

# John Baselmans

*'Drawing courses'*



Curaçao, 2008

These courses were written by John Baselmans  
Drawings and illustrations are from the hand of John Baselmans

I hope that you will be one of a new generation of artists.  
With thanks to all those people who have supported me.

Copyrights

I won't put all the usual 'don'ts' here, but I hope that you respect my work.  
At least let me know when you use any part from this book.  
For my address, please visit my website <http://www.johnbaselmans.com>  
There you can also find other free courses and explanations of my drawings.  
Thank you.

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**Course 1**  
**Part 2**



**‘See without fear’**

**A GOLDEN RULE:  
DO NOT GIVE UP**

**Keep drawing from your heart and from your soul.**

## Introduction

Why the name 'See without fear'?

'Seeing' is the most important step in opening your mind to create art. It makes no difference what kind of art you do; drawing, painting or sculpturing.

I use the word 'Fear', because we all have fears. The fear that I am talking about, is that big white sheet of paper in front of you at the beginning of a drawing or the 'I cannot do it' syndrome.

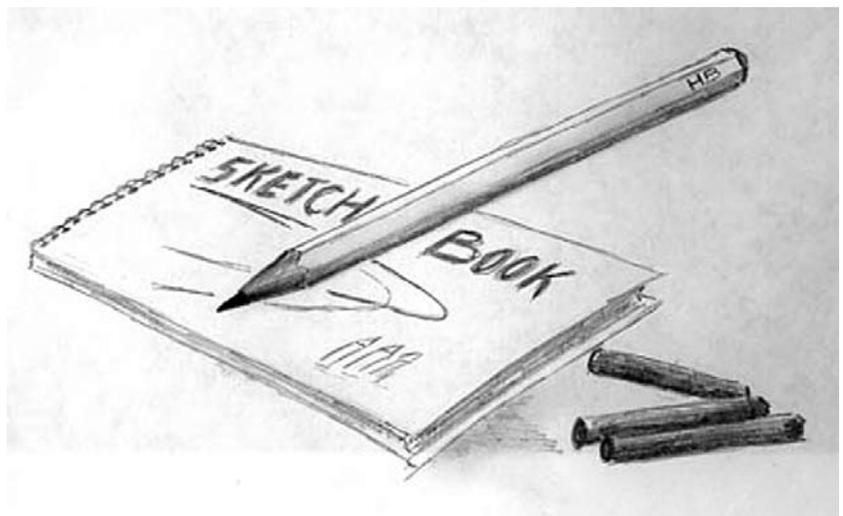
This course is the most important one you should learn and complete. Repeat it every day, every minute!

Most of us get our information from television. A few square inches that are a part of our lives, telling us what to do and how to act in life. We have to return to our real life of seeing and feeling. That is what we are going to learn right now and 'again'!

**Again?**

Indeed, because we came into this world with these gifts already.

We have lost them or put them in a corner of our mind.



## Session 1

### What do we need for this course?

- A sketch book
- An HB or 2B pencil
- Charcoal
- Courage
- An open mind and a lot of time, and above all, the will to begin something new.



## Session 2

Seeing is not just opening your eyes and looking around you. Seeing is opening your eyes, feeling the things around you and touching them in your mind. This is strange but true. You will see by yourself, later in this course. You can certainly feel with your eyes! I promise that at the end of this course, you will know exactly what I mean.

Do you not get a strange feeling sometimes when you look into other people's eyes?

This feeling through your eyes is making contact without talking. If you think that talking the only way is to make contact with people, you are wrong. You will learn and see again that there are other ways to communicate. You see and register with your mind. Your mind tells you what is happening or what is going on. Also, it gives signals to other people's minds.

You can look around you in two ways:

- First - You look around and after a second you have forgotten what you saw. Everyone does this and thus creates at the same moment an impersonal world.
  
- Second - You look around and you remember the images, enabling you to experience that moment again. This is done by people who have learned to 'See'. So far, it is a small, but important group.

