

*Da Vinci Initiative Ambassador: Rob Kamin*

# Bargue Plates

Adopting 19th Century  
Techniques in the 21st Century:  
a method of teaching form,  
value and line using drawings  
from the 19th Century

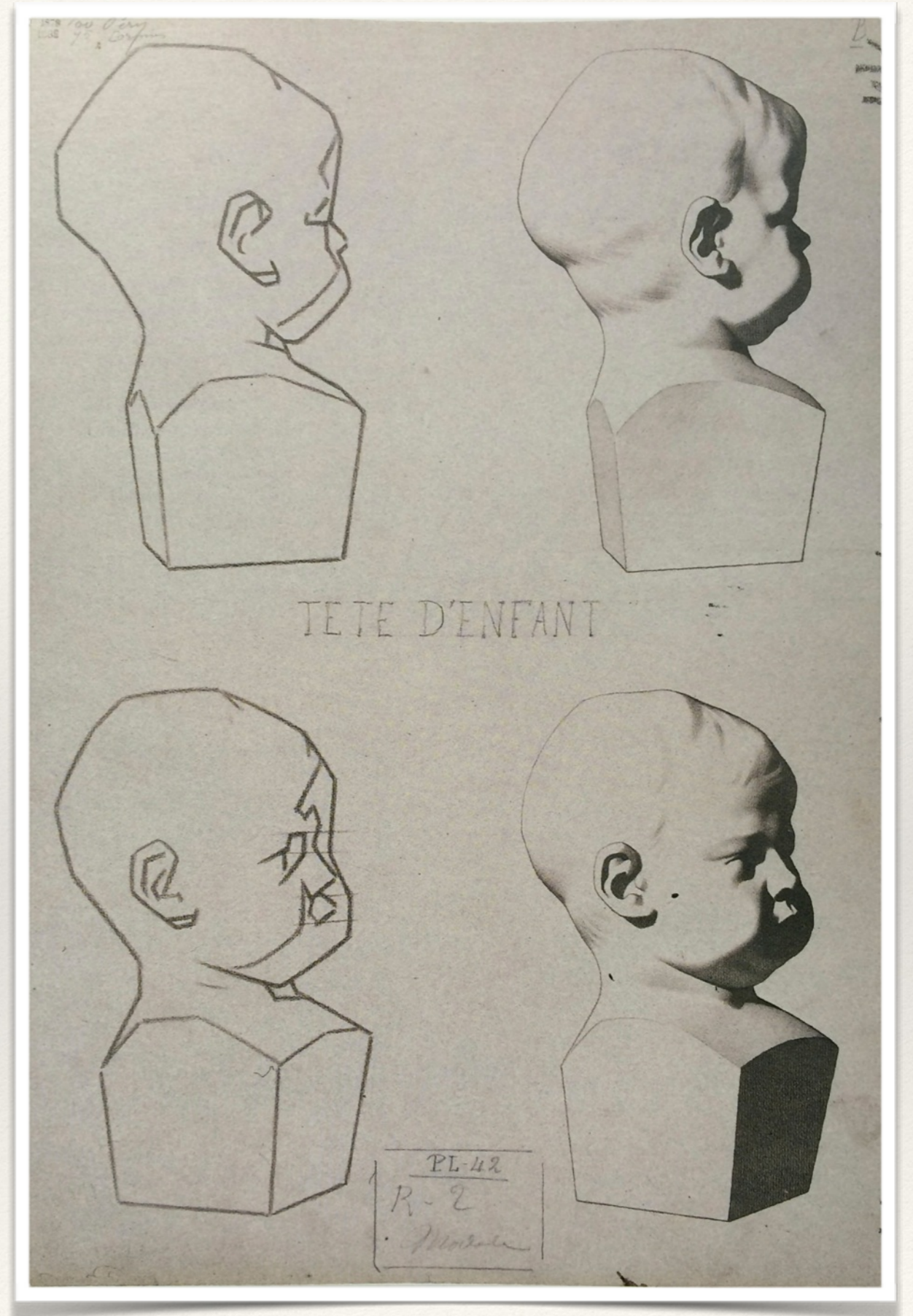
*Da Vinci Initiative: Bague Plates*

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# Objective

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Art students will copy the Bague plate to the best of their ability. They will gain an understanding of the envelope and use it to create the accurate proportions. Each Bague plate utilizes straight lines and angles because they are easier to measure than curved lines. Using straight lines and closely observed angles will aid in the accuracy of the drawing.



