

FASHION ILLUSTRATION

Plumb line / Balance Lines

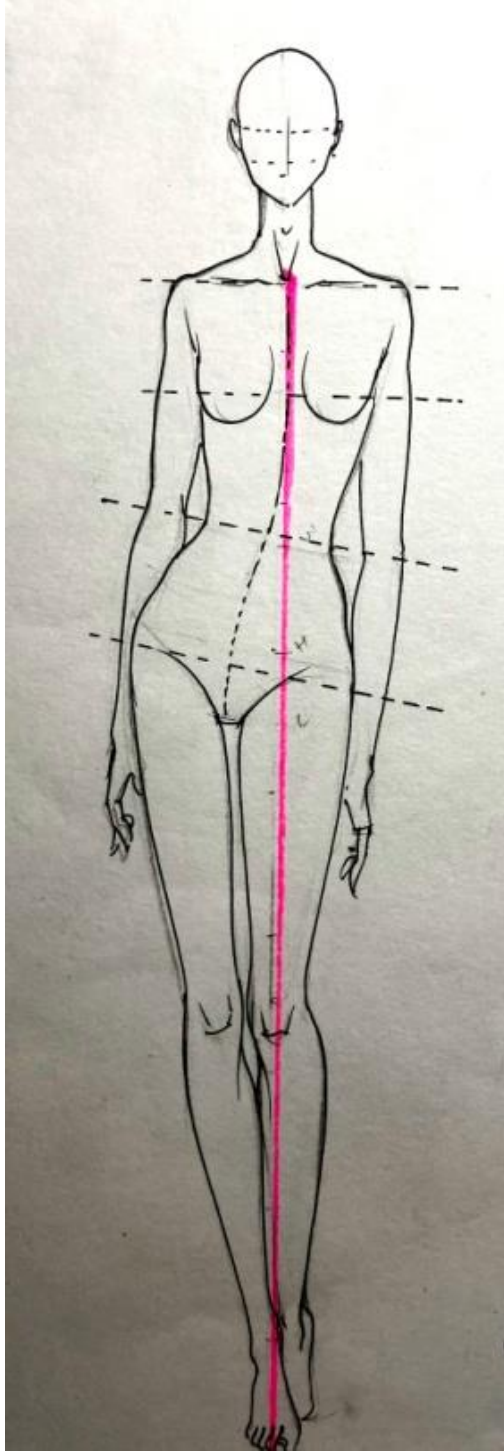
A plumb line is a weight (plumb bob) at the bottom, when it is hanged the weight pulls the string taut and creates a straight, vertical line. It is used as a vertical reference line to ensure a structure is centered. As they always find the vertical axis pointing to the center of gravity, they ensure everything is right, justified and centered.



← Plumb Bob

The use of Plumb Line in fashion drawing

When drawing a fashion figures it should have a “plumb line” that creates the balance for the pose. It is a straight line drawn from a center point on the neck , between the two collar bones called clavicle (neck pit) . The legs and the body of our model should balance itself around this line.

