

## Week 2 Handout – Nature Drawing with Audrey 'How to' series

### Landscape compositions and focus points

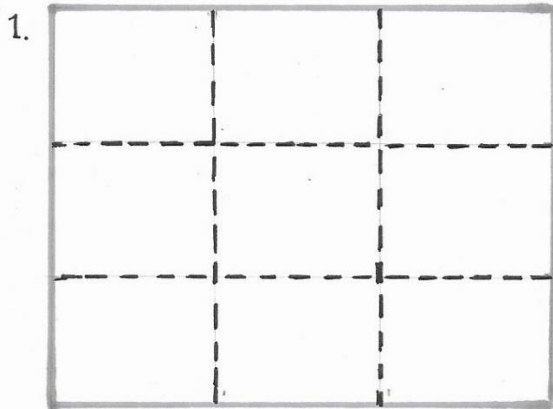
### Technical do's and don'ts in landscape composition

#### What is Composition?

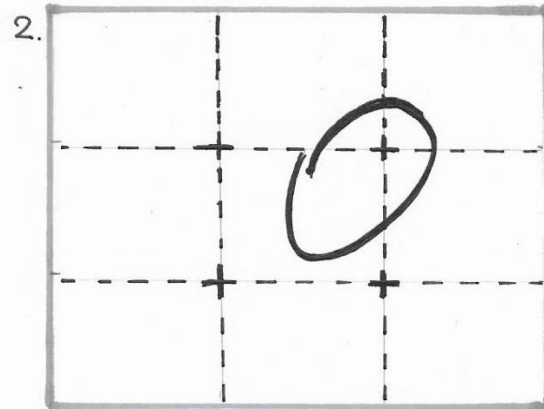
Composition is an element of artwork which allows artists to direct the viewers' eye and have an effect on the emotional feel of their work. More specifically it is how we arrange visual elements in a work of art that directs the viewers' eye through the painting, or a specific place, typically a main element or centre piece.

This makes the work of art engaging, interesting, and more appealing to the viewer.

Without realizing it your being led through the painting and your eye is not flitting from left, to right and up, down. The drawing becomes more harmonious and you can focus on enjoying it instead of fighting against it. How? 8 simple rules:



One-third rule



Center of interest / focus point

1. **One third rule:** Imaginary lines dividing the paper into thirds.

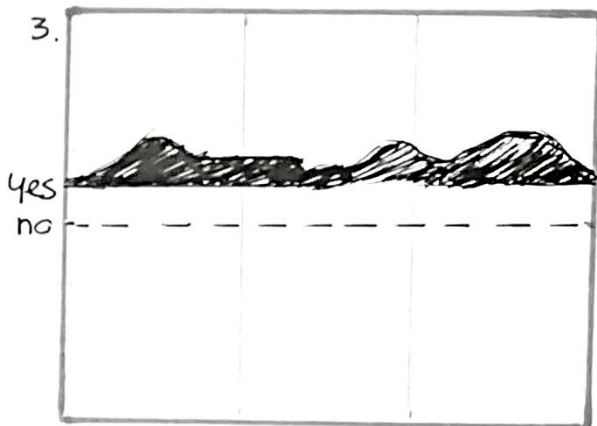
This not only helps to get the proportions right but also the composition.

When you first start drawing, these lines are really helpful to draw in before you start your sketch. Even just a little mark on the edge of your paper will help.

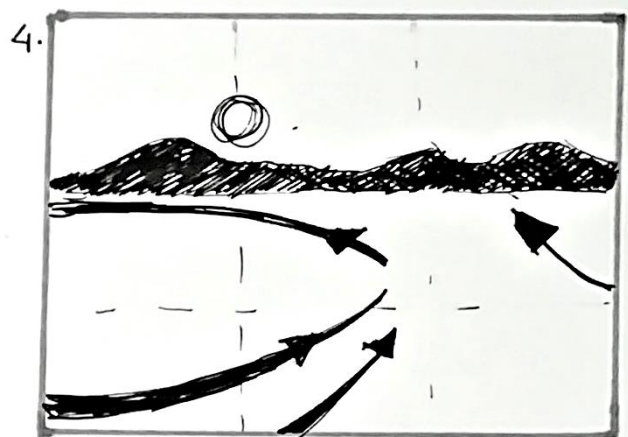
2. **Centre of interest/ focus point:** These are the junctions of the one third lines.

