

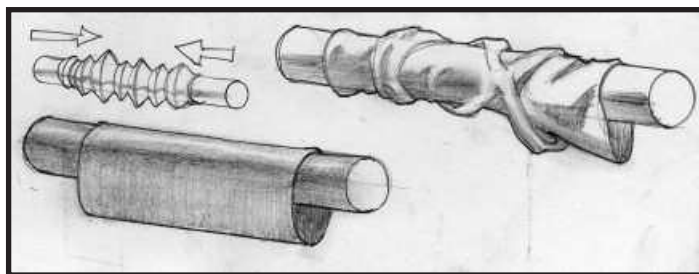
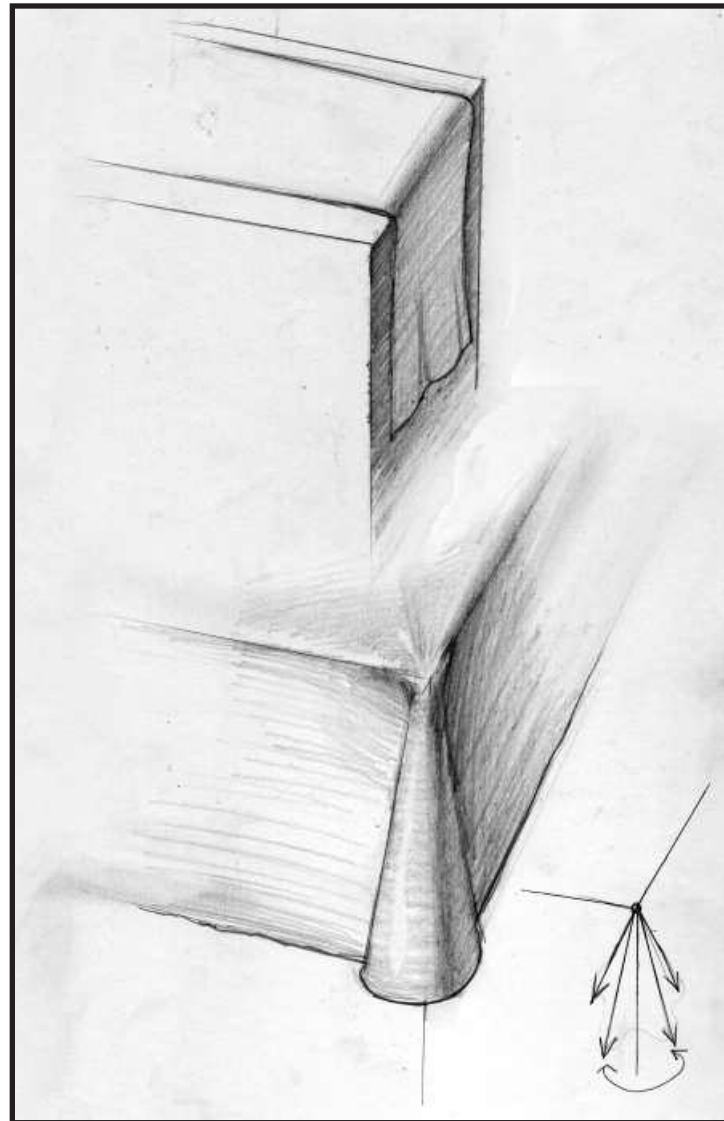
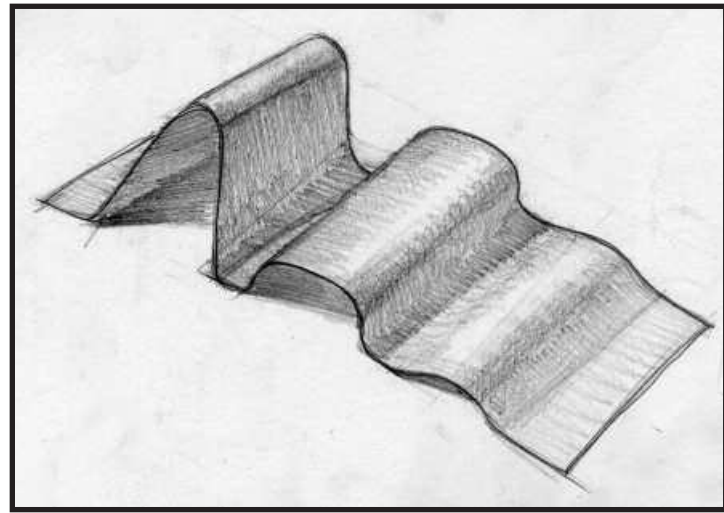


Draped Form

Drapery will always take on the characteristics of the form it is resting on. If that form is cylindrical, the drapery will take on the characteristics of a cylinder. This is one of the many reasons why you want to master drawing the basic forms of cylinder, sphere, cube, cone.

As the excess fabric bunches it will begin to create "folds". The pattern in which this excess fabric radiates out from or spirals around the underlying form determines what kind of fold is created, all the while maintaining some semblance of the form beneath. The looser the fabric, the greater the bunching; and the more obscured the form will become.

As fabric bunches up it will fall into specific patterns. In the most ideal of situations these patterns are regular and identifiable, but more often they are irregular and interpretation may be necessary to create the desired effect. This is another reason to study the basic forms, as well as the basic folds. The pattern of the folds will be dictated by two factors- the tension points and the form. The looseness of the fabric will most often dictate the severity of the fold, not the fold it self. The tension points of the fabric will be determined by gravity (where the drapery is hanging from,) and the accumulation of excess fabric (the point of greatest bunching.) For instance, drapery will hang from a shoulder, but it will bunch up at an armpit or elbow.



From the tension points the drapery will flow from one to the other. Folds will leave an anchor point to relieve tension, but at the same time be pulled in the direction of another anchor point, traversing the form when necessary to get there. The looser the fabric the more the fold will remain clear and unbroken, like a toga. The tighter the fabric the more the fold will become broken and secondary to the form it rides over.

As a form bends, as at a joint, the excess fabric that was needed to accommodate the extended form will compress and create a tension point, as well as a different flow. Where before the drapery flowed from the shoulder down the length of the arm, it is now pulled toward the elbow. While the extended form would have fewer, less pronounced folds, the bent form now has a more active fold pattern.

While we have spent a great amount of time studying the anatomy of the six basic folds, we now need to study why they occur and what circumstances affect the characteristics of a fold.

