

Class one

1. Early cave art, Megaliths and Petroglyphs.

Today we are going to talk about the earliest art of mankind: early cave paintings, megalithic sculpture and petroglyphs.

Go to this website to enjoy an interactive tour of the paintings:

<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/lascaux/en/>

As you look at them, remember they were made with primitive tools. They probably had to beat a branch into a paintbrush and make paint with clay and rocks. They used the contours of the cave walls in their paintings. If a rock formation looked like the head of a horse, they painted it into one.



In the representation of the bison above, notice the dark and light values. How many details do you see in the picture?

Easter Island is an example of megalithic sculpture. If you saw the movie "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," you might have seen "the stone table." That is an example of an ancient sculpture.

These shapes were very primitive. You can go to the following site and take a virtual tour of Easter Island:

http://www.mysteriousplaces.com/Easter_Isld_Pge.html

Contour lines are lines that go all the way around an object. The cave paintings have contour lines to define the animals.

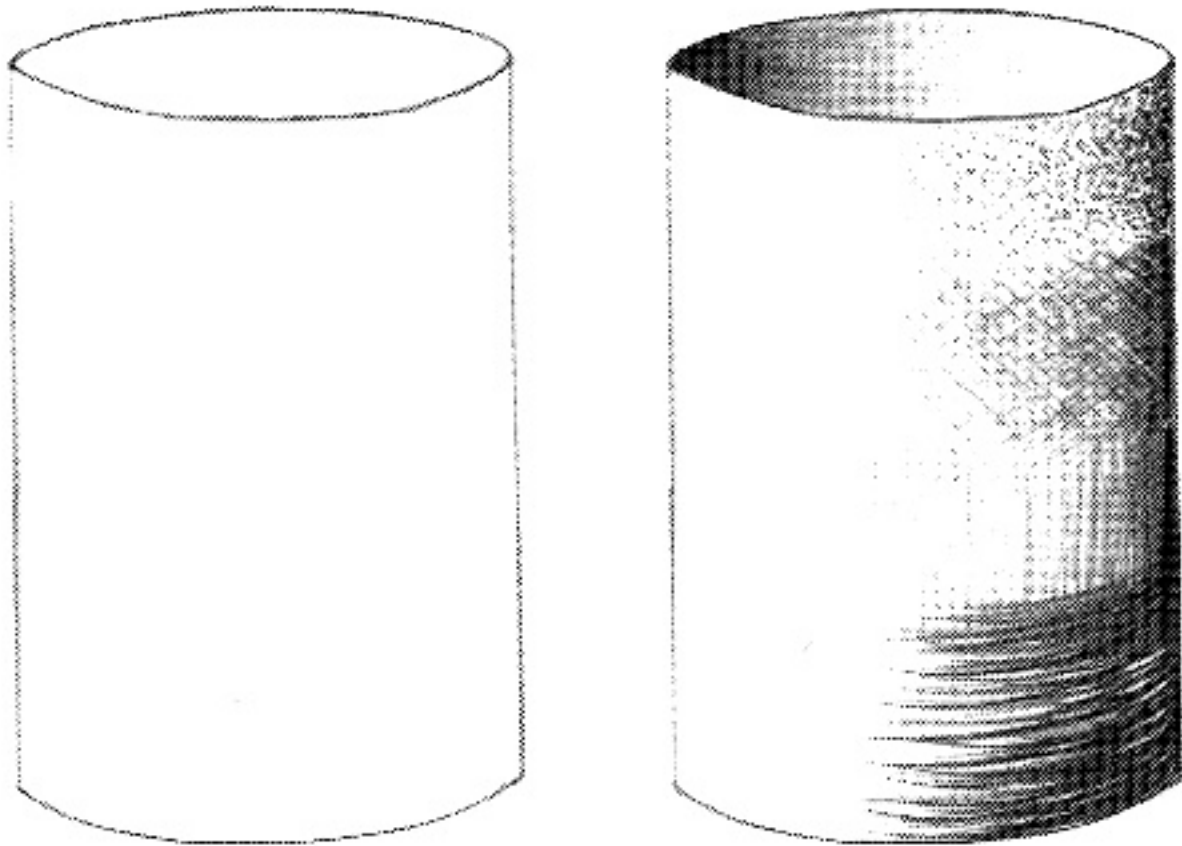


