

2

Nature Study

2 INTRODUCTION

Man is a part of Nature. Much of our enjoyment comes from nature which is constantly changing. Man wants to capture the fleeting beauty of nature. Painting nature is one of such attempts.

You look at nature, you will find colour, line, texture and shape in every natural objects like trees, flowers, vegetables and living creatures. When viewing the multitude of natural things it becomes clear that these are in right proportion, balance and rhythm. Look at your own body, and realize all these qualities in the placement, size, balance etc of your eyes, arms, legs and everything.

It becomes very clear that all facts of nature cannot be put on paper, still, with the right combination of lines, tones, space, perspective and composition, we can recollect and communicate our experience and make the viewer a participant in our multisensed response to nature.

2.1 OBJECTIVES

After studying and practicing this lesson, the learner should be able to:

- differentiate the right proportion, balance and rhythm, when viewing the multitude of natural things;
- draw the shape of natural objects like trees, flowers, etc.;
- identify the colours of natural objects;
- draw and paint the different vegetables and living creatures.

2.2 PERSPECTIVE

Perspective is the means by which forms can be positioned in the implied three-dimensional space of the picture. Knowledge of perspective and proportion is essential in any naturalistic drawing and painting. The object becomes smaller in size and hazy as it recedes from the foreground to the background of the picture. (See Fig. 2.1)

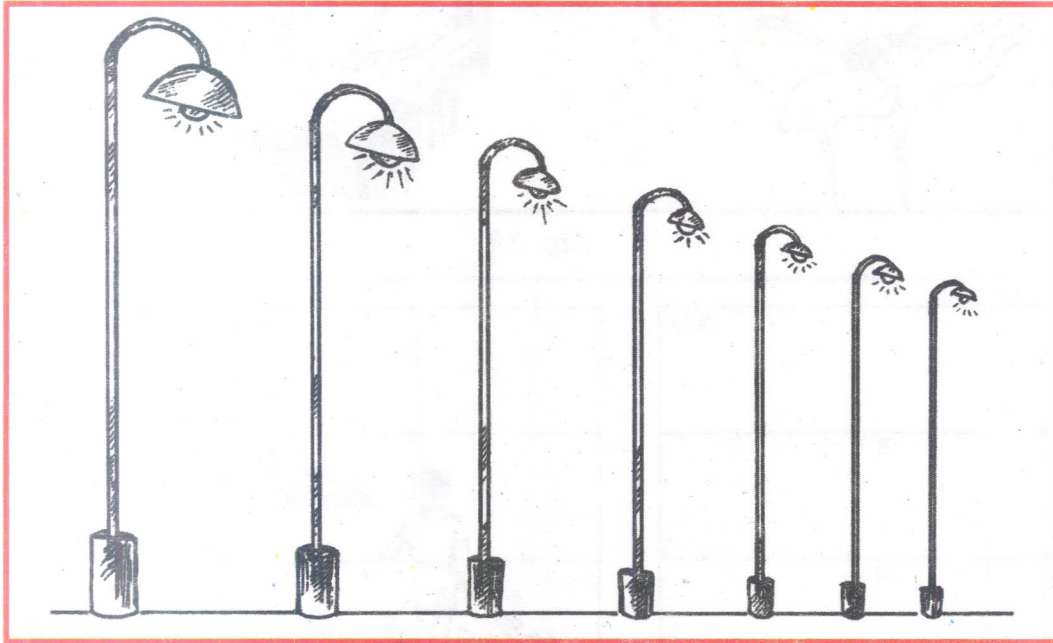


Fig. 2.1

2.3 BALANCE

A good composition depends on the well-balanced arrangement of form in the space with right proportion. Look at those compositions and it would not be difficult to select the picture as a well-balanced and proportionate composition. (Fig. 2.2)



Fig. 2.2

Sometimes the treatment of the background helps to define a natural object clearly. The flower has more volume and depth due to the dark treatment of the background. (Fig. 2.3)