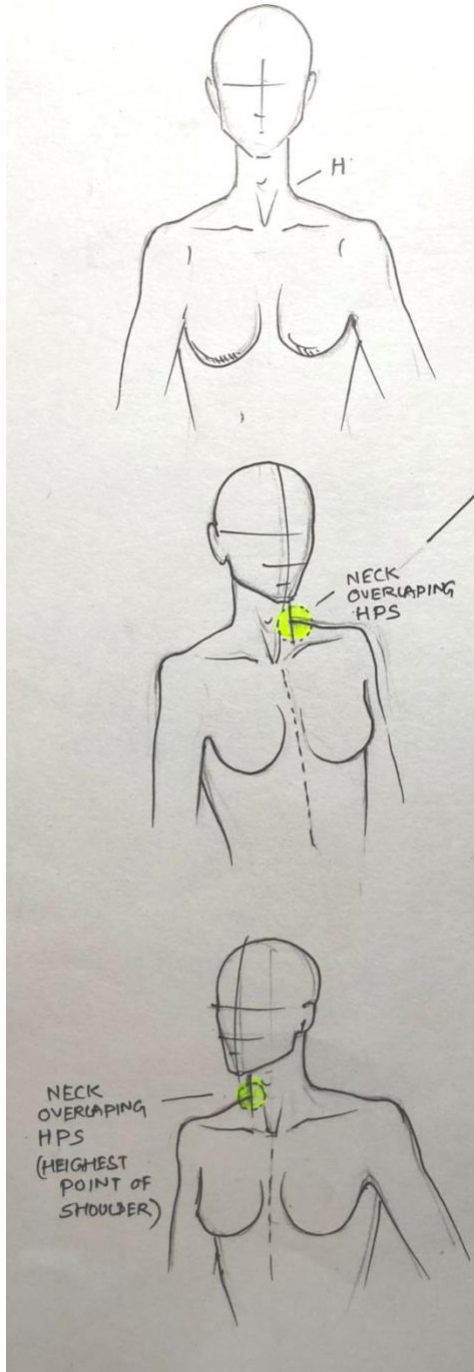


Plumb Line and Balance Relation

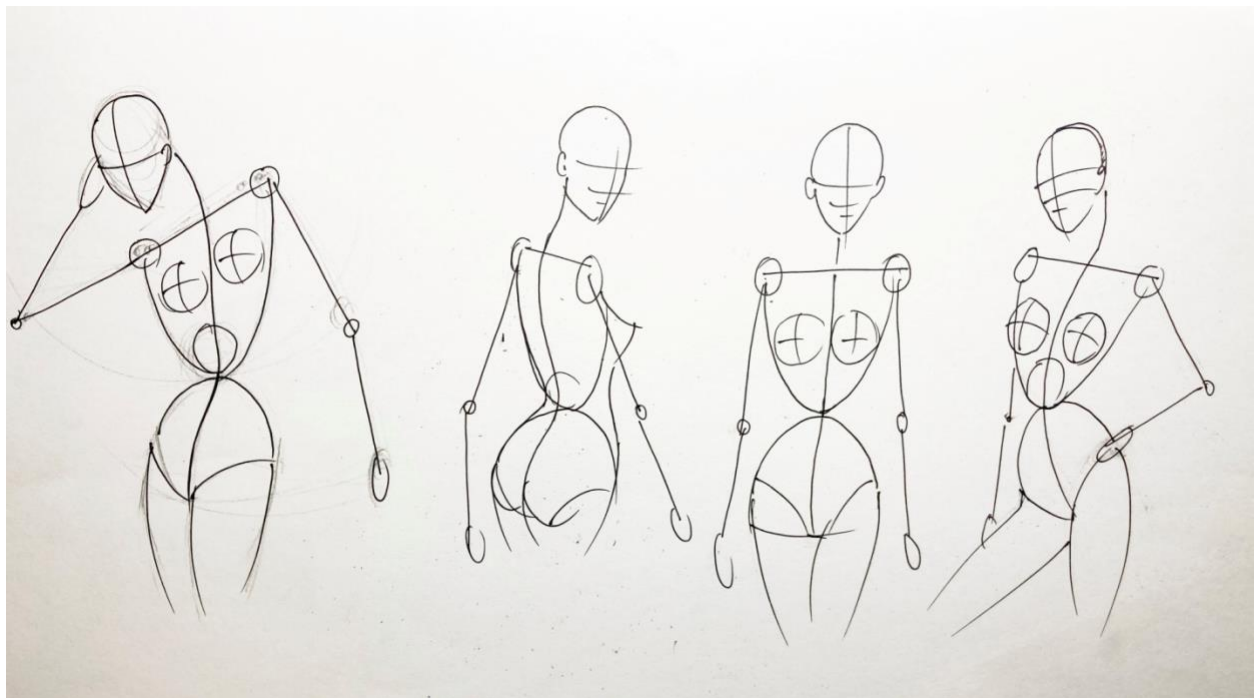
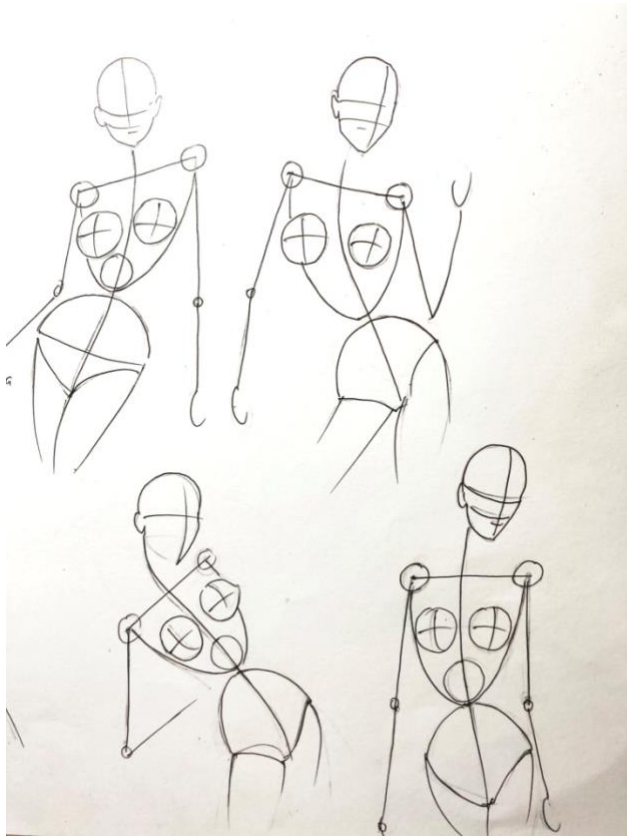
Making sure your figure has balance means you should check it with a plumb line. If the legs are not equally set apart, then one leg should be closer to the plumb line. If all of the weight is on one leg, that leg should be at the plumb line. If they have equal weight distribution, then the legs should be equal distance from the plumb line

CONTOURS

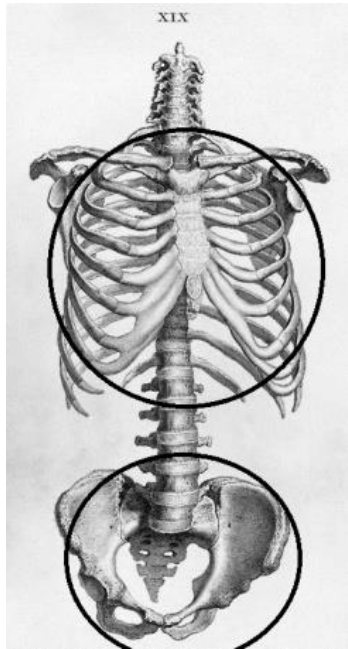
CONTOUR refers to the outermost edges of a form, as well as dramatic changes of plane within the form. Put simply, a contour line drawing is an "outline drawing," that uses no shading.



Head Tilt and Neck angle



Ribcage–Pelvis Connection



Rib Cage and Pelvis

Once you have drawn the centre front line, locate the ribcage and pelvis. Encircle it.

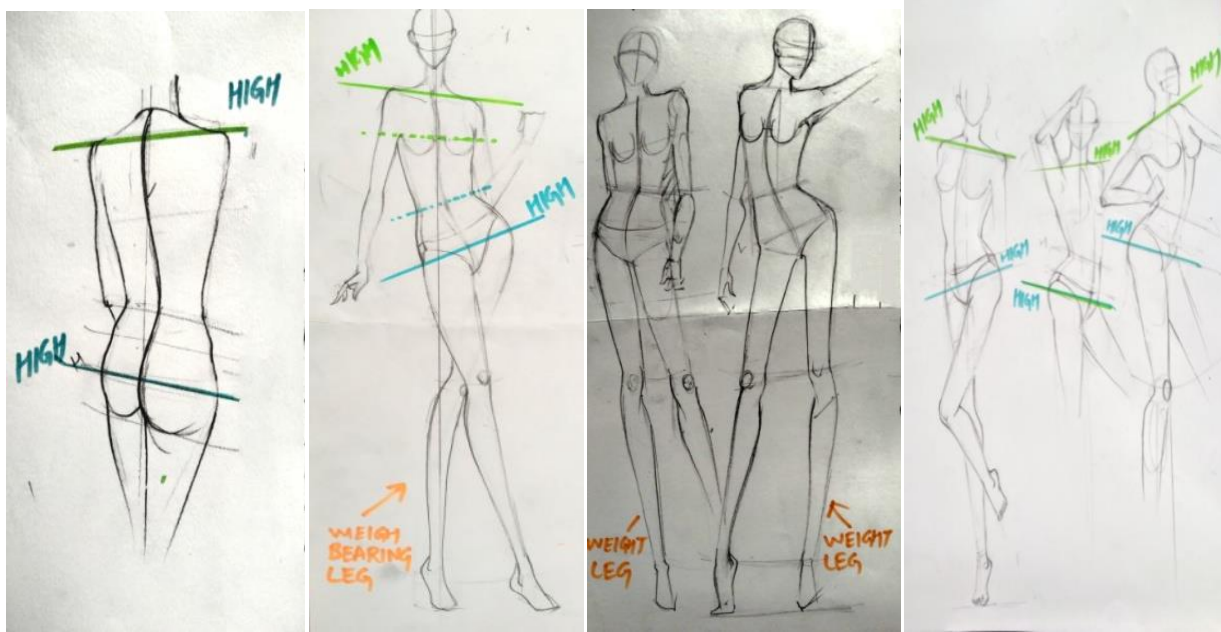
Underlying skeletal structure is not seen from outside. The ribcage and pelvis seem to be one part.

