch should be completed in roughly 5-10 minutes.



Execution of Final Technical Rendering

From the twelve thumbnail sketches, two will be selected for the rendering of a larger technical drawing.

To transpose the thumbnail sketch, begin by creating diagonals on the original sketch that will allow for the creation of a proportional grid. The diagonals will provide accurate placement of the horizontal and vertical lines of the grid. For more detailed drawings, the proportional grid may be subdivided further to create additional grid blocks.

The final composition should be created on a separate sheet of sketchbook paper. Measure the original thumbnail sketch and double or triple the size to create a ruled border for the larger drawing. The proportional grid should then be drawn LIGHTLY on the large drawing to ensure ease of erasure. The drawing can then be transposed utilizing the grid for reference. Final drawings should be exact transpositions and need not include additional details or value application. The drawings should feature clean and consistent line quality and may be inked out. No grid lines should be visible on the final drawings.

The two final drawings and thumbnail sketches will be posted on the blog with these categories selected: Your name > Thumbnail Sketch Exercise