These are the spots you want put your 'prize pony', it's where the viewer will focus on.

Pick one and wherever it is located, it should have one or both of the following; the strongest contrast or colour, and the most texture.



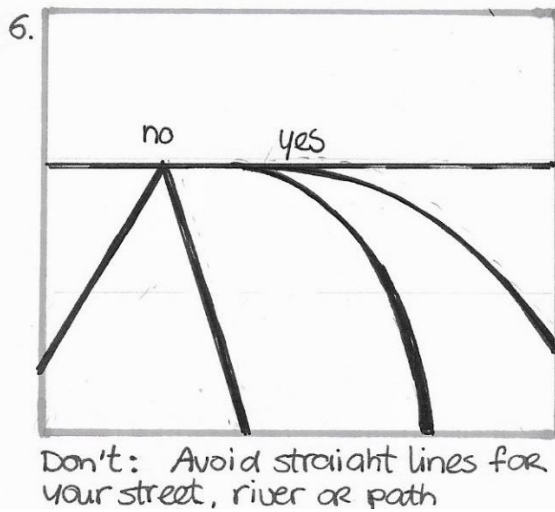
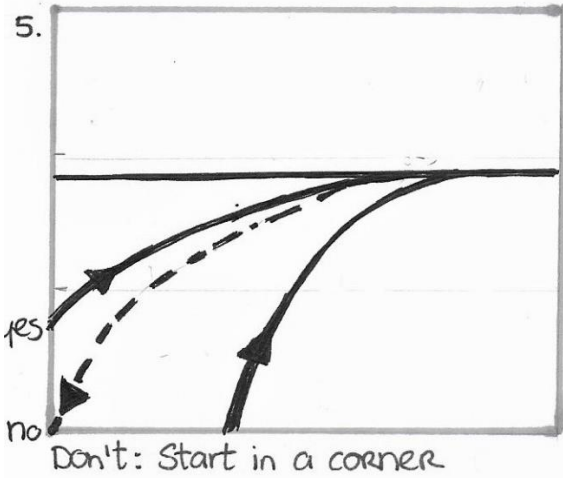
Horizon line



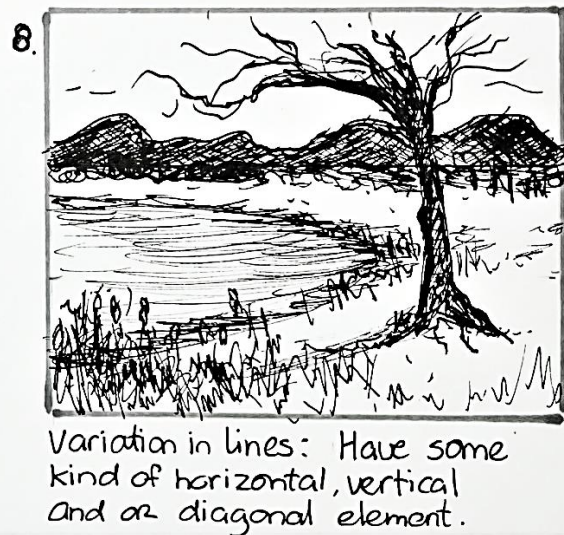
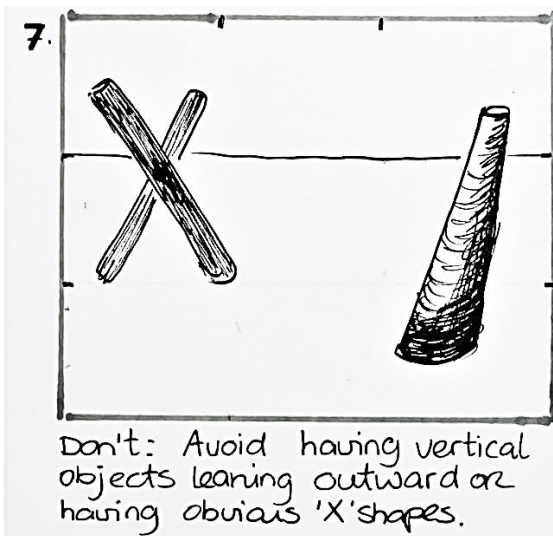
Visual Path

