

Highlights, Overlaps, and Reflected light

“Value is the means by which you reveal the form of an object—for example the roundness of an apple.”

...Bente Starke King, *Beautiful Botanicals*



Value is the lightness or darkness of an object. Using left-hand light, here are some circle examples to help understand light and shadow.



❖ **Highlights**—leave white paper if it seems very bright. Otherwise tone the area first and then pull out the color with your kneaded eraser. Soften the edges with a blender or light pencil.

❖ **Reflected light** is created on the shadow side of the form by light bouncing off the surface where the object is sitting. It is not as light as the highlight or the light side of your object.



❖ **Cast Shadows**—The **cast shadow** is the shadow the object casts on the surface it is sitting on or another object behind it. It is **darker** than the object’s shadow. It starts out darkest next to the object and fades softly away.



“Take care that the shadows and lights be united, or lost in each other; without any hard strokes or lines; as smoke loses itself in the air, so are your lights and shadows to pass from the one to the other, without any apparent separation.”...

Leonardo da Vinci



Right hand light