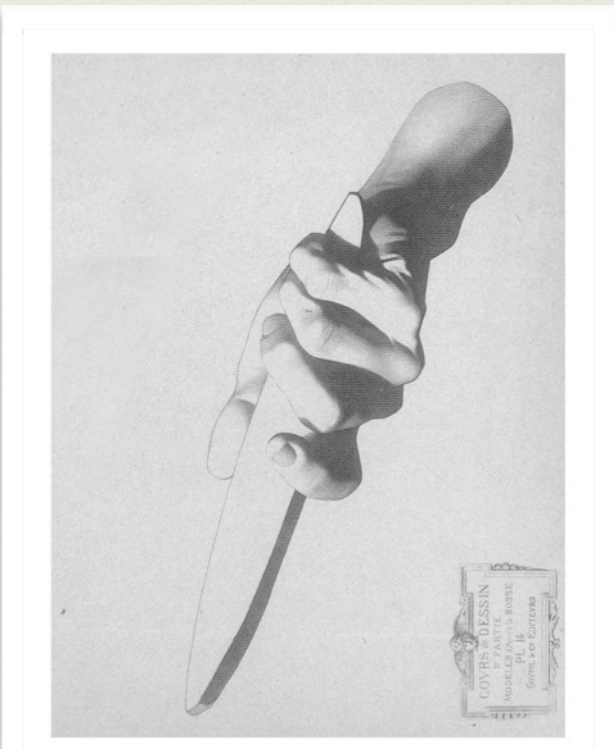
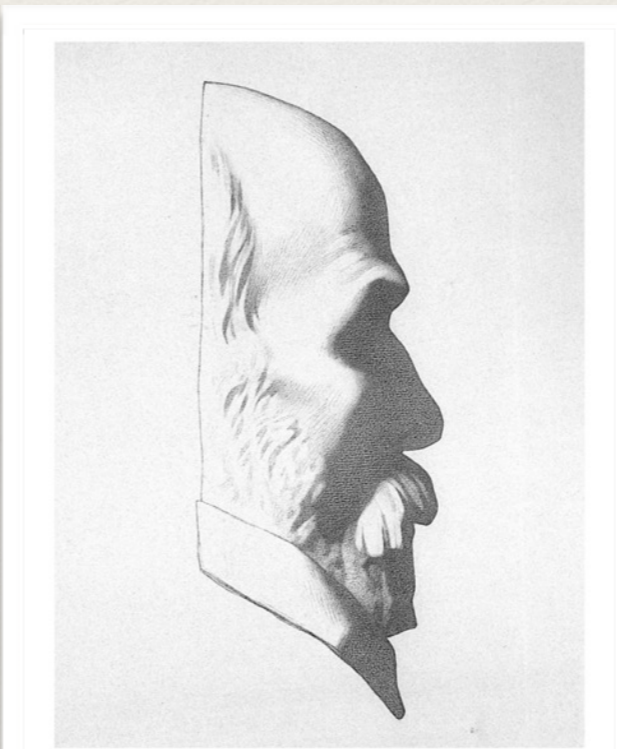
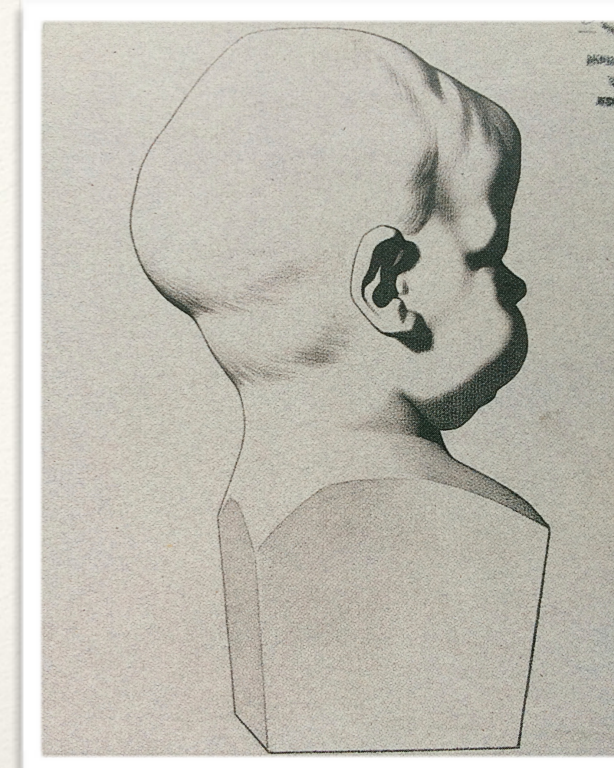
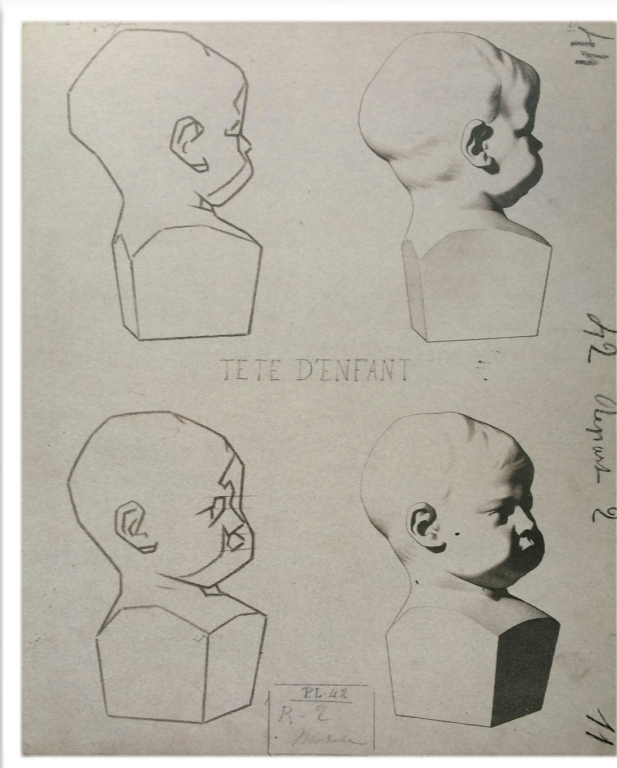
# Charles Bargue

