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High School Doorway

Thoughts on the Art of Drawing Together the Conscious and Unconscious Mind

by

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NOTE: If drawing is new to you, please be gentle with yourself. Instead of comparing your drawing with other people's, put your energy into following the directions that YOU see in nature. YOUR point of view is one of your most sacred possessions. Your artist's-eye (or child's eye) helps you to feel connected to the Present Moment and to the world around you. You may not have used this eye for a long time but it is still part of you and can be awakened through practice. Ten or fifteen minutes is all you need to begin the practice.

DRAWING REPORT 7

10/24/04 THOUGHTS

This Drawing Report is dedicated to Principle Directions. A principle is a basic truth or source. Every person, place and thing in the world before you has principle lines running through it relating it to everything else.

Many people give up drawing because it is too hard. They never learned to look for *key lines* or *principle directions*. Enough cannot be said about **Principle Directions**.

When you do not know what to look for, drawing is impossibly challenging. You waste time and energy drawing lines that lead the eye erroneously.

The doorway to drawing is to practice looking for and drawing Principle Directions. And what are these Principle Directions? Are they complex, vague, esoteric, weird? No, they are vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines. These simple, powerful guides lead you to success in drawing. Follow them. Notice where they go. Notice where they intersect. Observe angles and values of light and dark.

Drawing upon Principle Directions helps you create a principled life.

CONSCIOUS PRACTICE

- 1) Find a doorway that looks interesting to you. Sit a little ways away from it with your sketchbook and pencil. Let friends and family know you wish to be alone and undisturbed for about 20 minutes.
- 2) Look for vertical directions. For example, the sides of the door, the molding, a wall on the other side of the door. Observe the light and dark relationship on one side and the other of these Principle Directions.
- 3) Extend one Principle Direction. Mentally see an invisible vertical line going up or down from your Principle Direction. Notice where it intersects the ceiling or floor.
- 4) Draw the intersecting Principle Directions with a light pencil line. (Vertical direction meets horizontal or diagonal direction.) Draw until you feel satisfied that the relationship of lines on your paper feels similar to the relationship of lines in the world before you.
- 5) As you follow Principle Directions, you learn to search and find truth.