



ALAN BAKER
ART GALLERY



Drawing a Gum Tree





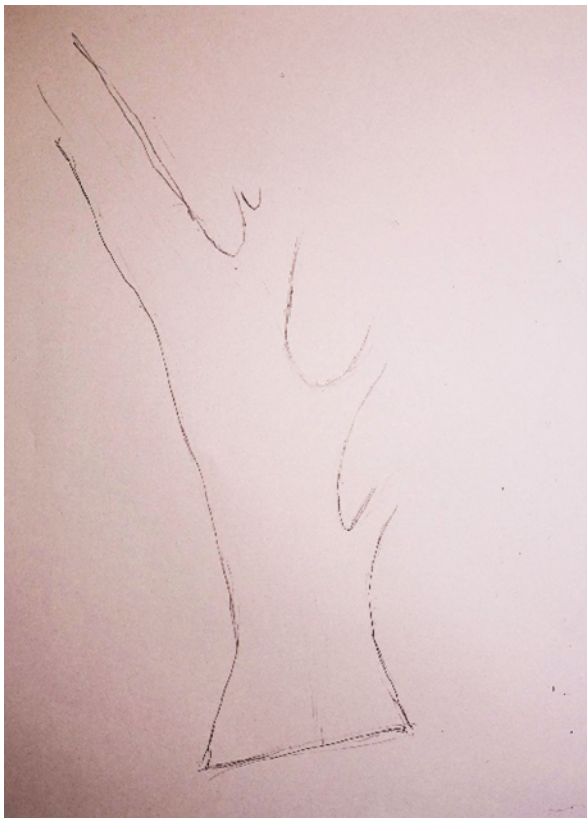
Drawing

Camden White Gum, Kings Bush - Nepean Cycleway, Camden

Drawing trees is a little challenging yet one of the most pleasant natural subjects to draw. With an abundant supply of trees in our gardens, parks and natural bushlands, trees have their own unique species, shape and character. This lesson will focus on the Australian Gum tree.

The subject tree was drawn in 2007 on location, high up on the riverbanks of the Nepean River, and downstream from the Cowpasture Bridge. This amazing gum tree on the Camden floodplain has survived many floods for over 100 years. Notice the lean on the tree seemingly bracing itself for the next strong winds or flood waters.

Let's Begin with the trunk



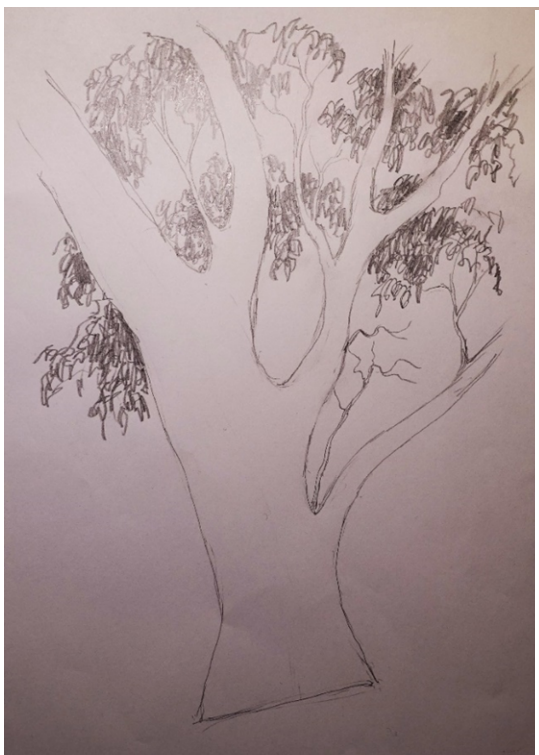
- On an A4 piece of paper using HB pencil
- Sketching very lightly, let's capture the character and the proportions of the tree.
- Notice the full width of the trunk where it meets the ground.
- Trees grow from the ground up, so let's draw in this manner.
- Start from the base of the tree.
- As you draw your way up the trunk taper its size as you draw up the tree.
- As branches break away draw the 'V' shape fork in the branches.

Drawing the branches



- At this stage we can see the natural form of the tree structure.
- It is important that the tree branches become smaller in size as it grows higher. The lower branches support the attached upper branch as it grows.
- Continue to draw up the tree working on the branches then the twigs.
- Draw the 'V' shapes of the forks of each branch as they grow higher and higher.

Drawing the Leaves



- A tree has a natural 3D shape.
- To show this the clusters of leaves are behind the branches giving a 3D appearance, bringing the branches forward.
- Gumtree leaf clusters have an umbrella shape.
- The leaves are drawn in a scribbly fashion with leafy shapes.
- Scribbly sketch the leaves on either side of the branches showing that the leaves are behind, on the other side of the tree.

Shading the tree trunk and branches



- Shading the branches to show the form and shadow on the branches giving the branches a 3D appearance.
- Using hatching, cross hatching and blending techniques.
- Embellishing the drawing at this stage, your tree is becoming alive and realistic.
- Loosen up and experiment with the techniques, its all about creating an artistic impression.

Sketching the bark



- Beginning to sketch the shapes of the trunk and bark at the base of the tree.
- Shading these areas lightly to depict the roundness of the trunk.
- Sketch with lines, hatching and cross hatching.

Finishing your drawing



- With a 2b pencil sketch the bark of the tree.
- Using hatching and scribble technics, whilst doing this think about the roughness of bark.
- To achieve the dark tones, increase the pressure on the paper.
- Draw the grassy shadow on the ground.
- Enjoy your finished tree, I suggest you have it framed!