But it is important to keep the ribcage and the pelvis separate. It allows to achieve convincing expression. Both, the ribcage and pelvis can bend independently which allows for interesting twists in pose.

Notice, when a body leans, one side is shortened, while the other side stretches and lengthens.

Shoulder - Hip Angle and Weight Leg

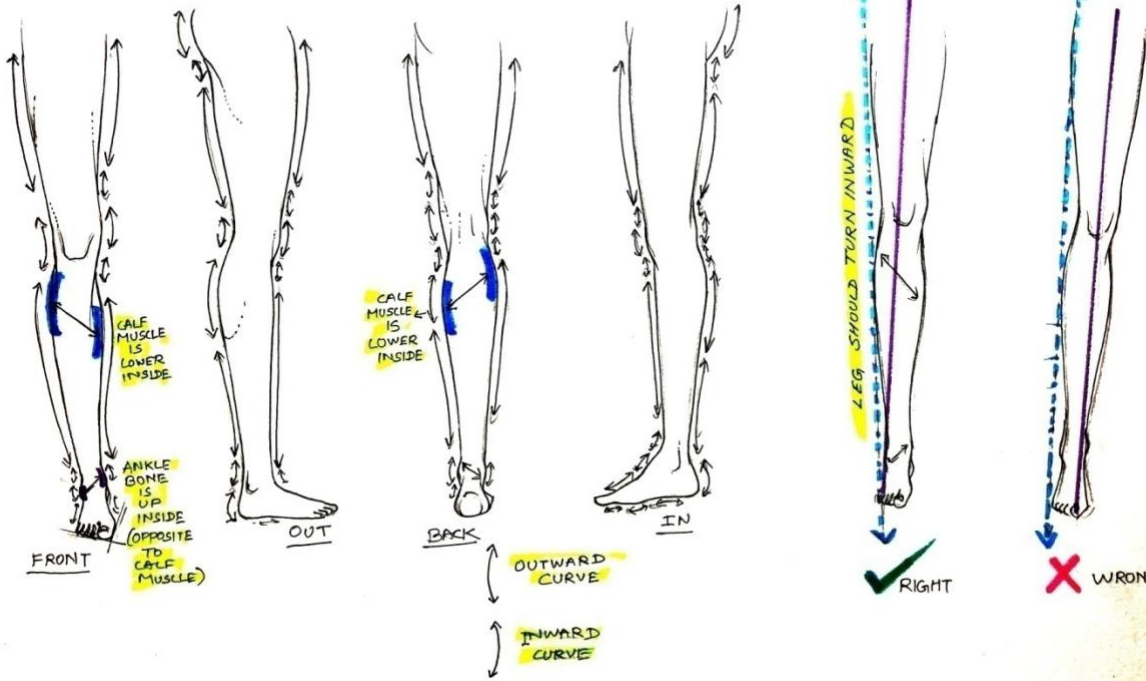
The relation of the line of the hips and the line of the shoulders is very crucial when drawing fashion poses. Most gestures for the fashion pose have opposing angles to the ribcage and pelvis. Most of the fashion figure also has the main weight on one leg, while the other leg doesn't share the same weight and termed as relaxed leg.



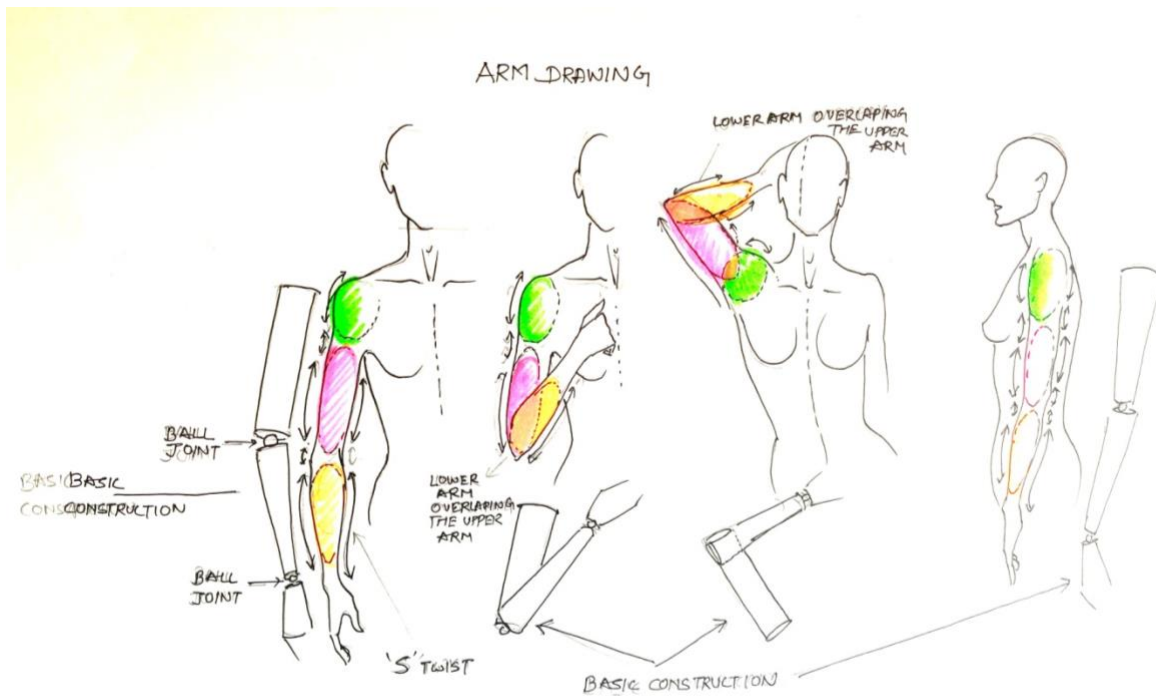
Leg Drawing

Due to the intricate role of muscles and bones under the skin, we can make out a unique shape of a leg. Legs are crucial when drawing fashion figure. A well drawn legs are a sign of sophistication and can improve any fashion figure. When sketching fashion pose, legs should be drawn long and slender with a chisel knee and a vague idea of muscle, especially around the calf region in the lower part

