

Here are some techniques to try when working on abstracting an object or figure:

1. Cropping the figure to the far left or right of the page (with parts of the body not able to be seen) presents the figure in a different way.
2. Zooming in/blowing up certain parts of the body. Having the entire form shoot off all corners of the paper.
3. Simplifying the shapes down to their most essential forms.
4. Repeating/displacing body parts on different parts of the page.
5. Turning the page at a 90-degree angle or upside down and adding elements within the new page orientation.
6. Flattening lights/darks into bold patterns.
7. Adding repetitive patterning.
8. Dividing parts of the figure into geometric shapes.
9. Dividing the figure into all softened/curved forms. Combine aspects of #6 and #7 from the previous page.
10. Taking several existing figure drawings and using different parts of each to form another unique composition.
11. Incorporating cut up magazines, newspapers, found objects, items from nature, etc. into the abstraction to expand the materials.
12. Overlapping figures on top of one another. Using different colors and media to represent the different forms.
13. Overlapping objects, patterns, and items from nature on or within areas of the figure.
14. Altering your viewpoint: stand on a chair, sit on the floor and look at the model.
15. Drawing a figure or series of figures from memory or a dream.
16. Placing the figure in an environment and drawing in elements of that environment in a nontraditional way