with the collaboration of  
Jean-Léon  
Gérôme

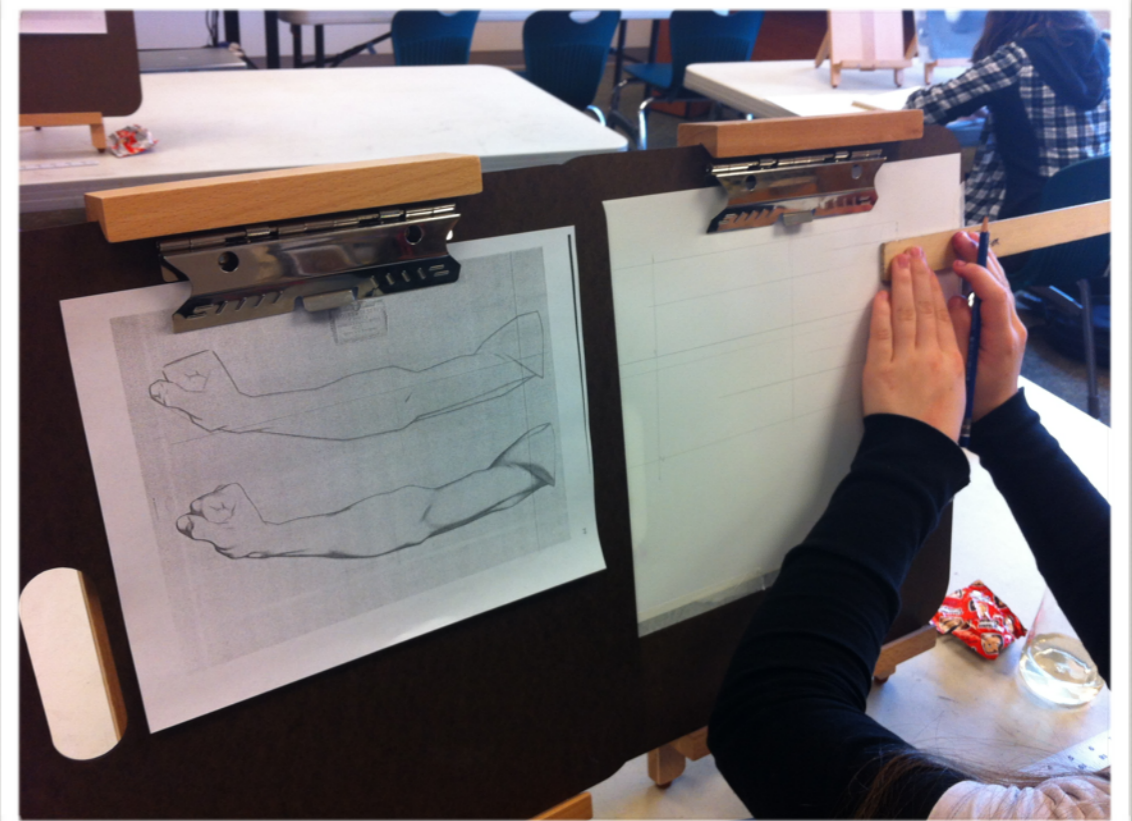
