

## Shell

Please read in Nicolaides, the sections on cross contours and exercise 18, quick contour (p.75) and the five hour contour p. 74.

Keeping this reading in mind, I would like you to draw a shell (the spiraling kind) using the notion of contour and cross contour. The shell should fill a good portion of your paper and have monumental scale. Use your good sheet of paper, 36" X 42", and fill the page by using the zoom lenses in your minds eye.

This does not have to be a "blind contour," but rather a "contour study" using line - which moves over and around the form, describing the form the line travels over with enough accuracy OF TOUCH that a Martian could use it as a geological map and report back exactly the nature of the shell in question. Use cross contours wherever possible. A shell has a wonderful tracing of it's growth in the lines which circumscribe its surface. As if the wave and the snail formed it and gave you a good tracing of that formation.

You will see this spiral formation in much of nature, especially the human form, so learn it well - a study is an investigation which seeks to discover. Materials are up to you. India ink or pencil, or charcoal and eraser.



Drawing by Matt Mullendorf.



Drawing (with detail at right) by Adrienne using compressed charcoal pencil on butcher paper.



First shell study with light wash by Kacey Ballard



Kacey Ballard applying a wash over 2nd shell study



Second shell study with wash by Kacey Ballard