

Meenakshi Art Work Academy

Phase 2 — Proportions

Observation, Balance, and Composition

6-Week Module | Exercise & Tool Deck



The Objective

Place subjects accurately — mastering scale and relationship.

Arrange balanced compositions — establishing the frame before adding detail.

Shift from drawing to seeing — catching your own proportion errors.

The Phase 2 Toolkit

Graphite Pencils (HB–6B): Range of softness for gradual tone building.



Printed A4 Reference Photos: A stable, fixed subject to measure against.



Viewfinder / Framing L's: Find the crop and composition before drawing.



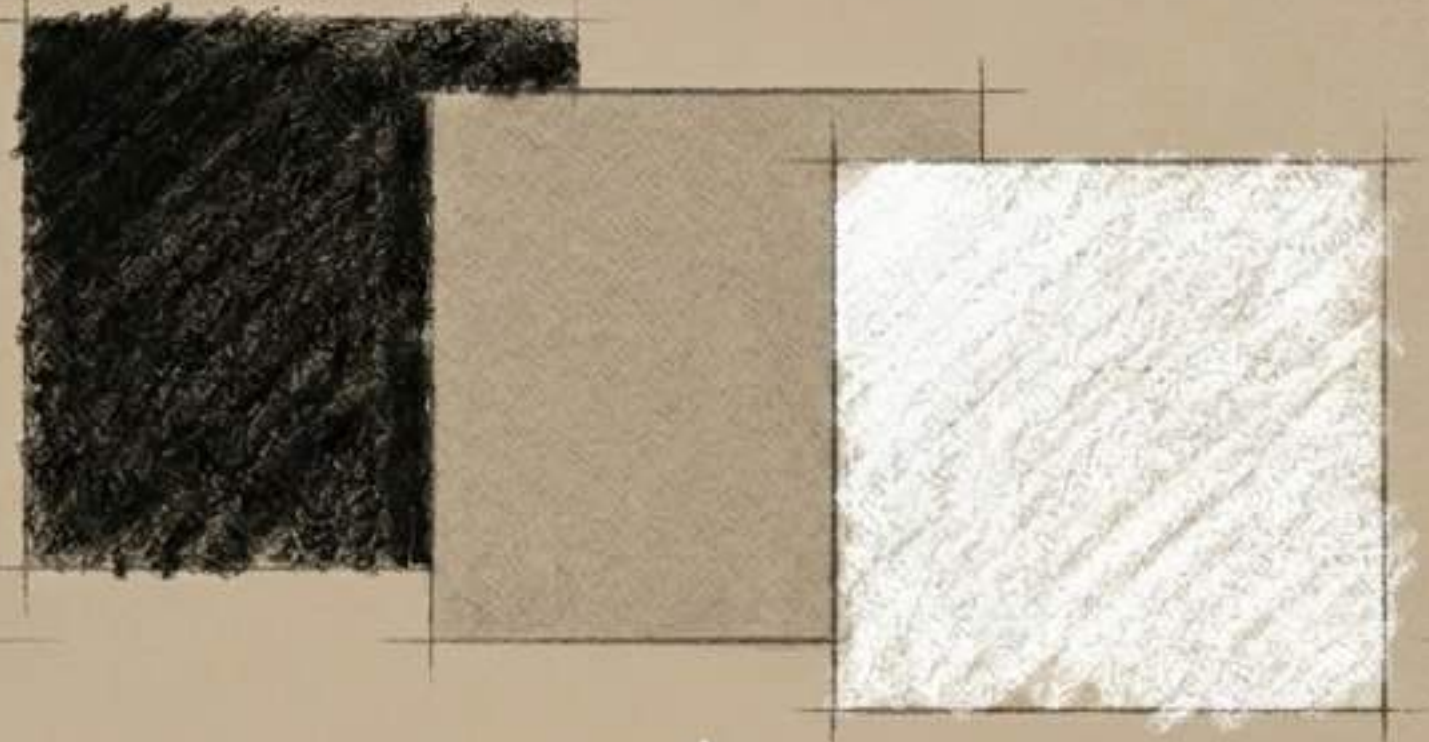
Toned Charcoal Paper: Built-in mid-tone ground makes values obvious.



White Charcoal Pencil: Recover highlights (additive system).