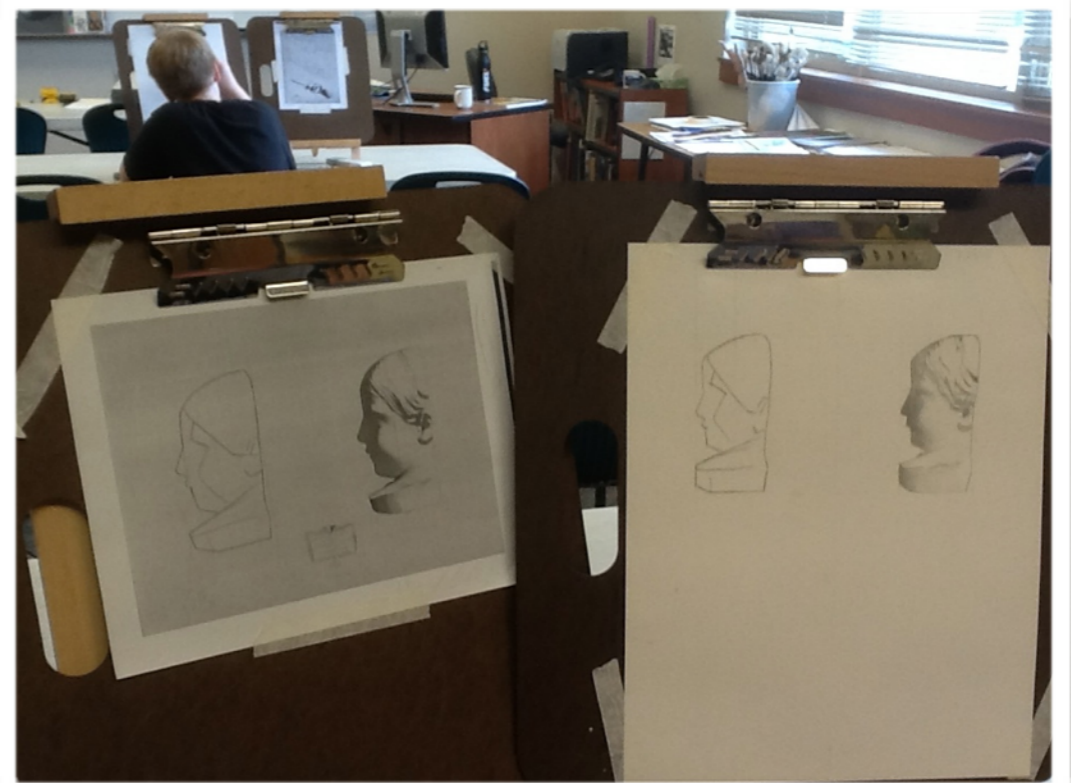
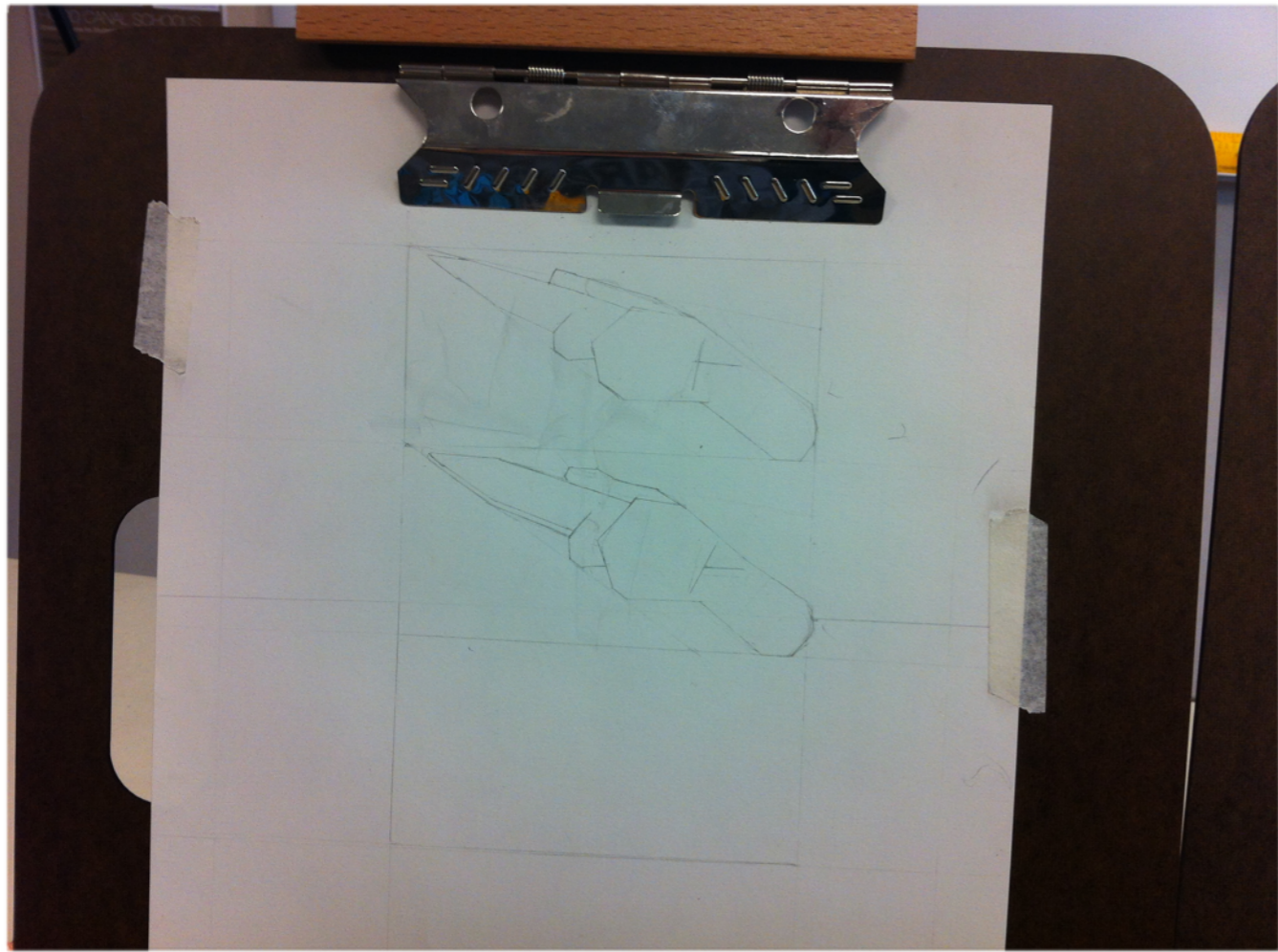
## DRAWING COURSE

