

# SHADOW DRAWING



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## **Task:**

The summer is upon us and the long sunny days provide us with the ideal conditions to create some shadow drawings.

Create silhouette shapes on your page by tracing the outlines of the shadows cast from found objects around your home. Use a long piece of paper in landscape profile to create an interesting landscape scene of silhouetted shadowy shapes!



# Some examples:

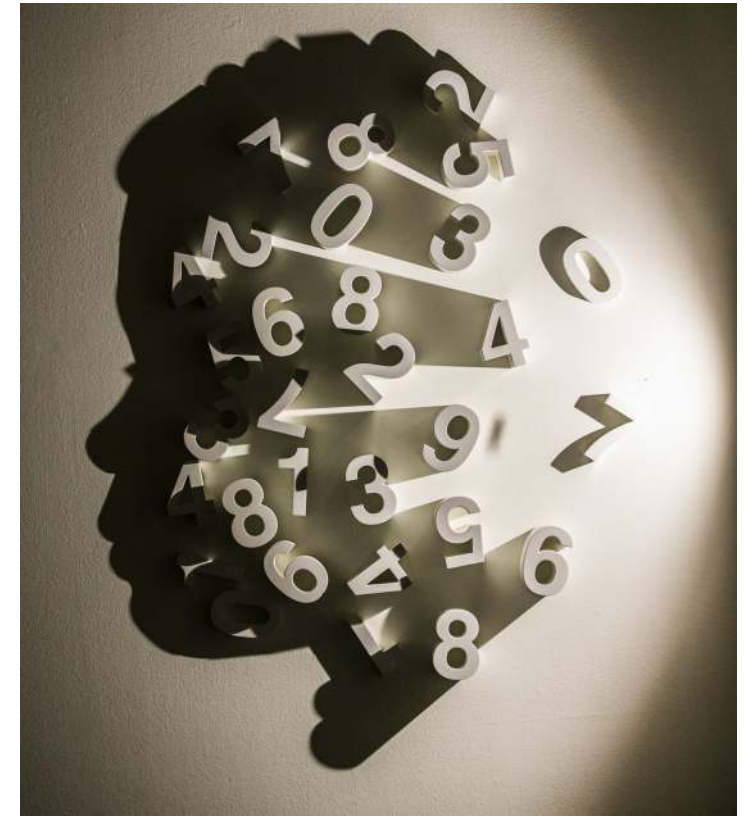




You might like to experiment with water in glass vases, jars and glasses to create interesting patterns in shadow such as these. Use a grey lead pencil to shade in the patterns.

***Shadow art works created by artist Kumi Yamashita.***

Kumi uses three dimensional shapes on the wall and directional lighting to create clever, artistic shadow pictures such as these.