LEG DRAWING

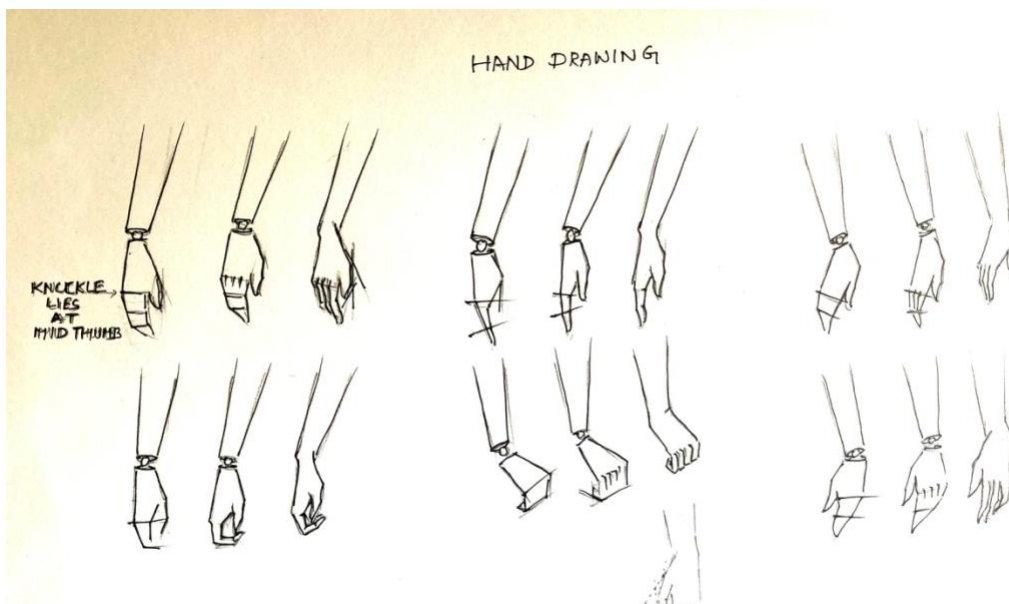


Arm and Hand Drawing



Arms have a shape and form of cylinder that can bend and stretch. While drawing arms, keep this basic construction in mind. In arms drawing add the flesh and muscles, it is made of a bunch of straight and curvy lines.

The shoulder, arms, and hands are among the most expressive of body parts, so it's important to keep that in mind.