3. Horizon line, place it somewhere above or below the middle point, never midway.

4. Visual path: Use design elements to create a visual path to the centre of interest.



5. Don't: start your visual path in a corner. This act's like an arrow and all the viewer will look at is that corner. You want them to walk through your drawing, not stop at the corner.
6. Avoid straight lines for your street, river, paths. Try and make them a bit more interesting and visually give them more depth by curving it at the horizon, it hasn't got an abrupt end. I can go on and tell you the earth isn't flat etc. But I think you get the picture.



7. Avoid having vertical objects leaning outwards or have obvious 'X' shapes.
8. Variation in lines; have some kind of horizontal, vertical and or diagonal elements.



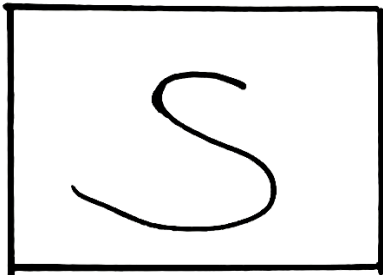
## Different composition types:

You will see the 8 different composition types below:

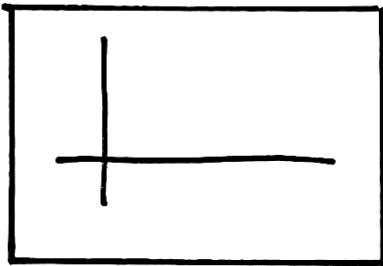
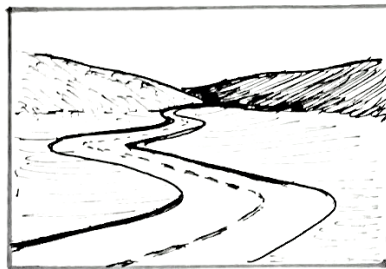
'S', or compound curve, Cross, Triangle, 'O', or circular, Radiating lines, Diagonal, Balanced scales, Steelyard.

Understanding and identifying the different types will help you get the composition right on your own drawing. It makes it more clear why something works or why it doesn't.

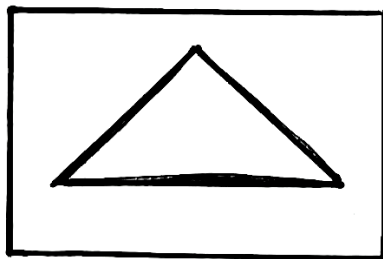
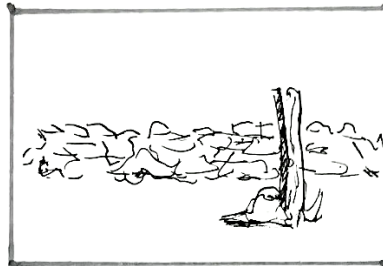
Everyone has their own style and preference, look through some of your own photo's or favourite paintings and see where your mind takes you: this is perfect!!!! What is calming for you may be chaotic for someone else.



