

## Sketching a Road in Nature

**Time:** 15–30 minutes

**Difficulty level:** Easy

**Messy level:** Medium

Celebrate nature and practice sketching techniques for flora and fauna inspired by the landscapes of David Hockney and Vincent van Gogh featured in the exhibition *Hockney – Van Gogh: The Joy of Nature*, on view through June 20, 2021. In this exhibition we see a beautiful focus on nature, the seasons, and turning roads. British artist Hockney was inspired by the countryside in East Yorkshire where he grew up. Let's create our own sketch of a turning road.

Right: David Hockney, *Woldgate, 26–27 June 2012*, charcoal on paper, collection of the David Hockney Foundation. © David Hockney / photo: Richard Schmidt



### Gather These Materials

- Charcoal pencils in light, medium, and dark
- Pencil sharpener
- Large sketch paper
- Blending stump
- Plain, white tissue paper
- Charcoal stick

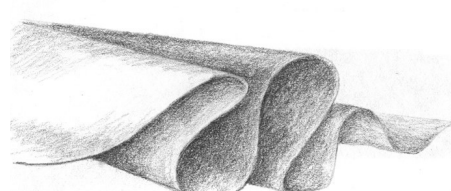
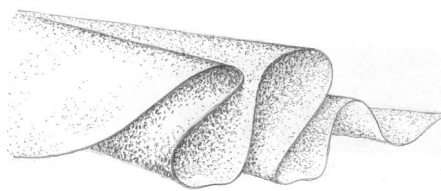
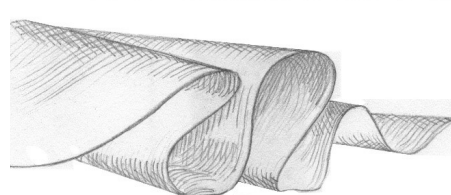
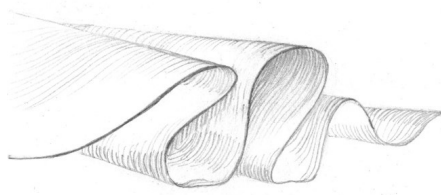
To purchase recommended art materials, visit [dickblick.com](https://dickblick.com)

### Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Choose one of the following as your inspiration for this sketch:
  - A photo of a turning road surrounded by trees
  - The David Hockney work *Woldgate, 26–27 June 2012*, featured above
  - An outdoor space with a turning road surrounded by trees
2. On a large paper draw the horizon line.
3. Draw the turning road that you see. For example, you will notice that the gently curving road in the work above extends toward the horizon line, which is located about halfway up the page. By the time you follow the road to its most distant point on the horizon line, it has decreased to about 1/8 of its size in the foreground at the bottom of the page, which creates a sense of spatial perspective.

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4. Add the largest trees on either side of the road.
5. Now add as many details as possible of smaller plants and trees and shadows across the road.
6. Fill up the image using techniques we have previously used: stippling, crosshatching, hatching, and scribbles. (See examples below.)



This exhibition is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in partnership with the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, and in collaboration with David Hockney.

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7. Use your blending stump to soften areas of the sketch.
8. Use an eraser to lighten the highlights (the lightest parts of your landscape).
9. Finish by adding in any details with a sharpened charcoal pencil.