Cross-Contour Drawing Activity
Inspired by Martin Puryear

Cross Contour is a method of drawing that creates the illusion of 3D form. These are the drawings that outline and highlight the figurative shape of an object or objects in a drawing. Usually, a contour drawings success is defined by the line quality. This includes the size and shape of the line as well as the pressure the artist puts on the line making. All of this is a good start and good practice for the budding artist.

Let’s begin the project! We will focus on hands for the project, but it is suggested that you also try this skill with many other items you can find at home. With good practice you can grow this skill.
First, trace your hand on a sheet of paper.

Second, draw straight parallel lines across the sheet of paper without crossing the outline of your hand. Leave the hand blank for now.

Then, connect the straight parallel lines with new curved lines that try to match the curve of your hand.

Lastly, if you want to give your drawing some extra flavor, you can use pens, crayons, and markers in a variety of colors.
Examples of Contour

Notice the lines will curve more sharply at the edges of your hand but a flatter curve on the top of your hand. Notice also that your fingers are circular.

Experiment with mark making tools such as markers, chalk, or crayons. Have fun and be creative!