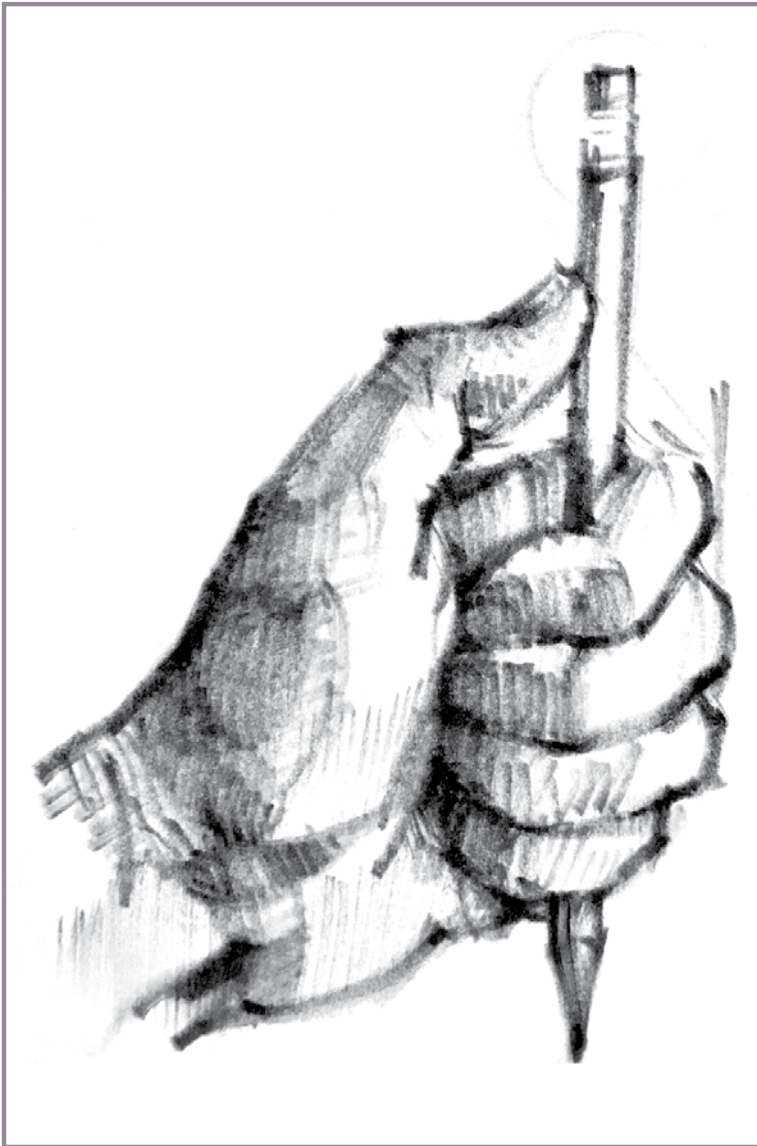


How to hold your pencil and measure things!



Holding your pencil to measure your subject:

Extend your arm fully as you hold the pencil.

The length of your arm should be fixed.

If you have a bend in your arm, your measurements will vary.

Hold the pencil vertically.

Tilting the pencil changes the height of your measurements.

Measure the distance from your thumb to the tip of the pencil as it relates to one of the subjects you are viewing.

Find where you are standing in relation to your subject. Always take measurements from this same position. (You can even add tape to the floor around your feet.)

As you move, the relationship of your measurements changes so it's important to be consistent and measure from the same spot.

Begin to relate the scale of the objects to one another. This is called **Relative Proportion**: *It doesn't matter how big something is in inches or centimeters, only how big it is in relation to other parts of the composition.*

Choose something to measure that is medium sized relative to the other objects in your composition. I'll choose the height of the apple. How many apples tall is the vase? 3 apples? 3 1/2? How many apples wide is the composition? You can turn any measurement on its side to compare things as well. Is the apple as tall as it is wide? Is it taller? About how many apples tall is the composition?