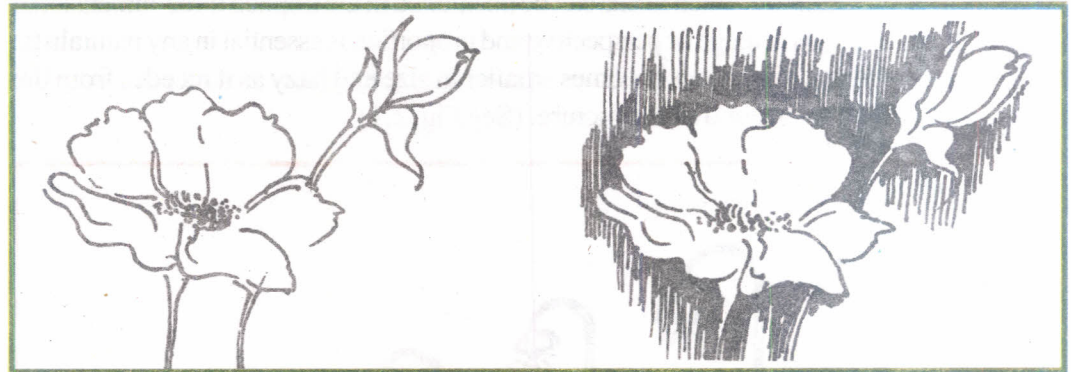


Fig. 2.3

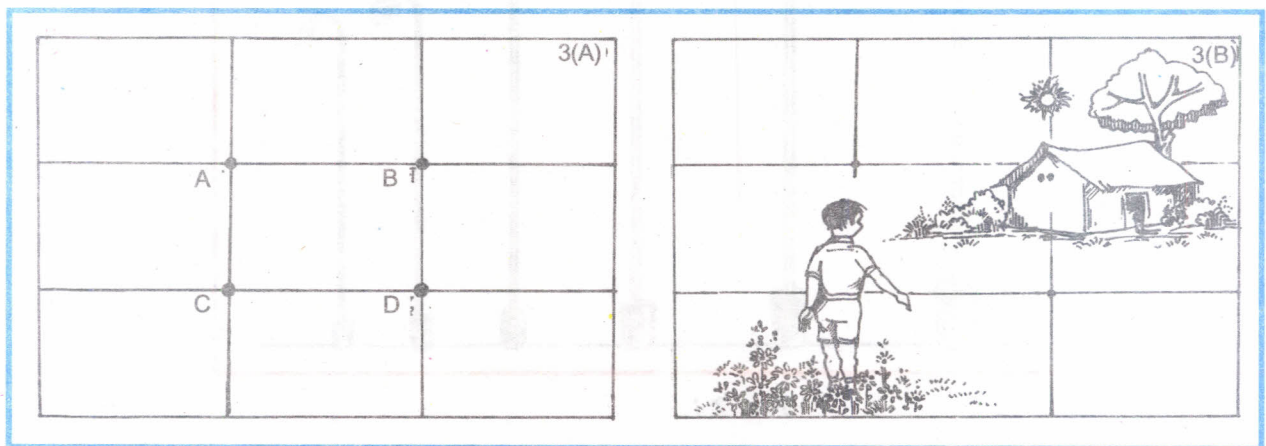


Fig. 2.4

Rhythm and movement give life to a picture. There are many ways to achieve these qualities. Wavy lines etc. can generate life in the picture.

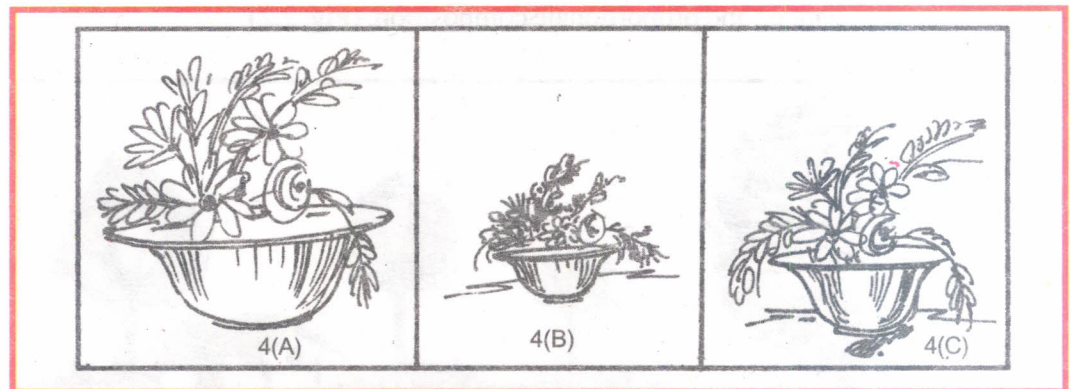


Fig. 2.5

See Fig 4(A) you will find that flower vase is larger than the space given and Fig 4(B) is smaller than the space given but Fig 4(C) is proportionate and fitted in the given space, it is a balanced picture.

2.4 PREPARATION

The variety of drawing materials is seemingly endless. For a beginner, it is better to use paper, brush, poster colours and pencils. You also need a drawing board and board clips. It is better to try different kind of lines drawing with pencil before you start the nature study. You can use the brush in the next stage. This will help you to have confidence. It is advisable to practice nature study with pencils, before you do it with colours. You can easily correct your drawing, in case you do any mistakes, which would not be possible in water colour.

