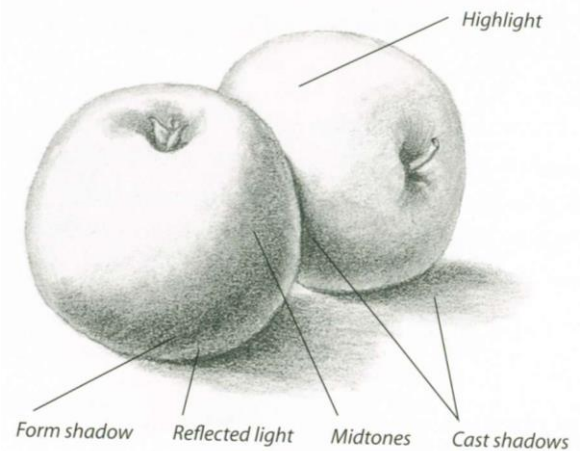




Back to Basics: Light on Form

Botanical light conventionally comes from the upper left. (If you are left-handed you can reverse this.)

- ❖ The *highlight* will be on the upper left portion of any round form.
- ❖ The *shadow* will be on the right side.
- ❖ *Reflected light* is any light that bounces off the surface of the table. It will bring some light into the reflected area.
- ❖ The *cast shadow* on the right underneath the object on the table is darkest next to the object and can help ground the object and clarify the light source. It should not dominate the picture and can be left out. If the shadow is cast on another object it will help you separate those objects.
- ❖ There are other situations where you will see shadow:
 - The edges of leaves curling away from you.
 - On the back of leaves the middle vein will cast a shadow.
 - Where two objects (leaves or petals) overlap
- ❖ Use a lamp when drawing to observe how the shadows work. Eventually you will be able to intellectualize the lighting without the help of a lamp. The important thing is to be consistent with your lighting.
- ❖ Use the *grisaille* technique on your drawing and put your shadows in first with a neutral color, a complementary color, or several colors, before establishing local color (the color of the pear or whatever you are drawing.) This will give you form before color and your picture will not be flat. Remember you can add your darkest darks at the end for more contrast and drama.
- ❖ Start laying in your shading from the darkest area to keep control of your color.



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Painting from nature is not copying the object; it is realizing one's sensations.” ... Paul Cezanne