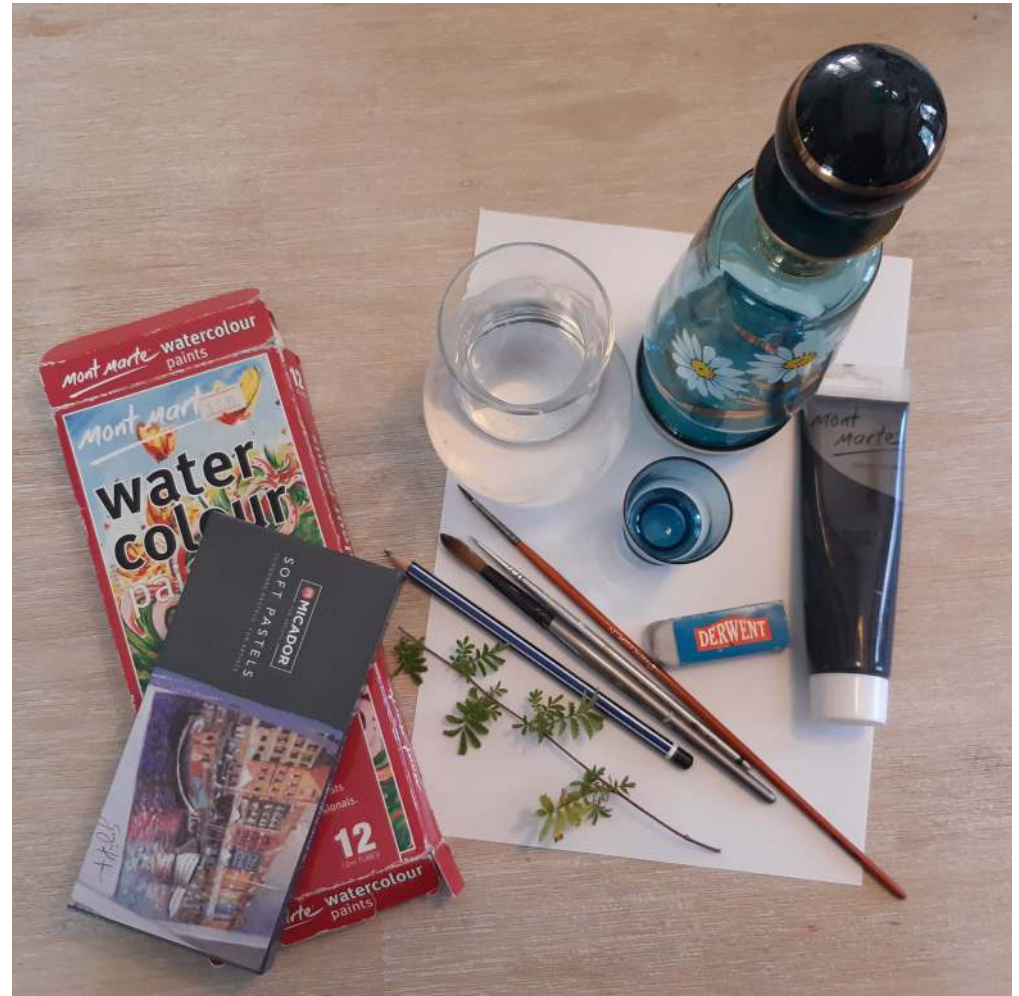


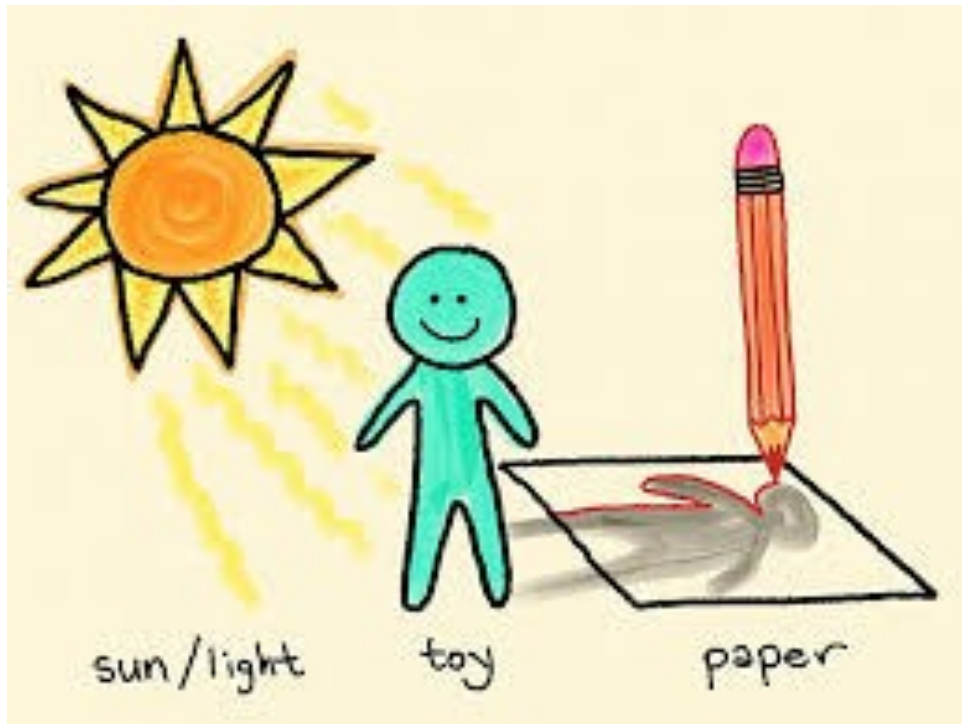
***Shadow art created with  
piles of arranged garbage  
by Tim Nobel and Sue  
Webster.***



## You Will Need:

- Plain white paper
- Pencil (soft pencil for shading)
- Eraser (optional)
- Paints, pastels and/ or other materials for colouring background (optional)
- Black acrylic paint and a paintbrush
- Sun or directional light source such as a lamp
- Objects that cast shadows such as vases with water, foliage, toys etc.





Place your object between the light source and your paper so they cast shadows onto your page.



