



Westwood, bibiodiversitylibrary.org, copyrighted image Jan Willem Campmans, copyrighted image



The Virtual Instructor, copyrighted image

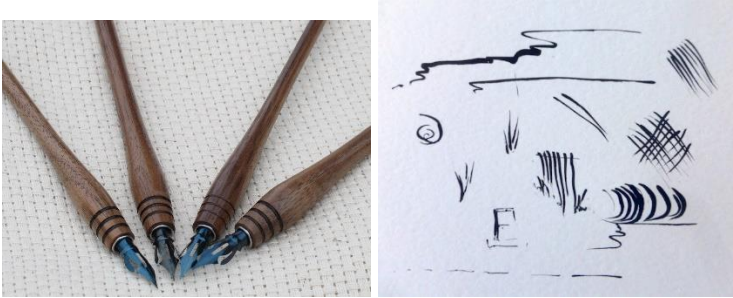


Sandy Zhang Art copyrighted image

Black Ink Options

For this project, we'll be working in black ink. There are many options when working in this style, from a plain old biro, to a technical pen, to a dip pen, each has its own use. There is no need to go out and buy any specialist equipment. Try this out using a black biro or if you have them, fine liners. If it is a style that suits you, you may want to consider some of the equipment below.

Dip Pen: Dip pens are used in conjunction with black drawing ink and coloured inks. These are useful as a range of line widths can be created. Dip pens have interchangeable nibs to give a good variation in line size. They are long lasting and therefore can work out cheaper than technical pens which will eventually run out. They can have a scratchy feel compared to technical pens and when you're starting out, lots of practise is needed to avoid ink splatters and blotches on your work. The ink work applied to the surface with them can also take longer to dry.



Technical pens: Technical pens, or fine liners, come in a range of sizes 0.1, 0.3, 0.5 etc. (the smaller the number, the thinner the line). Unlike the dip pen, they give a consistent width of line and flow of ink. They move more smoothly across the paper than a dip pen. Do experiment with a range of sizes to give a range of width and variety of marks.

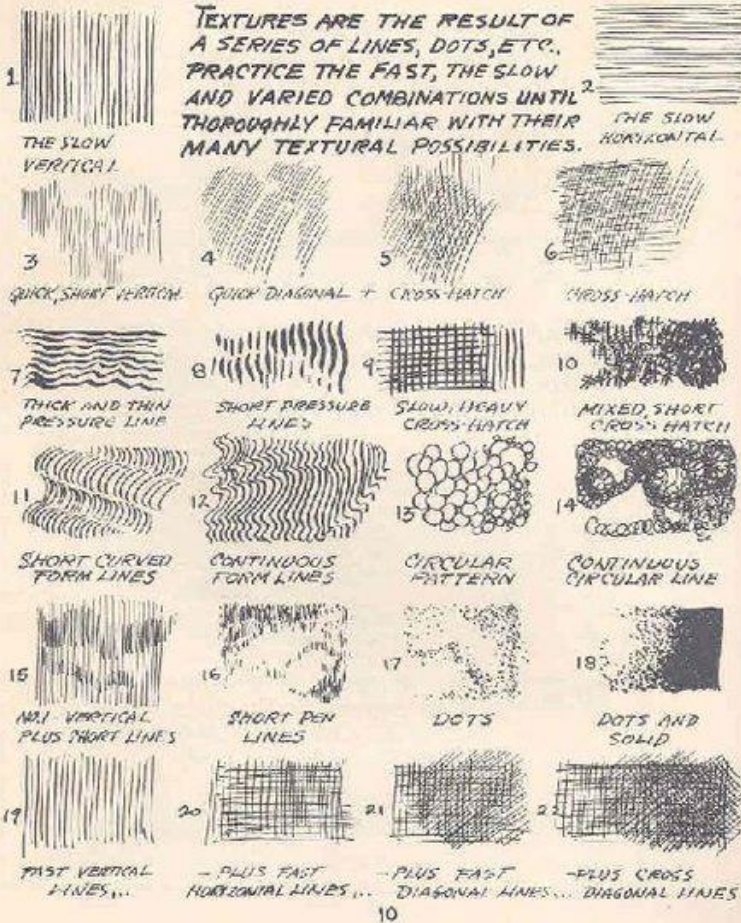


Black drawing ink: This can be used in conjunction with a dip pen but is also useful to cover larger areas of tone with a brush. It can also give some lovely effects when diluted with lots of water, and used as a wash over more intricate pen work. Experiment with items such as twigs, sharpened pieces of wood and feathers too. These give a great variation when dipped in ink and drawn with.

Other useful items: I always keep a plain but affordable black biro to hand, a black felt tip and a black sharpie.

PEN TEXTURES

TEXTURES ARE THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF LINES, DOTS, ETC., PRACTICE THE FAST, THE SLOW AND VARIOUS COMBINATIONS UNTIL THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THEIR MANY TEXTURAL POSSIBILITIES.



Textures

Whichever medium you decide to use, it's important to experiment with the types of line you use to create texture. The key to good line drawing is a variation in thickness of lines and marks made to represent texture within your subject.

When you keep your marks close together, it will create a darker tone; spreading these lines out will create a lighter tone.

A thick line will give the impression of a darker tone whereas a thin, broken line can indicate something lighter.

The chart to the left is for inspiration only. Choose an image of an insect that you like and use your preferred medium to experiment with the textures you see.

Tips

- Choose your paper carefully. This can make a big difference to the overall finished piece. Toned paper can give a biology look to your piece. If you don't have toned paper, you could tea stain a piece of watercolour paper using a squeezed out teabag. If you're working on white paper, you have the added option of perhaps adding a little colour at the end using felt tip, watercolour paint or even coloured ink (see Sandy Zhang's piece from the mood board).