Gerald M. Ackerman

ACR Edition



# 5th-8th Grade Student Work



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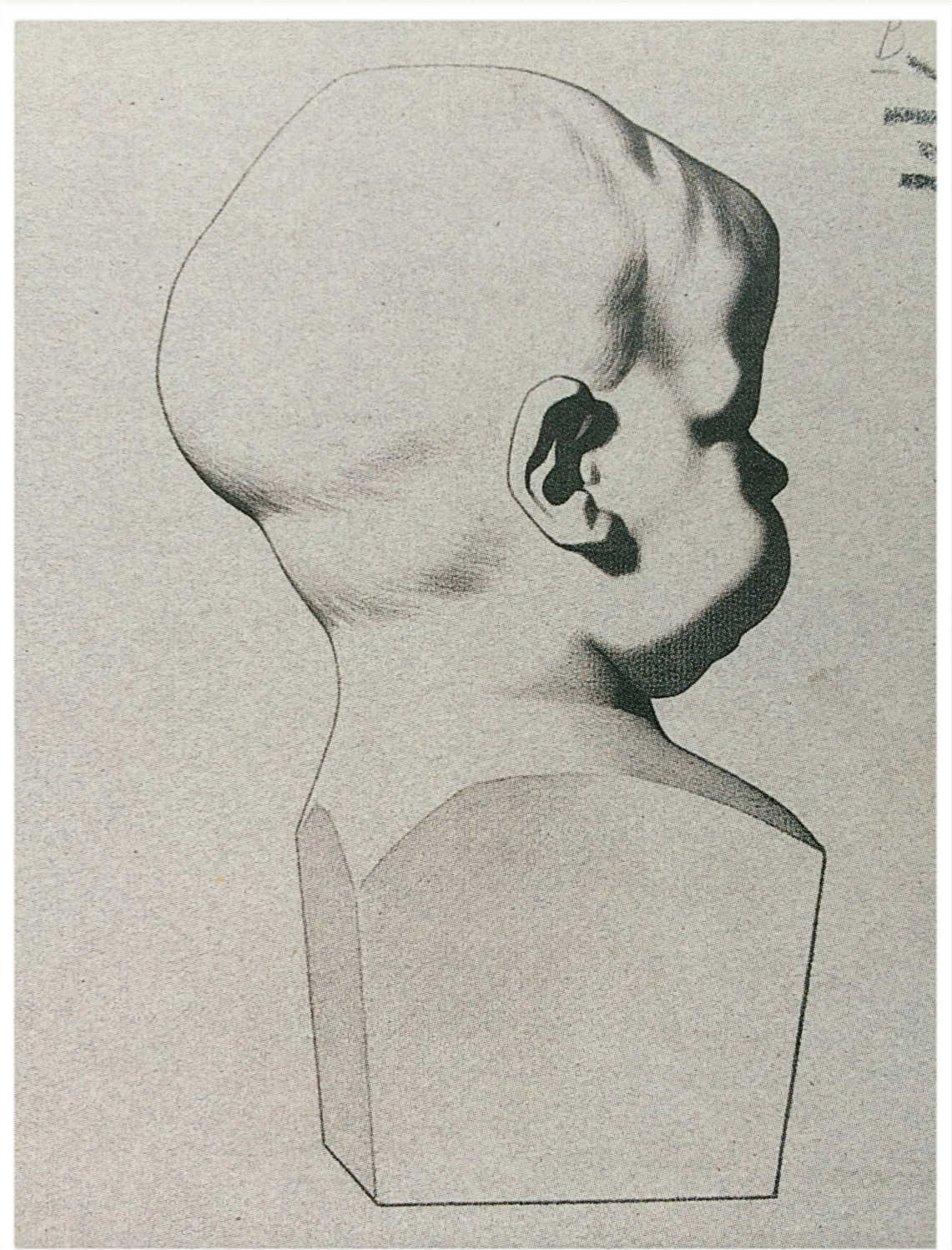
# Materials