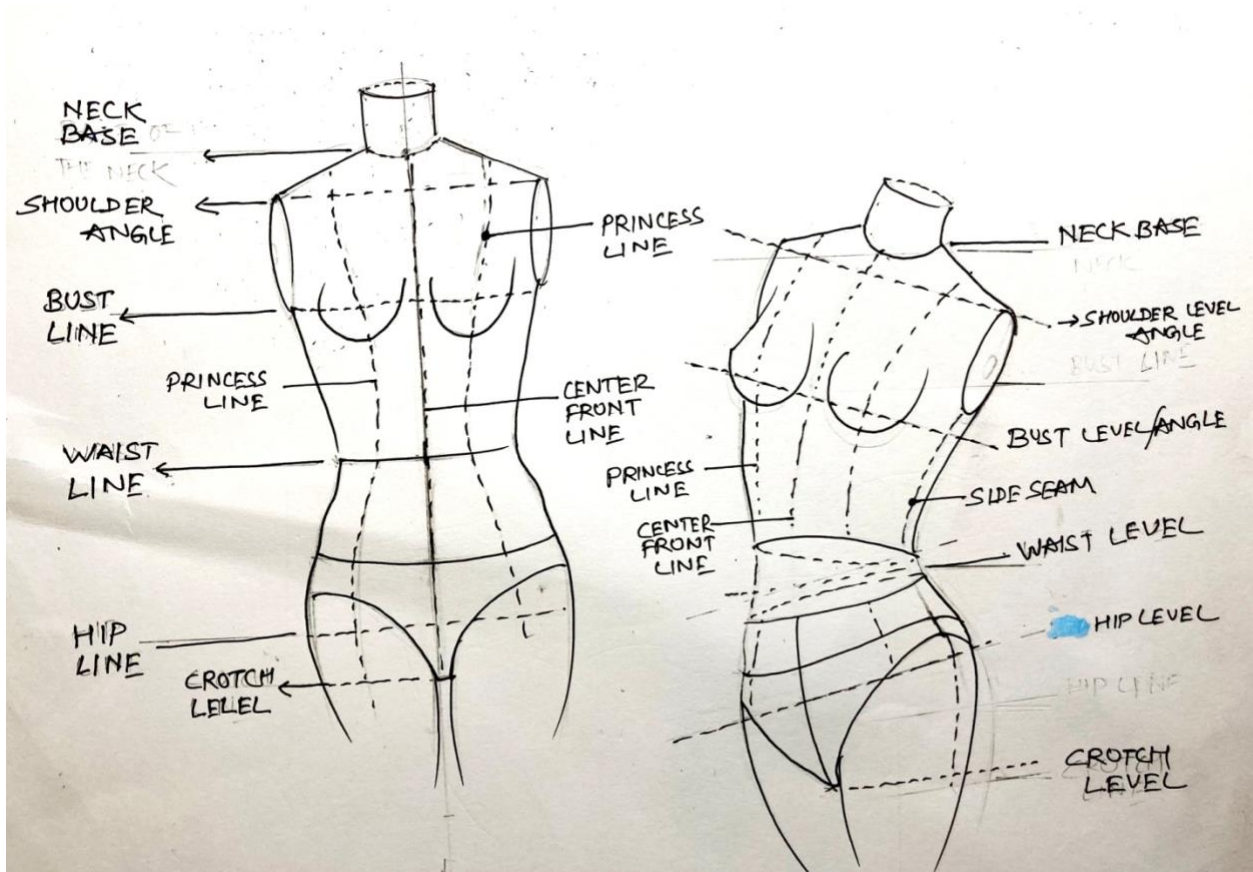


The Upper Body (Torso) and Structure Lines

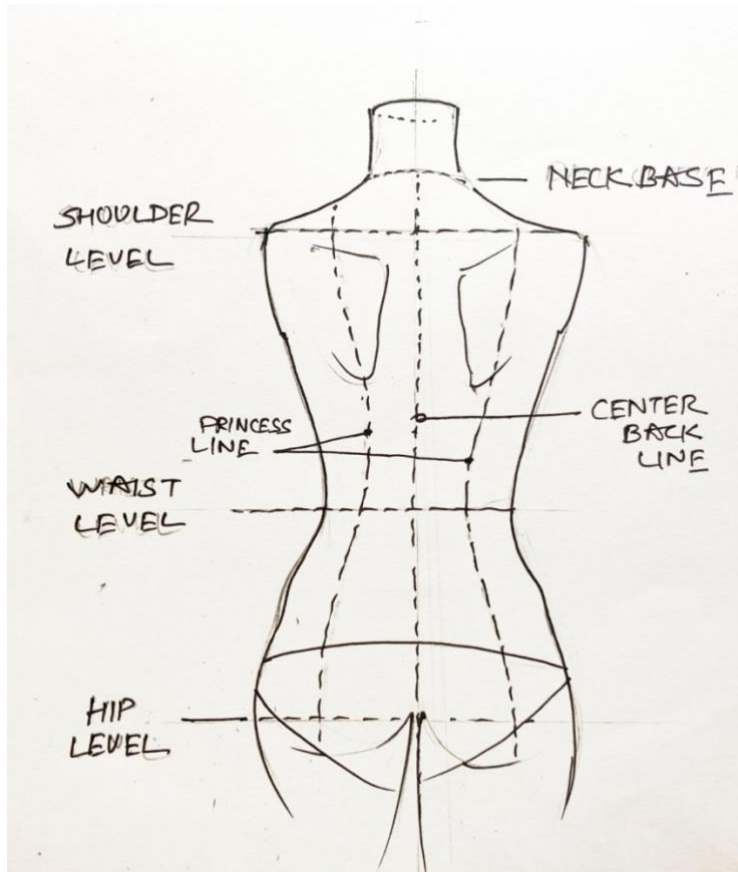
The upper body, or torso, is the most essential anatomical part of the female figure. Its flexibility and shape make it important aspects in so many ways.

The upper body is the most important part of the whole fashion figure, and knowing how to draw it perfectly from every angle and in its all possible movement is a sign of good fashion illustrator.

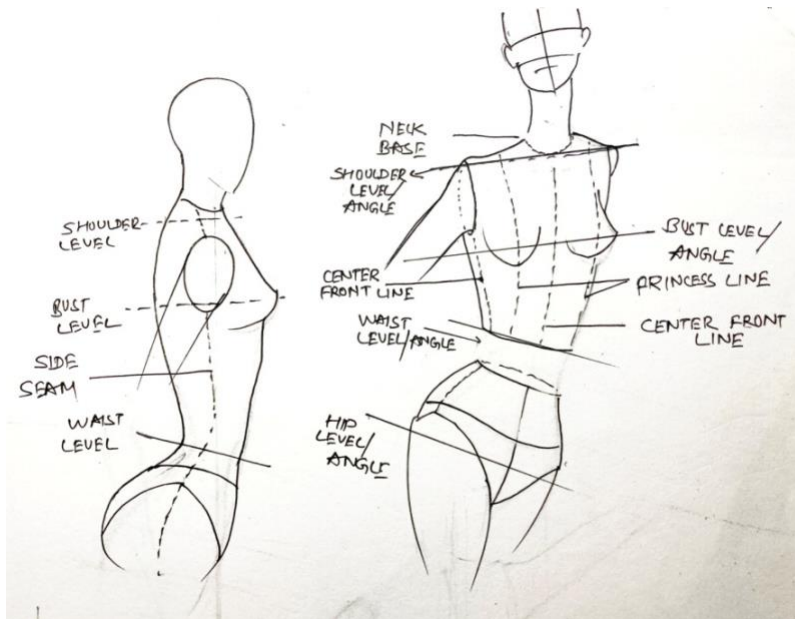
Torso Drawing: Front, Three-Quarter, Side and Back Views



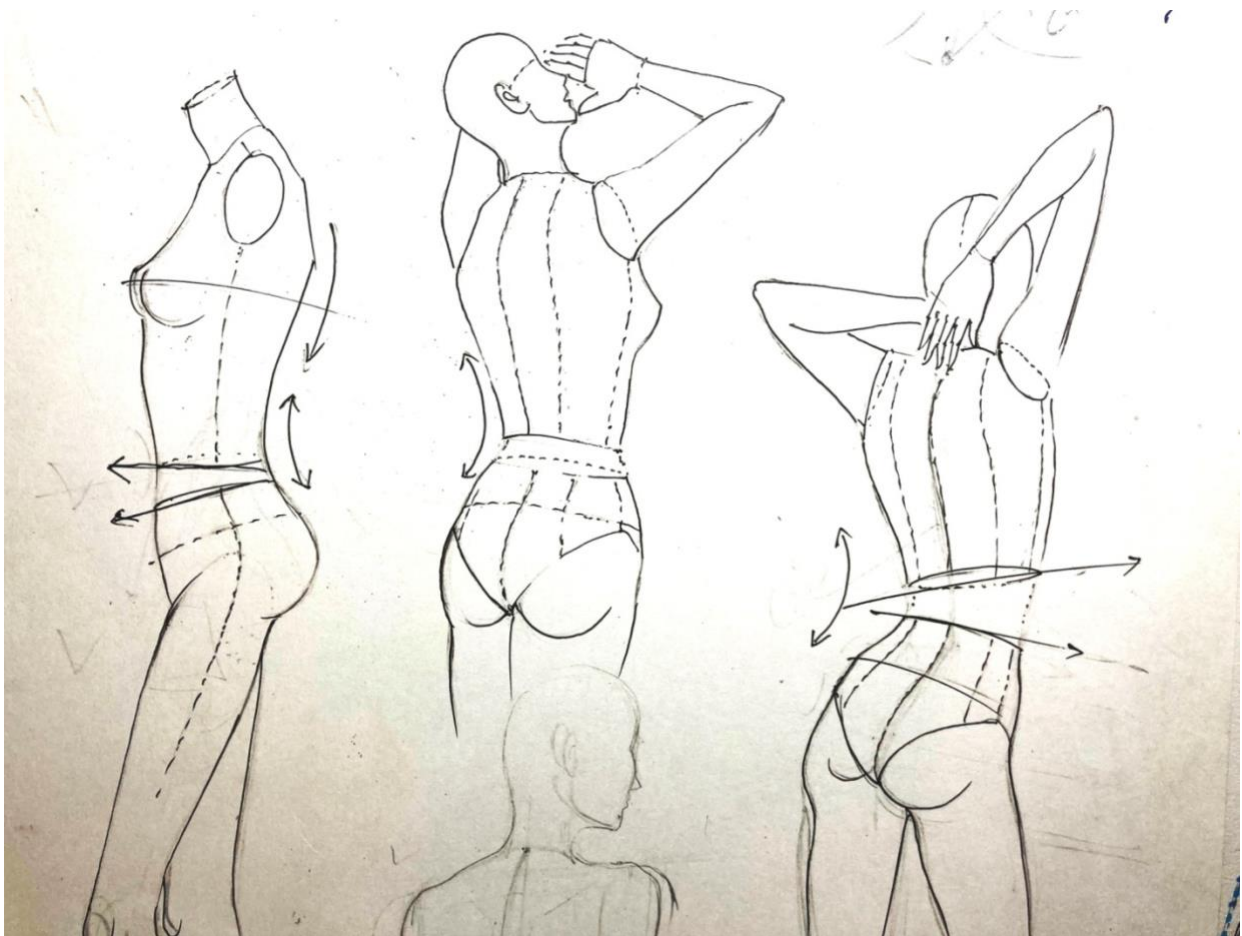
Front and Three-Quarter View Torso Drawing with structure lines



