**Negative Space**

**Intro**

Nothing there? Think again. Train your power of observation and drawing ability by learning to look at things through a new perspective using negative spaces.

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**A fundamental concept**

Learning about negative spaces is a fundamental component of drawing and usually a pure joy for beginners because of its whimsical quality. In a sense you are drawing what is not there.

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**Negative spaces vs Positive forms**

In our culture we tend to fixate on objects and positive forms, leaving little thought to the space that lies between objects. In drawing, the air between object becomes just as important part of the whole as the objects themselves.

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**Drawing as a puzzle**

Beginners will often lavish attention on positive forms while filling in the background. Think of a puzzle, each piece is as individually important. Be it a face, an object or a piece of sky or curtain.

Drawing negative shapes is useful because it gives us a perspective and can help us draw the ‘difficult’ parts of a image. By drawing all the space around an object you invariably end up drawing the desire object, as such, for free. Look around you and try to visualize the space between objects as elements themselves.

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**You can do it!**

Now, take a look at the image of the ram above and try to draw the negative spaces. Around the body, between the horns etc. Essentially all the white parts of the image. Don’t think about what you are drawing, they are just abstract shapes. Ignore the objects. Clear your mind. Do a couple of ‘Om’s and give it a go.

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**Voila!**

How does it look? OK, it might not look exactly like the original but if it resembles anything like the above congratulations. You’ve probably captured the most important elements, such are the horns and between the legs. These are challenging elements to draw for any artists so you should be proud of yourself.

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**Lessons**

An important lesson here is that if you draw the negative space you invariably end up drawing the objects themselves. Notice how the mind will leap to make up any missing information? Drawing negative spaces is great practice to see things differently. Find images online or look around you and give it another go.