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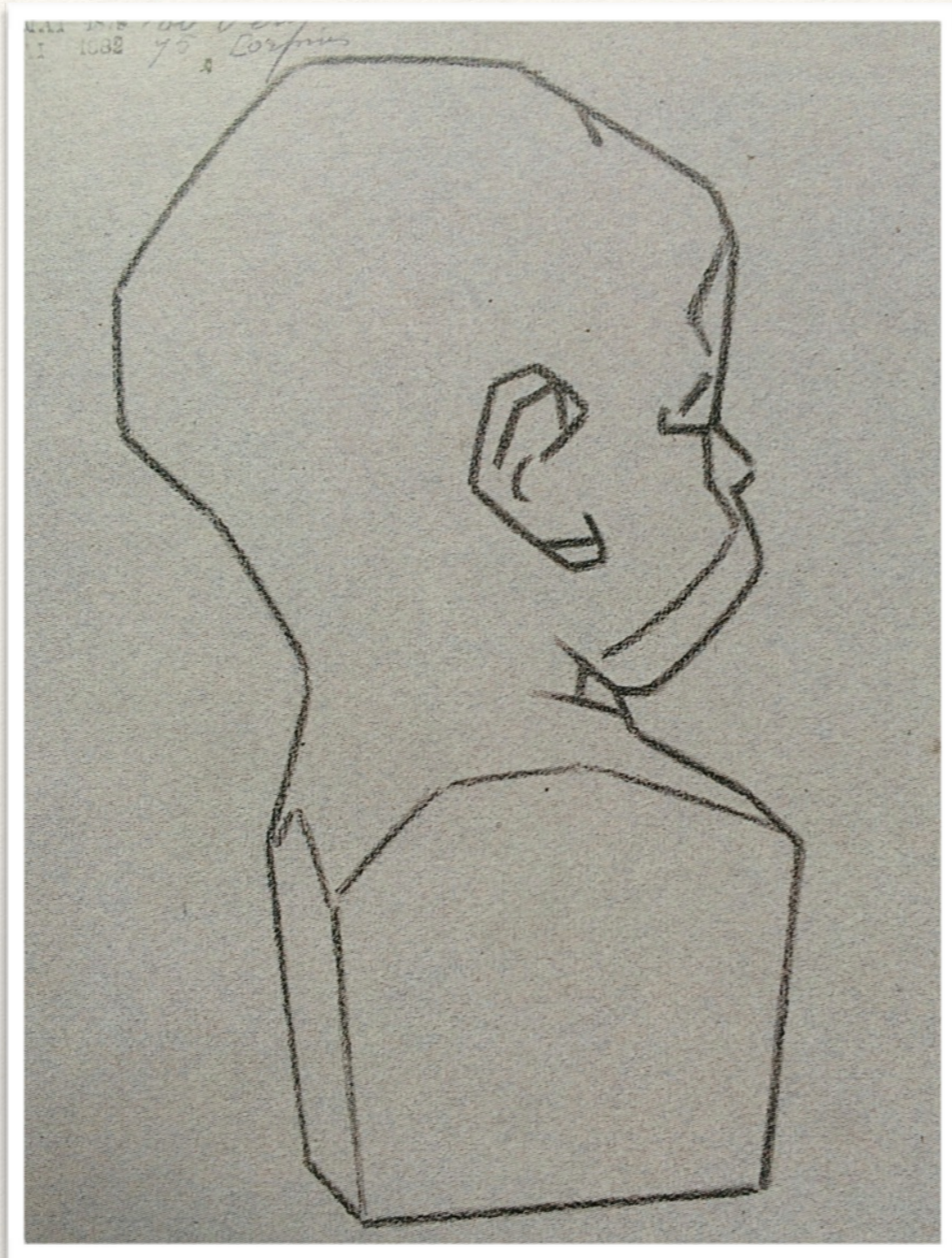
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For each class, teachers will need:

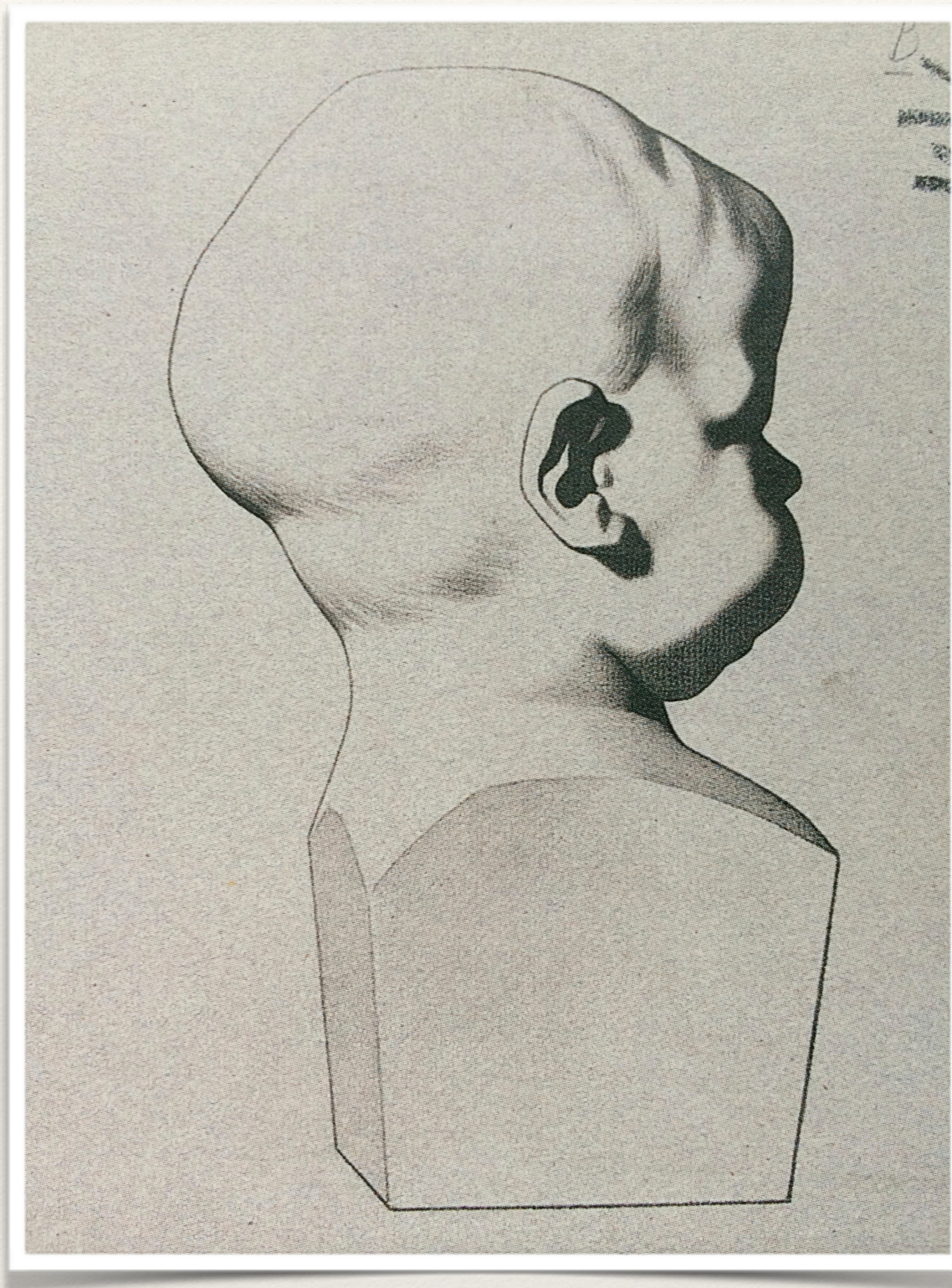
- Pencil
- Skewer or knitting needle
- Drawing boards (I generally use foam core)
- Graphite or charcoal pencils
- Drawing paper (white sulfite)
- Kneaded eraser
- Photo copies of the Bague plates taken from the book: Charles Bague-Drawing Course



