

Lines in Albrecht Dürer's Drawing of a Large Horse

by Ojus Doshi



This is a drawing of a horse from the artist Albrecht Dürer. Take a look at the lines in this drawing. The drawing uses many types of lines to create shade and texture. We see horizontal lines and curved lines, thick lines, and thin lines.

Look at the belly of the horse. Do you see how the part of the belly is shaded, or dark? This shading is created by putting many diagonal lines on top of each other. This is also true for the buildings in the background. The artist shows them in a dark shadow. If you look very

closely, you can see how many different directions of lines cross each other to create a dark appearance. This kind of shading is called cross-hatching.

Lines can be used to show a darker area even if they all go the same way. The artist can do this by drawing the lines close together. For example, look at the column all the way on the left. The artist shows that the right side of the column is darker than the left by making the horizontal lines closer to each other. This shading shows that the left side of the column is closer to light than the right.

Think about other kinds of art you've seen. Where else might you spot cross-hatching or shading?