## **Step 1:**

Find some good objects around your home to use that you think will cast interesting shadows and arrange them along the edge of your paper that is closest to the light source/ sun.

*\*NOTE: Shadows work best when the light is coming from an angle.*

*Eg: the sun is low in the sky.*



## **Step 2:**

Experiment with different shapes and effects you can create with your shadows by moving the objects around. Decide on a composition that you like. From the results you achieve you might decide to trace around the shapes and colour in, or use a grey-lead pencil to trace and shade in the shadow as you find it on your page.



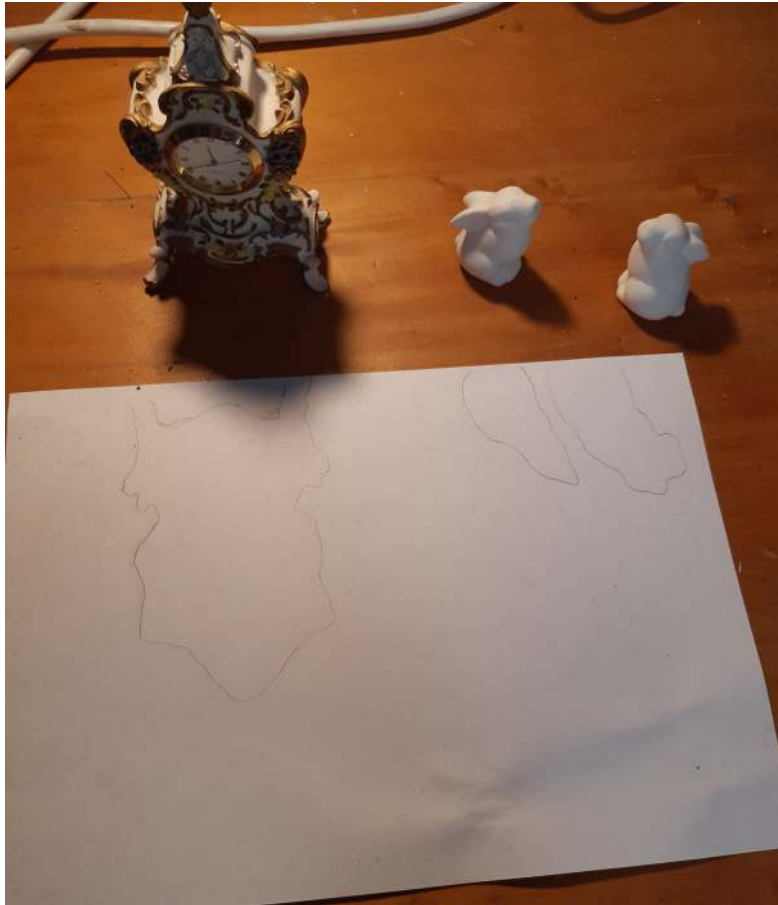
Tracing shadows is a good exercise for drawing what you see, not what you think you see. The shadows cast by objects can often appear very different to what the actual object looks like. Its fun to experiment with different shapes and effects you can create.

### **Step 3:**

Once you are happy with how your shadows are sitting on the page, start tracing and/or shading with pencil.

*\*NOTE: you can use the same object (s) moved at different angles to the light to create different silhouette shapes. For example look at the different shapes created using the same lamp in the picture below.*