The two petroglyphs above are images carved into the rock. They are found all over the world. They appeared before hieroglyphics. These are not drawings that look realistic. They are basically symbol pictures done by ancient peoples and can be said to be the very beginnings of language.

As we learn all about art history, we will also learn some basic techniques. Go to this website to see some basic shapes: <http://www.brobstsystems.com/kids/images/shapes.gif>

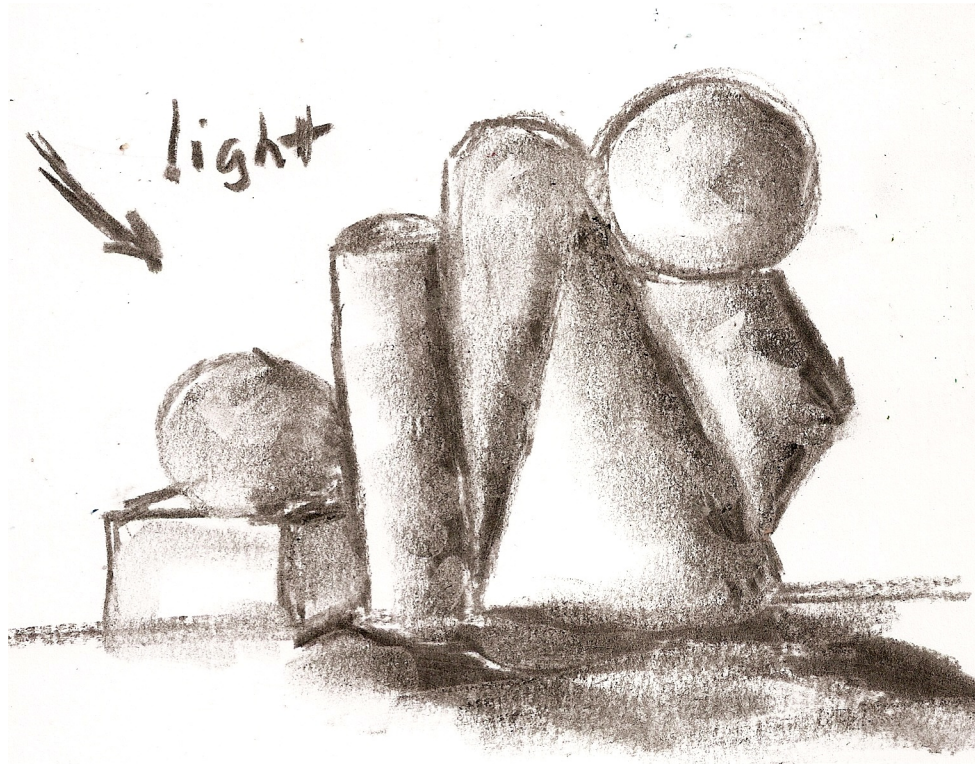
Draw a circle, triangle and cylinder and use shading, shadow and texture to make them look real. Realize which side the light is coming from. When you are finished with this, be creative and turn them into something.

On the next page you see two cylinders. Shading using dots, lines, smudging and crosshatching are seen. Decide which shading you prefer. Go to this website to practice shading: http://www.dueysdrawings.com/shading_tutorial.html



Practice drawing the cylinder above. Draw shapes and put together and decide where the light is coming from.





When you have shaded the space above, turn your picture into something. Below we have the cone becoming a waffle cone, the sphere becoming an apple, and the cylinder becoming a log.

