

## Today's challenge from Sam Hale

### Dirty Heavy Drawings



In this task we are going to attempt to make drawings that have a sense of weight and volume and drama. We are going to use small objects as our subject matter, but I'd like you to think about how this would work if we were drawing giant boulders in a landscape?

#### **You will need:**

- Charcoal or a soft graphite pencil.
- A white candle.
- Soft B pencils.
- Watercolours or you could try strong black tea / coffee or soya sauce.
- A black permanent marker pen.
- Some large paper to draw on.
- A few large potatoes and / or a selection of pebbles.

#### **Let's get started:**

- Begin by drawing contour lines on your potatoes and pebbles, using a permanent pen to show their form.
- Feel the weight of them. What does the texture feel like? You might like to do this with your eyes closed.
- Try arranging them in different positions and groups on a piece of white paper. Could you add a directional light to create some dramatic shadows?
- Make some drawings in which the objects look both huge and weighty. Draw the contour lines to help to describe the forms. Look carefully at the shadows.
- Try to use a range of drawing materials to create these big and dirty drawings.
- Aim for big gestural marks.
- What happens to your mark making if you lengthen your levers by fixing your drawing tool to the end of a stick?

- Try working on the floor.
- Try drawing on newspaper.
- Try a resist drawing. Begin by drawing your shape in candle wax before adding a wash of watercolour or coffee. Work into the drawing with charcoal, pencil or graphite
- Look at your series of drawings. Do they suggest titles?
- What have you learnt? How can you apply this when drawing other subject matter?

**For inspiration:**

Henry Moore Drawings of sheep: <https://seattleartistleague.com/2016/08/25/henry-moore-drawings-of-sheep/>

Alberto Giacometti's drawings: <http://dogearedsketchbook.com/alberto-giacometti>

Barbara Hepworth, Hospital Drawings: <https://www.tate.org.uk/tate-etc/issue-27-spring-2013/sculpture-and-scalpel>

This painting from Wolverhampton Art Gallery's collection depicts what is perhaps the most famous and iconic scene of a giant and ancient rock monument standing in a landscape: Stonehenge.



*Stonehenge*

Henry Mark Anthony (1817 - 86)

Oil on canvas

c. 1830 - 59

Wolverhampton Arts and Museums

Please click on this link for more details about Still Lively:

<https://www.creativehealthcic.co.uk/older-people/>