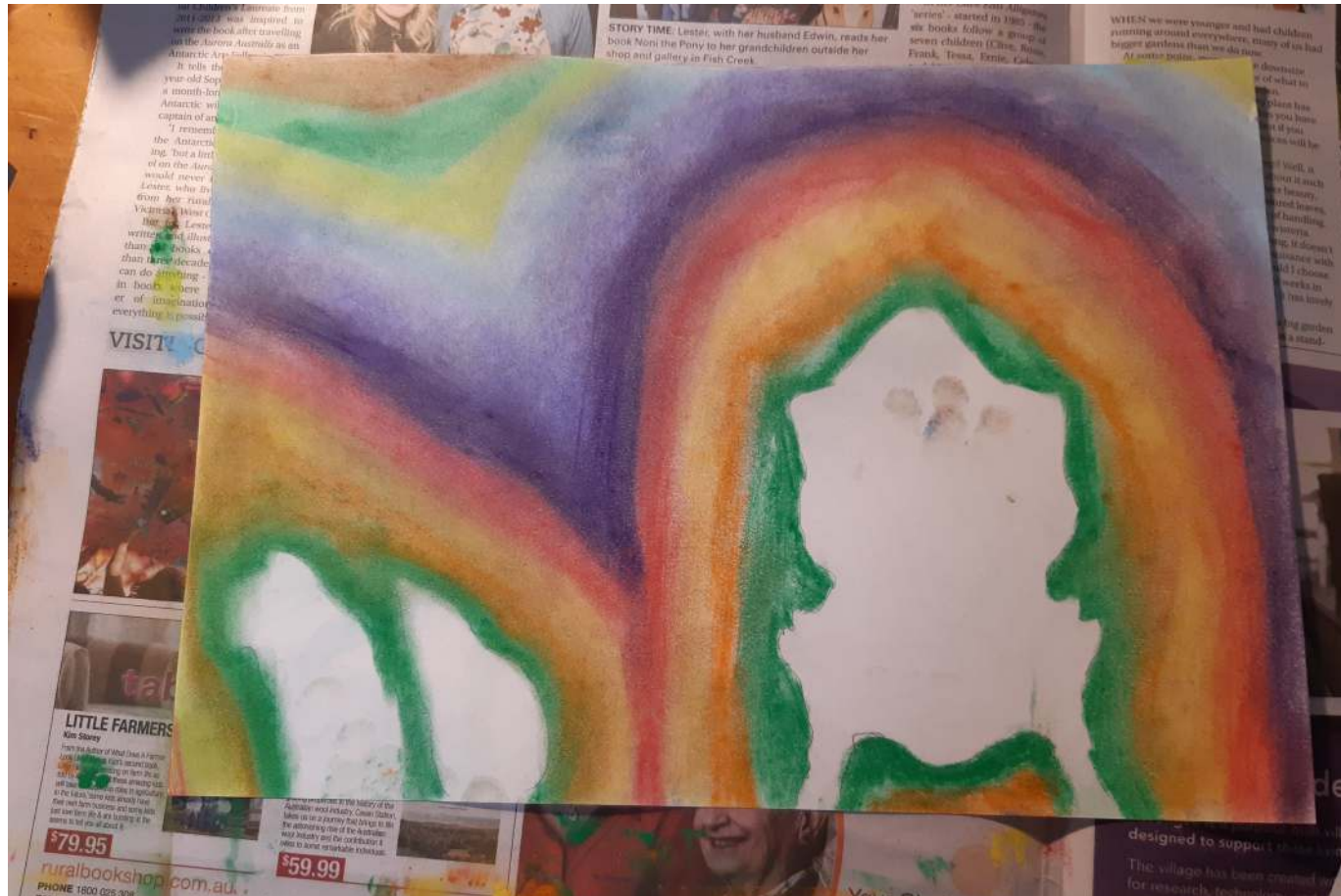




## **Step 4:**

Once you have finished tracing around/ shading your shadowy shapes, move your objects and look at your page in the light. Make any adjustments needed.

*\*NOTE: You may find as you trace and shade in your shapes that the shadows move on your page... this indicates how fast the earth is spinning in relation to the sun. You might have to work fairly quickly to get an accurate representation.*

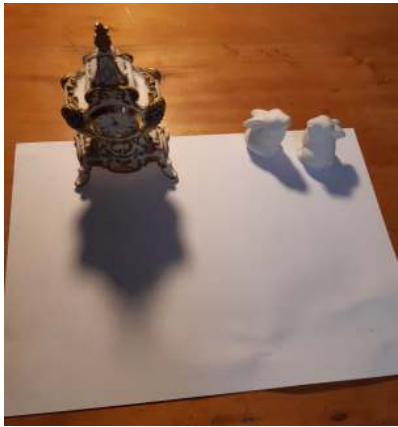


I went around and around my shape outlines with soft pastels and blended them together.

## Step 5: (optional)

If you have simply traced outlines of your shadow shapes you can now colour in your background if you wish using whatever materials you choose.

*\*NOTE: Be careful not to go over your pencil outlines of your shadow shapes too much!*



Bunny rabbit ceramic figures and old clock shadows with soft pastel background.

## **Step 6:**

When you are happy with your background and any paint etc. you have used is dry, Use black pen or black acrylic paint to colour in your shadow outlines.



Shading pic of shadow cast from water filled vase and foliage.

# Share Your Results...

Send in pictures of your finished Shadow Drawings to share with the creative community on the Devonport Gallery's Facebook page and see if anyone can guess what objects you have used to create your silhouette shapes!

Email pictures of your results to: [artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au)