Back View Torso Drawing with structure lines



Torso drawing in movement with structure lines



Torso drawing in movement with structure lines

IMPORTANCE OF STRUCTURE LINES IN PLACING ON THE GARMENT ON FASHION POSE

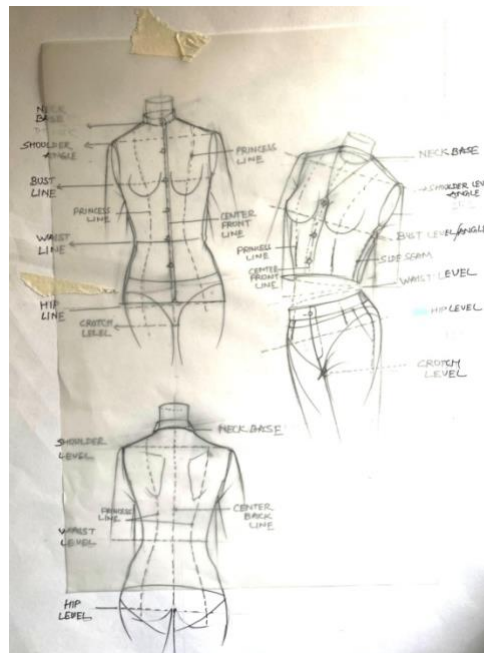
Here in this section get the tips on how structure lines are so useful in placing the garment on the figure in the right position. How it helps forming the silhouette (shape) of the garment. Get tips on drapes and folds.

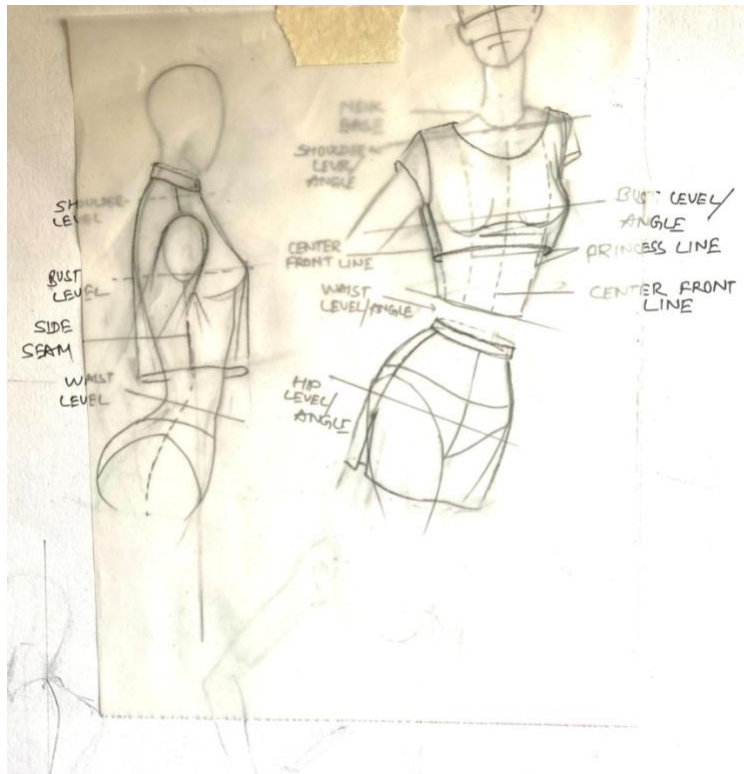
Dressing the fashion figure is undeniably the most fun part- this is where you can really let those brilliant design ideas come to life.

Some of the Structure Lines and Swing Lines are as follows :

- Base of the neck
- Shoulder Line
- Arm Hole
- Center Front Line or Center Back Line
- Princess Lines
- Side Seam – Inner and Outer
- Waist Band Line

Follow the structure lines to place the sewing details or any other garment details.





Important Notes:

- Use the structure lines of your fashion figure to draw the correct fabric drape.
- Once you have the fashion figure drawn, this is easy to do by following the hip and shoulder placement or angle.
- Make the waistline of your garment a bit curved to create more 3-dimensional movement.
- This is especially relevant if you are drawing a high waist skirt or pants. Curve the waist just slightly, with the curve opening up, to make sure that the cylindrical shape of the waist is displayed in your sketch.
- Pay attention to the hem as well. For a straight hem, the hemline should always follow the direction of the hip line.
- If the hip is pointing up on one side then so should the hem of the garment.
- Always keep in mind that all elements on a fashion figure should work and move together in a codependent relation.
- Once your garment is sketched on top of the figure, erase some of the figure pencil marks that overlap the garment.
- Add some movement lines to recreate the folds, drape or any sort of gathering/pleating your design features.
- The most satisfying part about learning how to draw a fashion figure is that once you have the shape, proportion and movement down, the clothing design options are limited only by your creativity

PHOTO ANALYSIS

I: (Analyzing the photo on the tracing paper)

Photo analysis in simple terms means analyzing the model pose on the photograph and drawing fashion figure. This process mostly adopted in the place of live model drawing. This method is convenient and simpler to work because the photos are in two-dimensional shapes. The pose, the source of light, garment drape, can be easily analyzed.

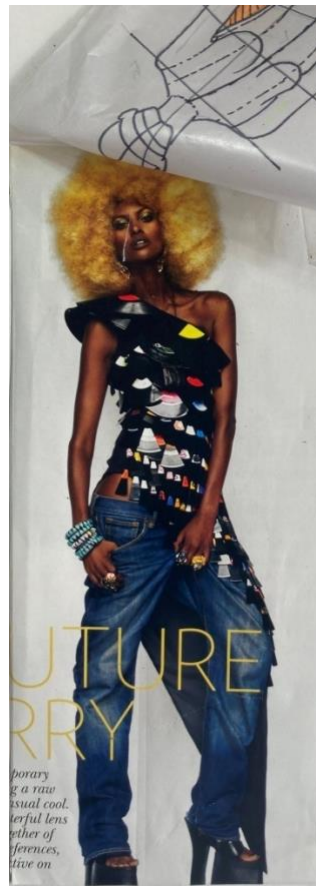
The contour line, angles such as shoulder angle and hip angles are easy to mark on the photographs. After that following the process, it is translated in fashion figure proportion.