This plate is organized into two stages.



**Stage 1:** The Envelope: here the Artist is mapping out where to place the construction lines. The Block-in: building on the envelope, the shadow shapes are further elaborated.



Stage 2: Rendering: the process of organizing and adjusting the values. Next, transition the straight lines of the block-in to contoured lines.



# Bargue Plate Assessment

	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points	Points Earned
Envelope	Envelope uses curved lines or many lines. The envelope does not efficiently describe the subject.	Envelope uses straight lines but could be simplified by using fewer lines and or the envelope has too much space between itself and the subject.	Envelope uses a small number of straight lines. Envelope efficiently describes the subject. Envelope closely hugs the subject.	
Lines	Few line angles are closely observed and or lines are curved. Many insignificant lines are included in the drawing.	Line angles are sometimes accurately observed. Most lines are straight. Some major lines are used in the drawing.	Line angles are accurately observed. Lines are straight. Major lines are used in the drawing.	
Values	Few values maintain a hierarchy or show an active observation by the student.	Most values maintain a hierarchy.	Values maintain a hierarchy. There are no values in the light areas that are darker than the lightest areas in the shadow. There are no values in the shadow that are lighter than the darkest part of the light areas.	
Total				

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# Procedure:

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1. Use tape to place your Barge Plate and a piece of drawing paper side by side on your drawing board. Place drawing board onto your easel and make sure that it is secured tightly.
2. Using your skewer as a ruler, measure the height of the drawing on the Barge plate.
3. Using this measurement, place a mark on the paper (preferably centered and on the same level as the Barge plate) for top and bottom of the plate.
4. Using your skewer as a ruler, measure the width of the Barge plate.
5. Using this measurement, place a mark on the drawing paper for the width of the drawing (the left and right sides).
6. By closely observing the envelope on the first of the two images, use your skewer to check the angles of the envelope. Notice that these are all straight lines. Take measurements for each line of the envelope and recreate each line on your drawing. Make sure not to go outside of your height and width measurements. Carefully observe that the envelope has been elaborated upon using large straight lines. Observe that some of the lines repeat through the drawing and others end. Take measurements for each line of the envelope and recreate each line on your drawing. Keep your lines light by holding the pencil towards the end and not the point.
7. Find the darkest values on your Barge plate and shade these on your drawing.
8. Working from dark values to light values, draw the values that you observe from the Barge plate on your drawing. Continue to hold the pencil with a light touch.
9. Use the kneaded eraser to remove any unwanted lines or rough edges.