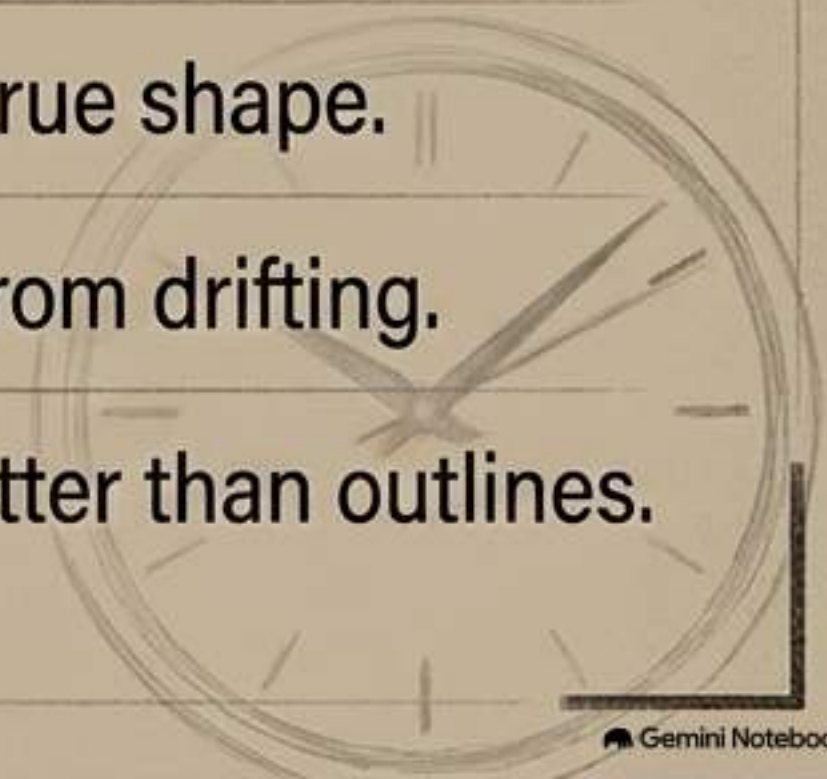
Toned Paper Workflow



The Additive System: Never mix white and black charcoal. Leave raw paper between them to avoid muddy, chalky grays.

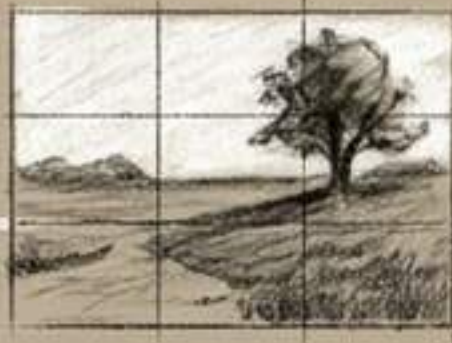
Core Drills: Measuring

Exercise Name	Time	Lesson
Sight-Size Measuring	20 min	Comparison beats guesswork for accuracy.
Thumb Measuring	15 min	A quick gauge keeps relationships honest.
The Envelope	20 min	The whole comes before the parts.
Negative Space	25 min	Negative space reveals true shape.
Plumb Lines	20 min	Verticals keep features from drifting.
Angle Checking	20 min	Angles describe form better than outlines.



Core Drills: Composition

Rule of Thirds | 15 min
Off-centre placement feels balanced.



Value Thumbnails | 25 min
Planning value saves rework later.



Eye-Level & Perspective | 25 min
Viewpoint changes everything.



Composition with Weight | 25 min
Balance is felt, then adjusted.



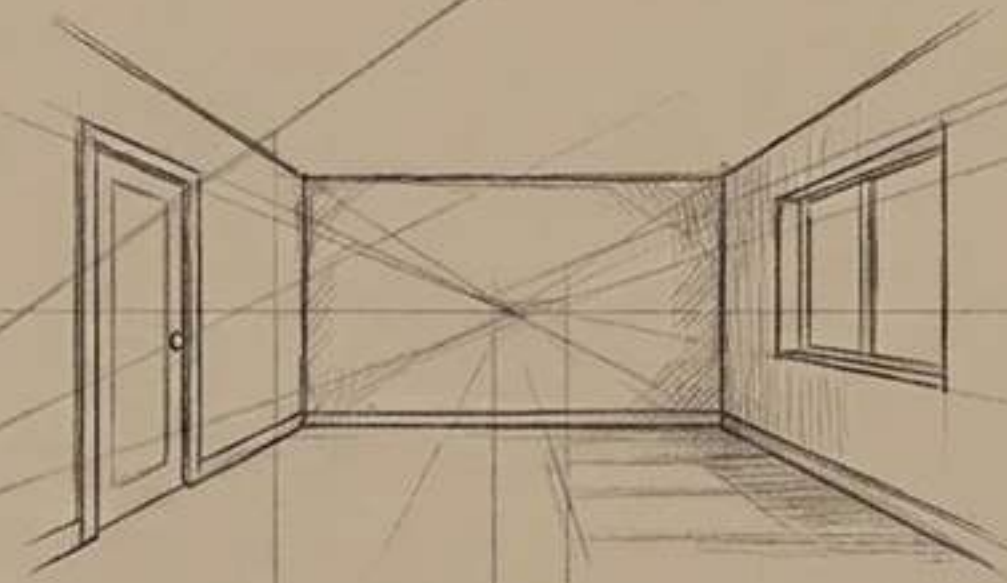
Cropping & Framing | 20 min
The crop decides the story.



Core Drills: Perspective & Structure

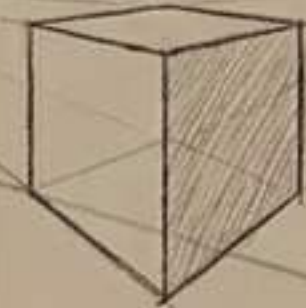
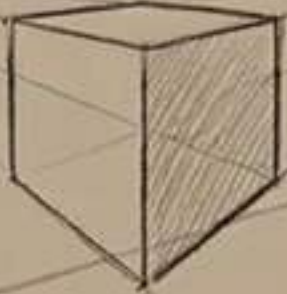
One-Point Interior | 30 min

Interiors follow simple, repeatable rules.



Two-Point Cube | 30 min

Two points describe real objects.



Foreshortening | 30 min

Foreshortening compresses apparent length.

Core Drills: Subjects

**Portrait
Block-In**

30 min

Faces obey
proportion too.

**Hand
Construction**

35 min

Hands are built,
not traced.

**Foot &
Simple
Anatomy**

30 min

Understanding
bones improves
the drawing.

**Long
Observational
Study**

1 class

Patience
produces
accuracy.

“

The first time you notice your own proportion mistake before the teacher points it out — that's the real breakthrough. Suddenly you're not just drawing; you're seeing. The eye learns faster than the hand here.

”

Next Module →
Phase 03: Acrylic Techniques