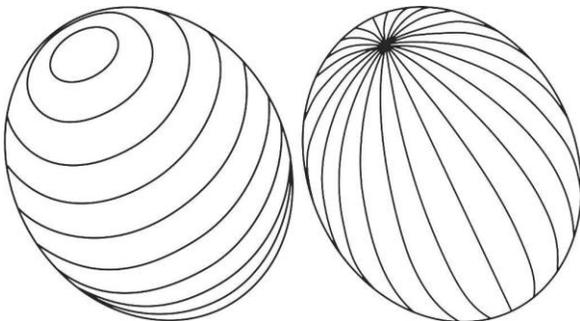
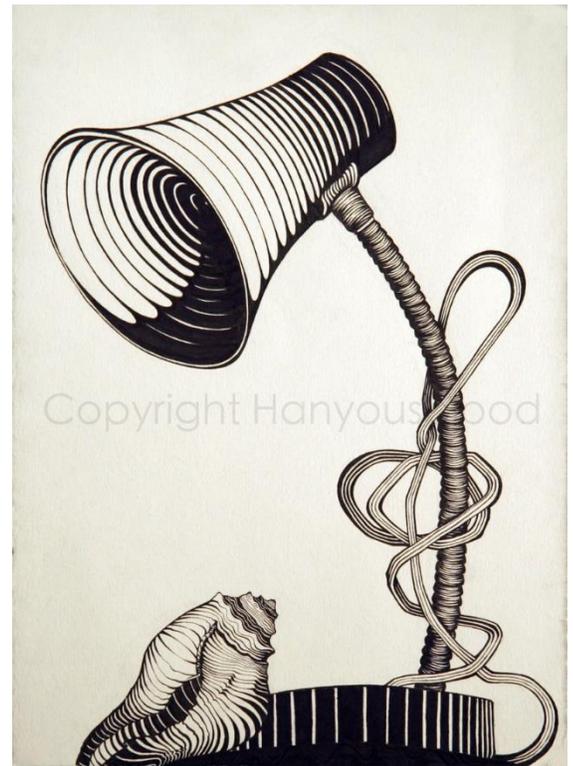
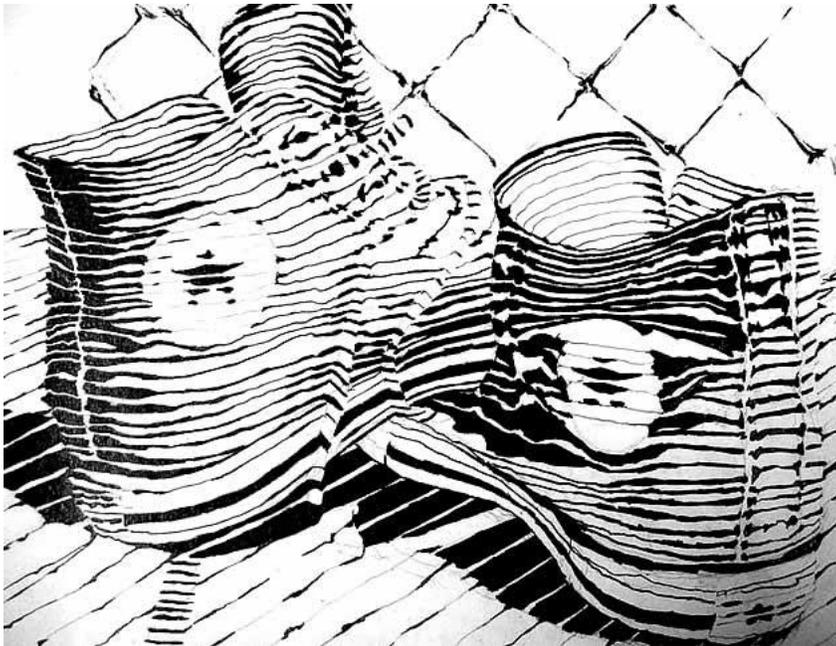


# Cross Contour Drawing

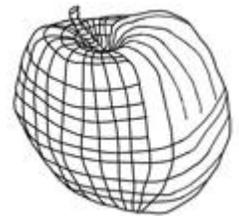


## Definition

Essentially, Cross contour lines are drawn lines which travel, as the name suggests, across the form. Cross contour lines may be horizontal or vertical, or both, but always describe the form (three-dimensionality of an object or surface). An object is viewed from a particular angle and represented in a linear fashion so that it appears three dimensional on paper.

## Topography

Imagine a mold that has been designed to fit the complex contours of your hand. It must cover all the angles, raised and inverted, and carry the planes created by your fingers, knuckles, and palm. Drawing an object using cross contour will map out all the details of an object, much like a grid. Every object carries its own unique topographical stamp that can be illustrated with pen or pencil.



## Assignment

Choose a subject that you find somewhat challenging, but feel is within your ability to create your own cross-contour drawing. Start a detailed outline drawing on a piece of paper at 9"x 12" or 11" x 14" before attempting to draw the cross-contour lines describing object's form. Keep pencil lines light so you can erase them out once you finish inking your drawing. For this cross-contour drawing please contour only objects and surfaces – *do not* create a continuous line going across the entire page

with bumps and curves in it. Include cast shadows in your drawing as they add depth and a feeling of surface. You are encouraged to attempt to add shading and value to your cross-contour by thickening the lines you use like the lines moving to the left side of the converse tennis shoes or around the edges of the hand. You could also add more lines to create more value or let lines peter out or break to become lighter like you see in the shading of the bowl below or in the apple on the previous page.

