

Gesture & Contour

Art & Design

Two ways of putting a line down, and what each of them is actually for.

Gesture

- 30 seconds to 2 minutes
- Whole figure at once, from the core
- Records action, weight and direction
- Line runs through the form, not round it
- Wrong proportion is acceptable

Contour

- 10 minutes to an hour
- One continuous edge, slowly
- Records the exact shape of an edge
- Eye on the subject, not on the page
- Wrong proportion is a failure

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Gesture first, contour after. A precise outline around a lifeless pose cannot be rescued later.

Blind contour, never looking at the page, is a training exercise. It is not a way to make a finished drawing.