Photo Analysis Technique – Steps by step procedure

Step 1: Select Photos of models from magazines or take out a print from the internet.

You will need an apparent visual reference.

- They can be fashion show models, with an attitude.
- The photos should be of full length, displaying all the body parts correctly. No sitting posture or lying posture.
- Pictures of models in swimwear, lingerie or wearing fitted clothing are preferred.



Selection of reference picture

Step 2: Tracing the Fashion Pose – Photo Analysis method

- For tracing you will need a tracing paper or a gateway sheet.
- Get tracing paper of smooth quality so that you can see the reference photo well.
- Put your tracing paper over the reference photo and draw a straight vertical, i.e. plumb line (Balance line) starting from the pit of the neck. It should be perpendicular to the floor.
- The next step is to draw the angle of the shoulder and hip level. Note: The angle of the bust level will be parallel to the shoulder and angle of the waistline will be parallel to the hip level.
- Start drawing the outline or contour line starting from the head and move towards the lower part of the body.
- After countering draw all the structural lines, such as the base of the neck, centre front line, princess line, side seam, and armhole.



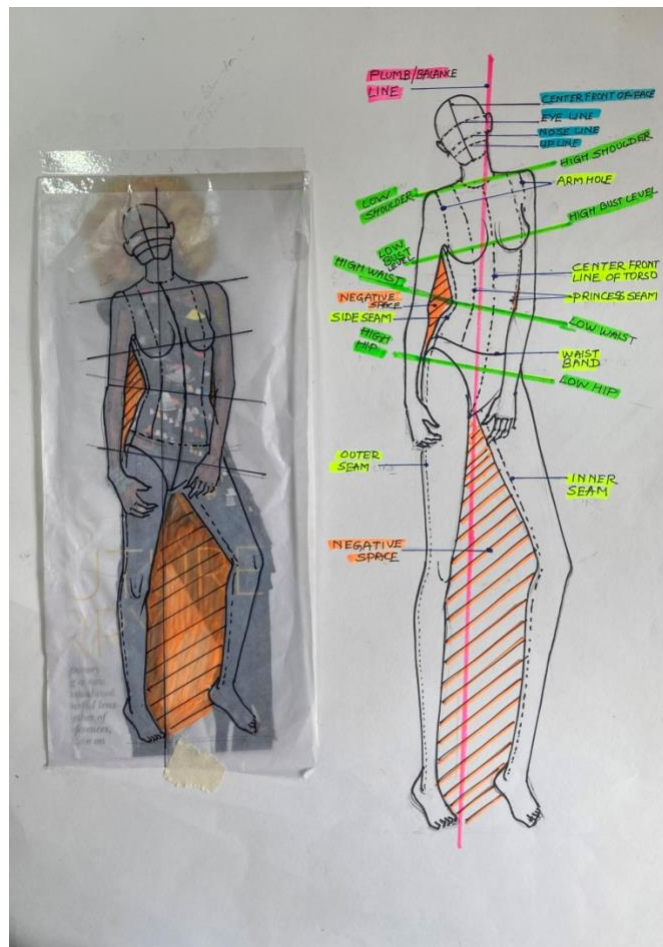
Analysis on the tracing paper

Photo Analysis

II - (Shifting the analysis on the Drawing paper)

Step 3: Transferring the traced figure on to the drawing sheet.

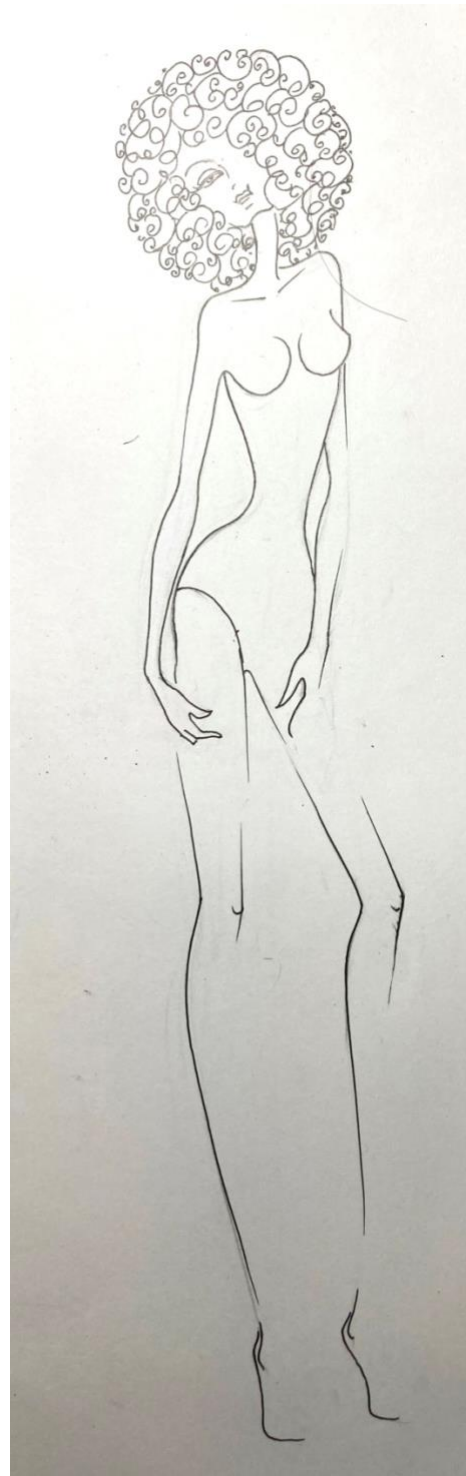
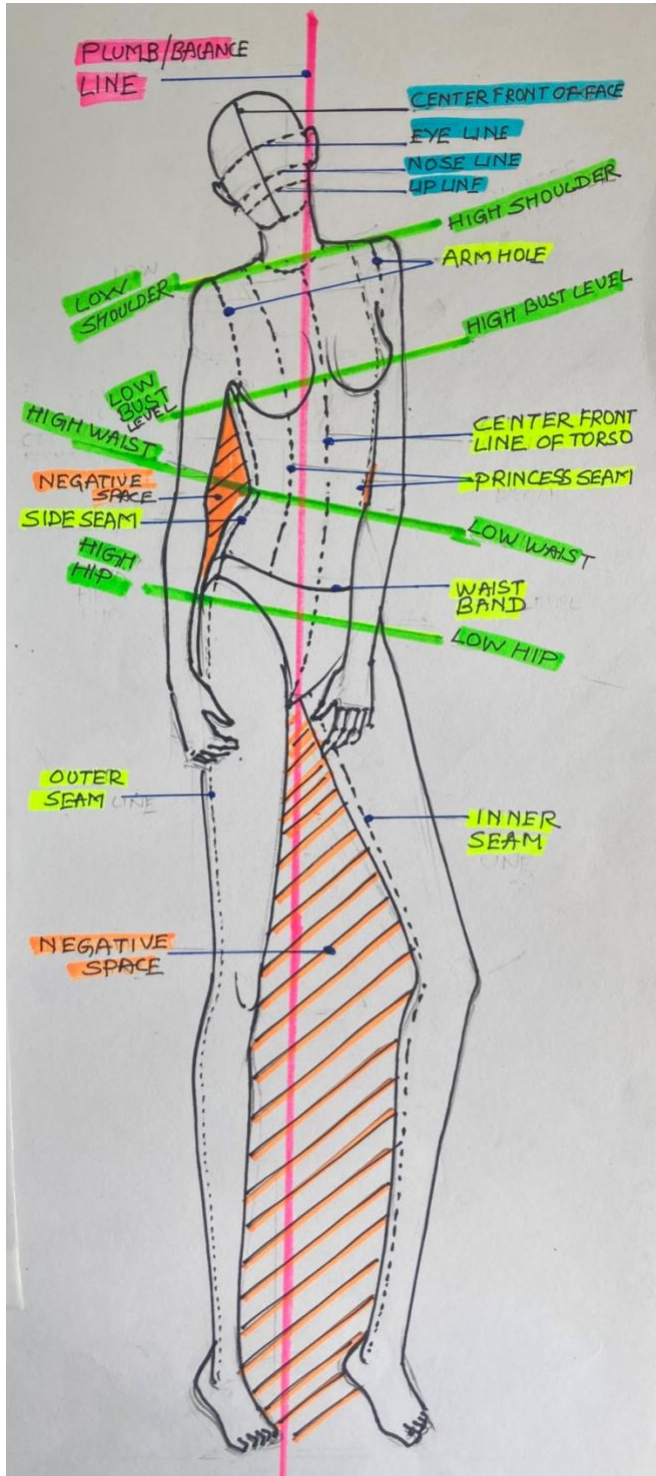
- On the drawing sheet, draw the plumb line /balance line first.
- Number all the 10 heads.
- Draw the centre front line in the same direction as it is in the reference photo.
- Mark all the angles such as shoulder, bust, waist and hip levels/angles.
- Start outlining, i.e. contour line on the drawing sheet.
- While outlining notice the negative areas and the distance of the body parts from the plumb/balance line.
- Improve and finalize the shifted fashion figure on the drawing sheet you made by tracing the reference photo.
- Lastly, make the little adjustment, make changes in the ten heads proportion as you desire.