2.5 LINE

Besides the varied contours and cross contour lines, many other lines and line patterns, have been developed to create shading effects. Always begin with a soft line with light pressure of the fingers, which makes it easy to erase. Shading gives "tone", that means to an area of colour a value of a particular lightness and darkness. Tone also helps to define the perspective. Try to get different values of tone with pencil on a paper. Use your pencil (2B) with very light pressure on the paper to get soft tone. For darker tone, use 4B pencil and put more pressure and you get darker tone. You can use 6B or 9B pencil to get very dark tone.

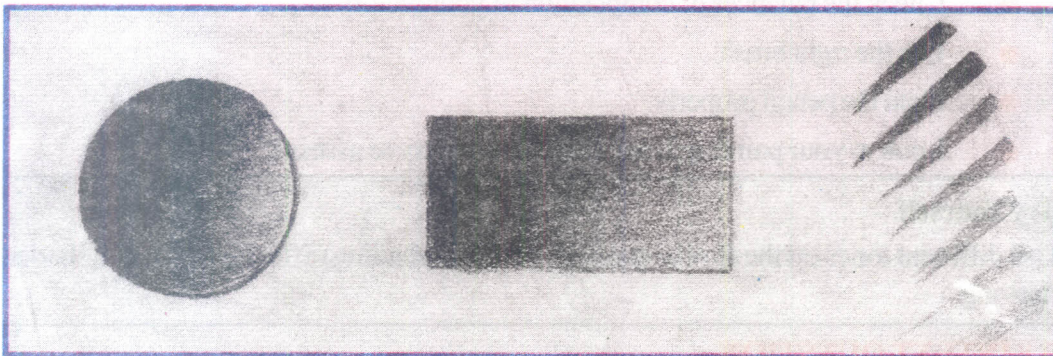


Fig. 2.6

Try Yourself

Fill the empty spaces in the drawing with different tones.

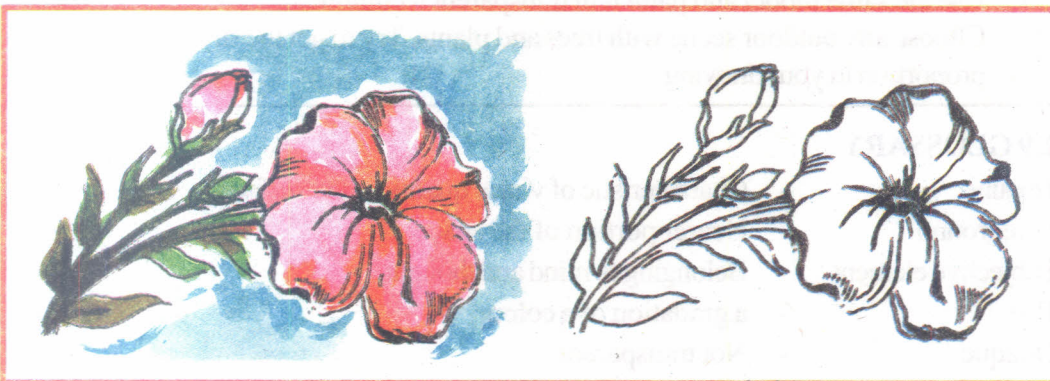


Fig. 2.7

2.6 COLOUR

Colour may well be the most subjective element of all. All vegetation is green, but you will use different hues of green for the maximum effects.

There are many kinds of water colour techniques but most common among these are opaque (Poster colour) and transparent use or water colour. Opaque techniques is easier to handle, because you can apply many coats or colour on it and rectify your mistake. On the other hand in transparent technique you can use only one layer of colour. Moreover you can not use white colour. You have to preplan the white area and use the white of the paper to be left unstained.

2.7 SUMMARY

In all objects of the nature like trees, flowers, vegetables and living creatures, you will find colour, line, texture and shape as also that these are in right proportion, balance and rhythm. So far drawing any object, knowledge of perspective and proportion, well balanced arrangement of form, treatment of background, line and colour etc., are essential.

Points to remember:

Following points are to be noted during practice session:–

- Repeat the exercise if you are not satisfied.
- Check the balances of composition of your picture.
- Use the right brush.
- Hold the pencil properly
- Look at your painting from a distance and try to assess it.

Try Yourself

Use different tones on the flower and egg. (without shading) after watching the shaded drawing.