When you focus on a chair or any other object and you keep intensely in touch with it, you can feel the object. You not only see it, but it also talks to you by sending you signals. No, I am not crazy, but that is something you will find out by yourself!



## Exercise 1

Ask somebody near you – a partner or a friend – to sit somewhere. Ask him to focus on what he sees around him. After 5 minutes of sitting in another room, ask him what he still remembers. Usually, you will get a general answer like: room, kitchen or street, without any details.

Then ask him: ‘What exactly did you see in that room?’ Most of the time, he will not know exactly what he saw and cannot describe any images.

This person probably looked around and let the images stay just behind the eyes, without sending any signal to the brain.

These are the first things you have to learn: See and store the pictures in your mind forever.

You are then able to describe them and they will always stay in your mind. You can retrieve them whenever you want.

## Exercise 2

Go and look around you, for example in your room or in your house, and choose an object to visualize. Sit and look at this object; see all its shapes, feel it and talk to it in your mind.

Do you see how complex this object is? How many lines does it have?

Analyze it and put it in your mind.



### Exercise 3

Choose another object, or even the same object. Focus on it for about 5 minutes in the same way as in exercise 2.

Now, close your eyes and see this object in your mind.

- How do you 'see' it?
- Is it the same image as the one with your eyes open?
- Are there any missing links?

Don't worry, the first time it may not work well. But you will see when you do this frequently that you can see a copy of the object in your mind. Every time you do this, it will be easier. After a while, you will do it automatically and it will be your new way of seeing things.

### TIP

**Repeat this session several times a day.  
This is the beginning of your learning to see.**

When you draw, you will see your object 24 hours a day, even in your dreams. That is the reason why you have to learn to see and to feel, because you have to put this image on paper later.

After that, you will find some small details that are very important and will become yours forever.



## Session 3

When you are at a party, you talk with lots of people, friends or family, but the following day you cannot remember 95% of those conversations. The same happens with images of the party, not many of them are left. Only the things that you looked at for longer than a few minutes, you will remember.

## Exercise 4

When you are at a party, go and sit somewhere or stand for 15 minutes and just look around. Watch what other people are doing. This session can also be done when you are in the street, in a park or at school. Observe those people well and select someone from the group and look at that person for a while. After some time, it seems that you know that person or you get a feeling of having contact with him. I always do so when I am in a large group or in the street. Sometimes, even though I do not speak a word, I am tired after such a session. It is like I have made contact with all those people and that I have talked to them for hours.

### *Proposition:*

*Making contact with people is not only done by talking to them!*

The eyes are very important. Through the eyes, you can see the person, and you also can look into his mind!

Strange?

No, it is the way you look and the way you feel with your heart while making contact with your mind. The body is only flesh and bones, nothing else.



## Exercise 5

Go to a park or a garden, leave the city.  
Stop somewhere, where you feel comfortable and take a break.  
Look around you, but do not look superficially and think; 'That is it'.  
Instead, let all the images of birds, plants, people, animals, and colors come to you.  
Store them in your mind and feel them, one by one.  
After a few minutes, close your eyes, and look if you can see this image with closed eyes.

Redraw the beautiful image in your mind and let it work from your mind, soul and heart.

**How is it going?**

**Do you feel something?**

It is important to get this session right, because it is the way to get your mind on paper later. Do it in your own way and your own time. Do not give up, but develop the connection between your eyes and your mind. Looking at objects, people, or landscapes is most important in defining what we know and how we feel. Later, we can draw them from our mind and by heart!

When I walk through nature, I look around and I catch all the images around me. These images are millions of fragments and information. They can be a small insect or a bird flying high in the sky. I am looking at everything and strangely enough my mind can store them forever.  
After a few hours of walking or driving around, I am exhausted by everything I saw, by all the information that entered my mind. There is also a way of looking at the millions of colors that surround you.