Transferring the traced figure on to the drawing sheet

PHOTO ANALYSIS

III- (Convert your developed fashion pose into a stylized figure)



What is stylization?

When the structure of the human body is altered through exaggeration or simplified in a unique way is called fashion stylization.

Human stylization can take place using various methods. One of them is an increase in the size of the figure. The illustrators change the length of the limbs or some of the parts, keeping its proportions. May be the size of the waist or neck can be altered.

Having a unique, personal style of illustrating fashion pose is one of the most rewarding qualities a designer or an illustrator.

This section helps you in exploring and developing the pose in expressive and unique way. It will give you freedom from more literal ways of drawing fashion poses in mind. That means learning how to convert reference images without copying them, challenge the established way of drawing fashion pose. It is more about drawing from the heart . Stylized fashion figure uniquely complements the garments.

Understanding of the correct proportion is essential to create your style of pose. Knowledge of the proportionate figure drawing will allow you for a variety of freedom when developing your style.

The exaggerated figure is often applied to bring the viewer's attention to the length of a dress or give the illustrator more space in which to create folds, movement, or texture in the fabric.

There are many of the techniques of stylization. Still, you need to experiment and explore of your own; you may exaggerate features so that you may accentuate the designs being illustrated. Most of the illustrators draw a tiny waist to show the feminine curve and the dress in glamorous way. Stylization helps in gaining attention where the designer wants to focus on , for an example if the designers want to get the focus towards the head accessories he or she have designed , the illustrator will make the hair big or draw attention from the cloth .

How to develop your style of drawing and rendering

- See various artworks of different illustrators.
- Look for books, visit art museum and exhibitions
- Search for different websites devoted to fine art, pop art, cartoon strips
- Get the basics of drawing right such as line drawing, anatomy study, gesture drawing, structure lines, basics of rendering etc.
- Get your basics right, so that you explore and develop your style; your skills will help you out.
- Take help of reference pictures, other illustrators work but don't copy them. Your style has to be different from others, to make your work unique and stand out.
- Practice drawing daily. It will build your skills, and gradually you will able to develop your style.
- To evolve your style, you need to come out of your comfort zone. You should have the courage to draw in a unique way.

- Doodle as much as you can. It will polish your skills.
- Doodle helps to improve your hand-eye coordination.
- Repeat drawing the same thing again and again.
- Give yourself the freedom to change the way you draw something.
- Take a break while you draw. Best of the ideas comes when you relax your mind.
- Evolve; don't stick with only one style when you start exploring.
- Keep patience, don't give up; it takes time to experiment.

PHOTO ANALYSIS

IV- Explore and Develop Your Style of Fashion Rendering

Rendering the garment using stylized techniques

- Stylized drape rendering technique can be achieved by using various colour mediums, a different method of using brushes.
- You may draw and render most abstractly.
- This skill makes the designer unique. The designer conveys the idea, silhouette, texture, pattern of the garment in most aesthetic way.
- Get aware of your natural flow of brush while rendering cloth on the stylized pose.
- Strokes of the brush may be quirky and fun.
- Remember to have rework on your drape rendering until it becomes spontaneous



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List of some techniques of stylization, which you can try, however, you are advised to explore your own style

1. Ultra-feminine
2. Playful / Whimsical Strokes
3. Use of unconventional materials
4. Youthful, slightly gothic-cool
5. Use of harsh colours and strong contrasts
6. Photographic artwork
7. Animated characters
8. Rough sketchy lines with abstract vibrancy
9. Minimalist
10. Feminine elegance
11. Fashion and Art
12. Imperfection Approach
13. A mystifying balance between colour and shapes and leaves much to be wanted
14. Cut paper collage
15. Leaving breathing space.
16. De-construct
17. Uses food as part of illustrations
18. Bit quirky,
19. Different mediums
20. Minimal colour palette
21. Clean lines less overworked,
22. Less detailed
23. Cartoonish graphic illustrations
24. Mixed-medium
25. Street style and pop culture
27. Focus on young, modern women.
28. Beautifully delicate and whimsical drawings
29. Inspired by fashion and '60s/'70s bombshells.
30. Bold, romantic works
31. Enlarged limbs and exaggerated gestures