



Collections Exercise – Sketching and Storytelling

Observation

Take a few moments to observe the item you are considering. Let your eye lead you, taking in whatever catches your attention.

Drawing

When your attention begins to diminish, draw an outline of the item overall. You may also want to distinguish in your sketch the space around the item (i.e. the “negative space”).

Within your outline, sketch in the feature or part of the item that strikes you as the most essential, that you would not want to forget. Think about what captures your attention: color, shape, texture, medium, etc. Don’t worry about the accuracy of your representation; draw it in whatever way suits you best.

Label this #1.

Next, sketch what you consider the 2nd most significant feature. Label this #2.

Repeat however many rounds you have time for, or as directed by your instructor.

Reflection

Once you are done drawing, notice where the features you have sketched are located on the item, and where they are placed relative to each other.

- How do you “see” the item when focusing on the features?
- Are the spaces between the features that you have highlighted important?
- Does your sketch seem to suggest a narrative? Are there any “themes” to the features you’ve drawn?
- Do the features help you in understanding the item as a whole? How/why?