2.8 INTEXT QUESTION

- (1) Draw any fruit with outline. Use shades on this fruit each with different types of linear shading.
- (2) Place a flower vase with flowers of different colours. Use opaque colour to paint it.
- (3) Use the same model and paint it in transparent technique of water colour.
- (4) Choose any outdoor scene with trees and plants. Try to get the rhythm balance and proportion in your drawing.

2.9 GLOSSARY

Texture	-	Characteristic of visual quality of the surface
Foreground	-	Nearer portion of the space
Subjective element	-	Belonging to mind and thought
Hue	-	a gradation of a colour
Opaque	-	Not transparent
Balance	-	a state of harmony, as among the elements of a composition.

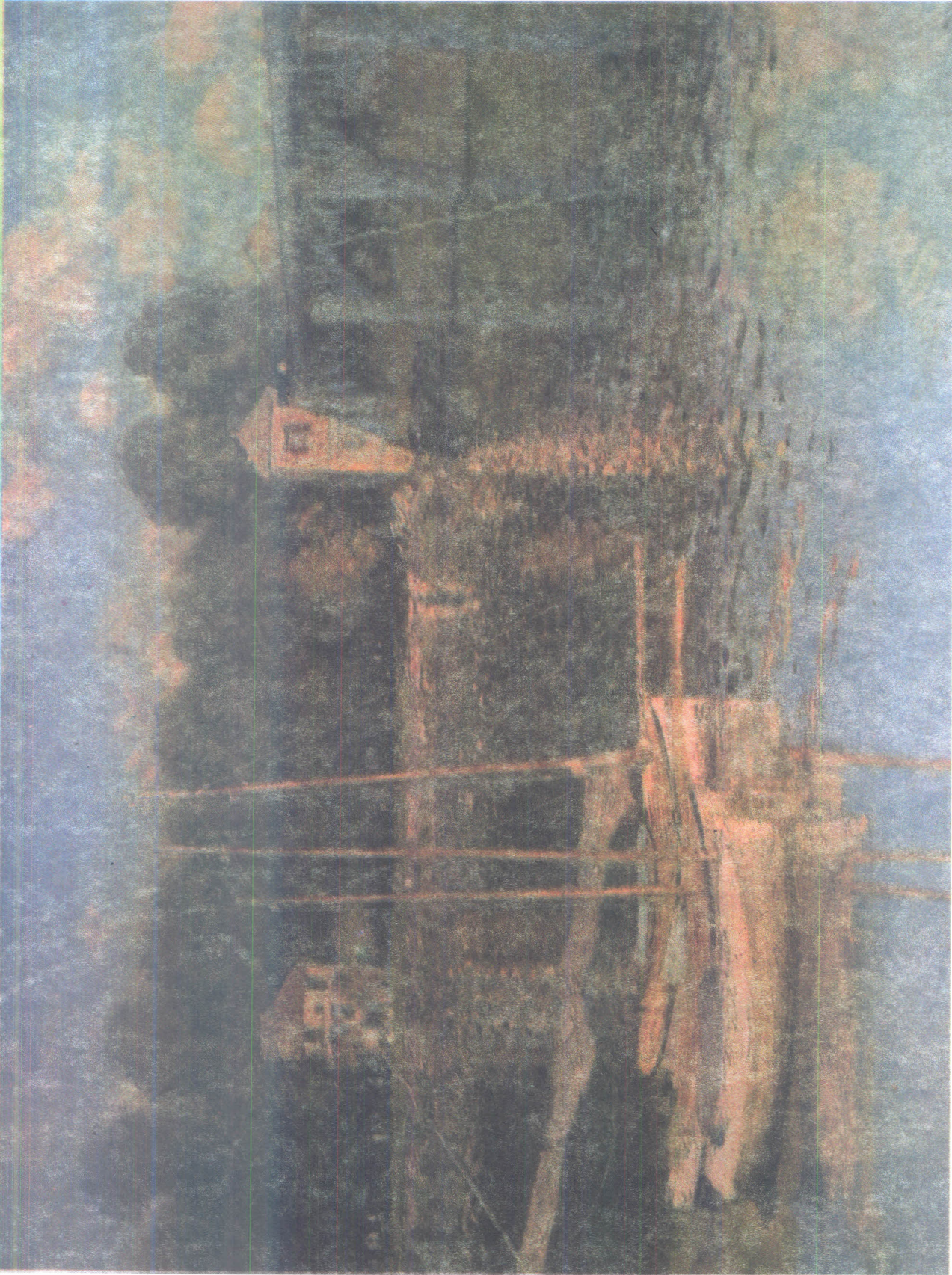






Boat Building

Artist : Constable



The Bridge at Argenteuil

Artist : Monet



Artist : Turner

Venice, from the Canale della Giudecca 1840