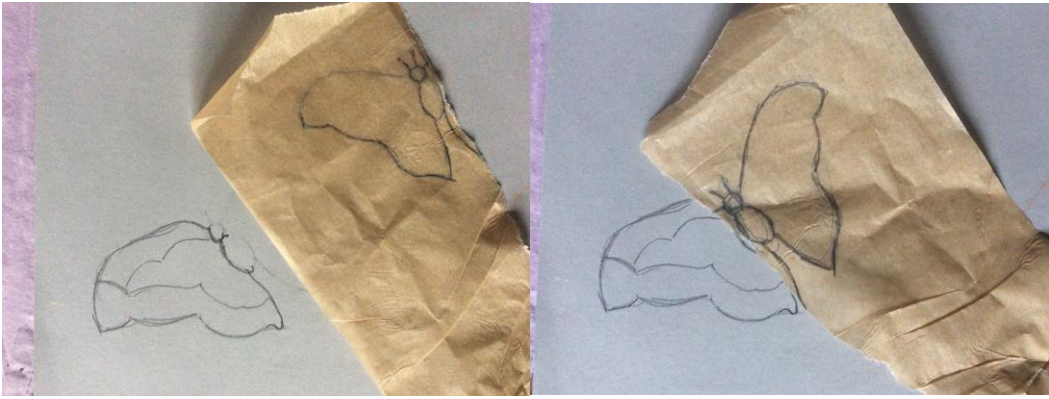


You could think about using a piece of text to draw on top of. This could be a dictionary page, a piece of text with some relevance to what you are drawing, or even a piece of sheet music (think 'Flight of the Bumblebee').

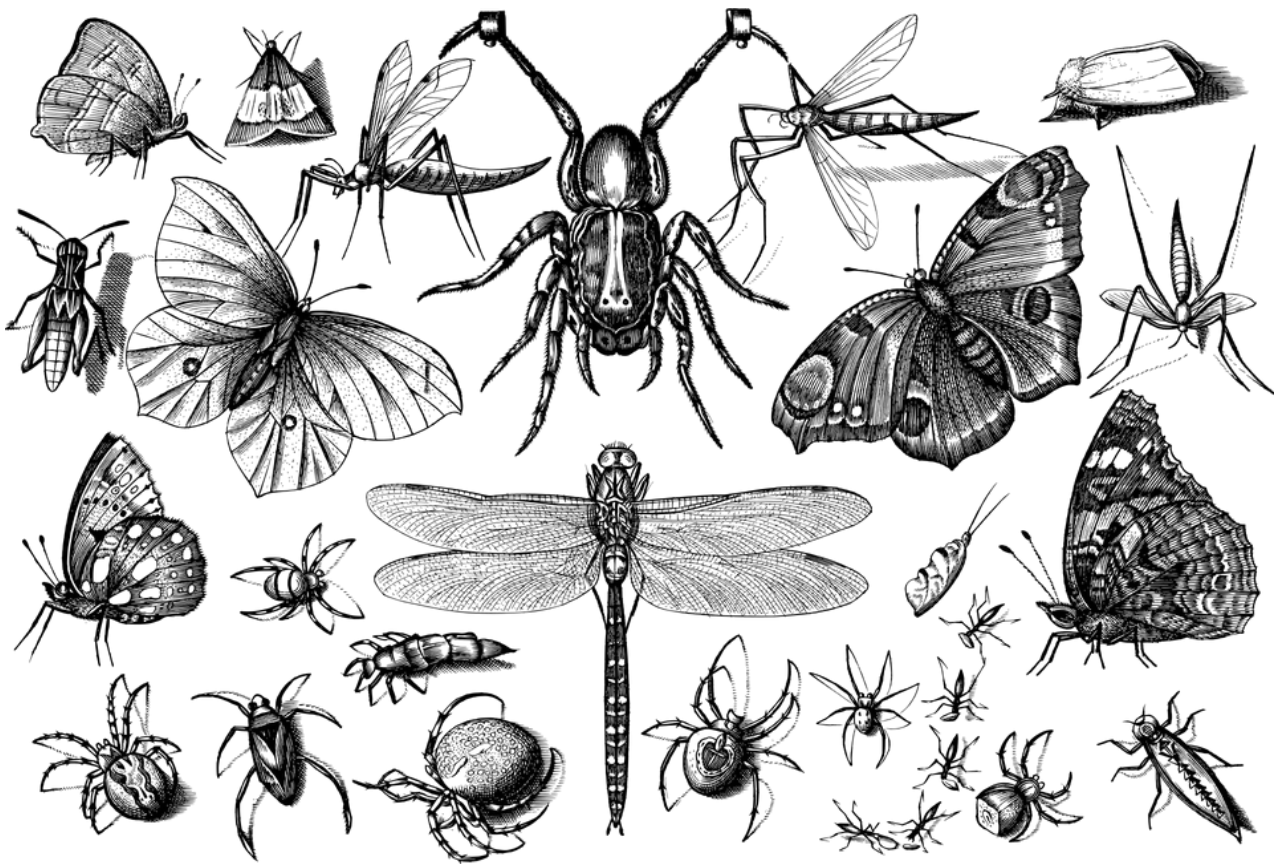
missquitecontrary, copyrighted image

- Whatever surface you choose, plan your image out first in light pencil. Once you've inked over your image, these pencil lines can be erased.

- Insects that appear symmetrical, such as butterflies and moths, can be deceptively hard to draw. It is not cheating to draw one half and then use tracing paper to help you to draw the opposite side.



- If you enjoy this project, why not fill a whole page with a range of insects as in the image below. One splash of colour on one of the insects in this image could look quite striking!



Reference Images (please feel free to use your own images too)