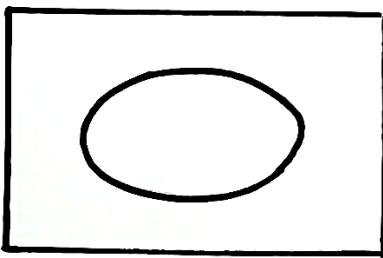
'S' or compound curve



CROSS



Triangle



'O' or circular

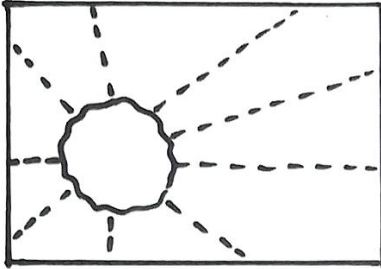


When you combine the rules and the composition types, it becomes so much clearer why some paintings work better than others.

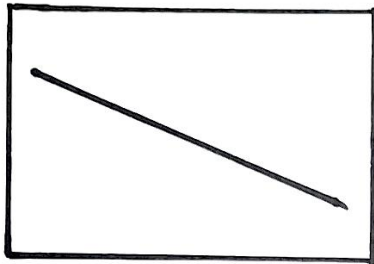
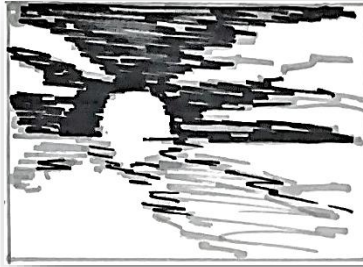
You can highlight or move elements to suit your composition better.

Move a stone, tree or grass to fit better and make the eye go towards what you find important.

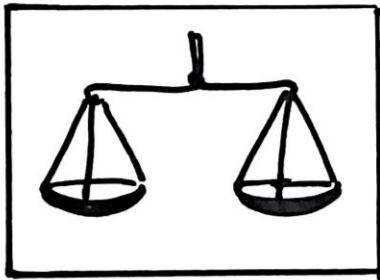
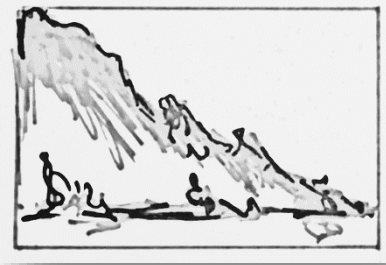
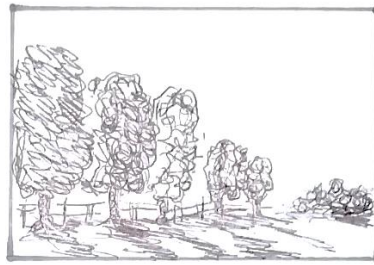
Sky, clouds and sun beams can play a great part in your composition. Just move, make bigger or even invent some.



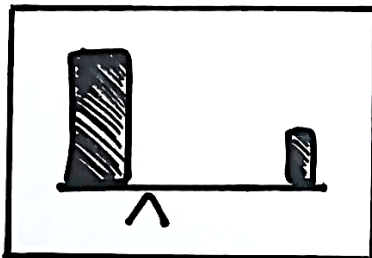
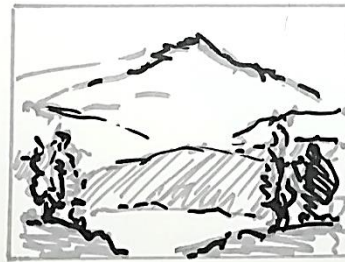
Radiating Lines



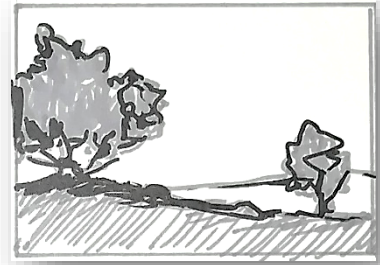
Diagonal



Balanced Scales



Steelyard



Have fun drawing!



S or compound curve



Radiating lines



Cross



Diagonal



Triangle



Balanced scale



'O' or circular



Steelyard