

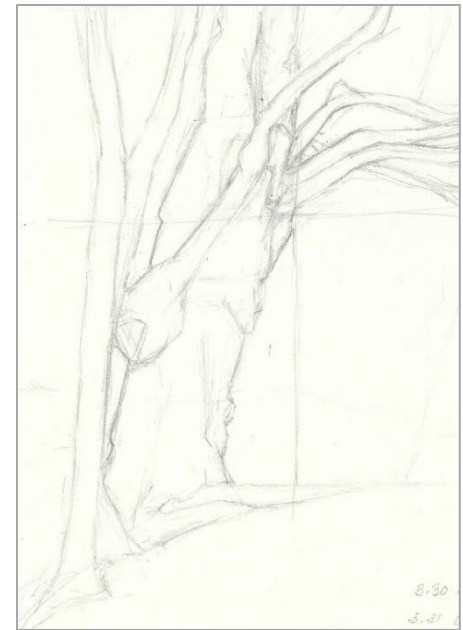


Looking at Angles and Negative Space

This “Study in March” by John William Inchbold is one I go back to repeatedly and struggle with repeatedly. I don’t mind because it is beautiful and it is nice to be able draw a tree in March and April. when it still feels too cold to sit outside and sit with them.

I find that I often straighten things out and do not see the angle of what I am drawing when I first start. This comes up with flowers and leaves too and is often the reason why our pictures do not “look right” to us. After you have decided where you are going to place your object on the page:

- ❖ Hold up your pencil against what you are looking at to draw.
- ❖ Use the angles you see as your first faint lines to guide how you are going to place your object on the page.
- ❖ At the same time, look at negative space between objects or parts of an object. The negative space is essentially the air in between the branches or the leaves or the flower petals. It is what is not there. We have no name for it, so we have no preconceived ideas on how to draw it. Negative space defines the positive object. If the angle of the negative space is incorrect then the angle of the object is incorrect.
- ❖ This will affect size and proportion and a myriad of mistakes we may make as we merrily go along.
- ❖ We can also create beautiful negative spaces in our compositions if we think ahead about how we place things on our page.
- ❖ Negative space can be a positive place to have some breathing room.



As, in full view of the world, the crown of the tree unfolds and spreads in time and space, so does the artist's work... .Paul Klee

