

Grace Knowlton

## How to Draw Wrong

Sit down to draw, or better yet, stand up. Find a drawing tool that doesn't work very well, such as a stick or a piece of dried grass; whatever you use for ink, try something else.

Take your drawing tool in hand - preferably ~~your left hand if you're right handed~~ and put a big piece of paper in front of you - it should be good rag paper. This is going to be a good drawing, so you'll want it to last. If you're drawing from a model, look at the model. Where do you want to start - the bottom? the middle? the top? Place your drawing tool on

the paper preferably without looking. Keeping your eye on the model, feel the contour of her head with your "pen." Continue down the neck; if you pick up your stick to dip it in ink, place a finger of your other hand on the spot so you can find it again without looking at the paper.

Of course it's hard to know when you're out of ink without looking but we're not after accuracy, + you can feel more or less. Keep your eye on the model; keep your thinking mind blank. Feel the line you're drawing; feel the contour of the body. Everything needn't receive equal attention - maybe the hand interests you, maybe the hand doesn't interest you. Keep going. Don't worry if you get lost on the paper; either guess where to

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pick up the drawing, ~~and~~ <sup>or if</sup> you <sup>just</sup> can't help yourself, take a quick peek. If you do notice ~~where~~ <sup>where</sup> peeking, areas where the "pen" went dry and left either a faint line, or none at all, try to resist going back + filling in. So there's a line missing. Also, don't worry if you go off the side of the paper - just get back on - Give up any idea of what the drawing should look like - That's not what this is about. You are going to be surprised, why do you want to draw what you <sup>already</sup> know? The best you can get <sup>that way</sup> is accuracy, which is boring. Allow yourself to be surprised; risk learning something.

If you get too good at this technique, switch to your left (or other) hand; and/or put a paper bag over your head, + turn around 3 times before you start.