



# The Drawing Room

## Tony Girardot

### One step beyond

These are trying times and it feels as if we're being encouraged to be 'extra creative' in order to occupy our time. Obviously there are withdrawal symptoms due to temporarily losing both our liberty and interaction with the outside world, but it's an ideal time to focus on existing skills rather than be distracted by short term projects which you would normally ignore.

Everyone in the Drawing Room have demonstrated a talent and skill for drawing, evident in the artwork to date, so, let's consider the next step of adding 'illumination' to your drawing skill.

What's meant by illumination?

It's the evidence of the critical observation of the subject by the artist, not by means of replicating in a photographic manner worthy of a scientific illustration, but by choosing relevant parts to accentuate, a disclosure of parts which would normally be overlooked in casual gaze and ignoring others, also of which express the character of the subject as understood by the artist.

The key word here is 'character'. We initially attribute human characteristics to objects at a subconscious level through interaction and either like, dislike or show curiosity, but, if we take time to scrutinise an object our perception of its characteristics change.

When we choose something to draw it's usually because we either like or find it interesting, but sometimes it's the mundane which can yield surprising results. An obvious 'illumination' example is Van Gogh's wicker chair which in its time would have been an unlikely candidate as an artist's muse.

Now has never been a better time to 'illuminate' your everyday mundane objects and raise your drawing skill to a new level.

Marcel Duchamp took objects and completely replaced their function and character by re-inventing them as art pieces. I don't advocate Duchamp's approach nor Andy Warhol's thoughts (see below), they are extreme examples of how to 'think' of objects but they can be used as a fun exercise in clearing the mind of any preconceptions you may have of an object's characteristics.

"but I'm afraid that if you look at a thing long enough, it loses all of its meaning."

— Andy Warhol



Don't forget you can share your ideas, work and influences on the Drawing Room Facebook group page. It's a great way to keep in touch with other group members and compare notes and influences. It's restricted to Drawing Room students only and can be easily found by searching > The Drawing Room-UK < when you're on Facebook. Meanwhile keep safe and keep drawing.

