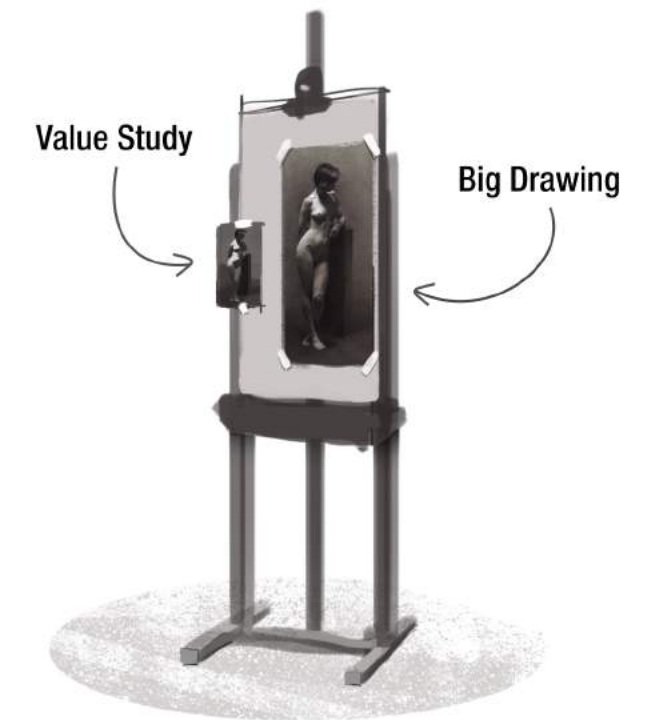


# How to make a Value Study

A “Value Study” is a **small drawing that serves as a map**. It **saves you time** on the big drawing.

**First goal:** organize values into 4-5 groups. **Second goal:** balance the relationships between the groups.

Fewer groups = easier. Combine elements whenever possible!



Artist: Rafaella Freyre

1

## Plan Groups

Look at the elements of the pose: figure in light, figure in shadow, hair, background, ground plane, prop, etc... Which of these are similar and can be grouped together?



2

## Line Sketch

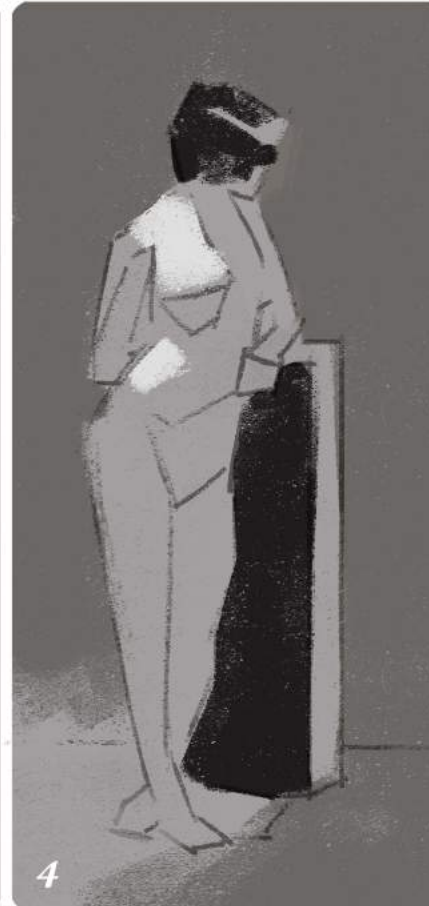
Draw the main shapes of the pose. In this example we use toned paper.



3

## Keying

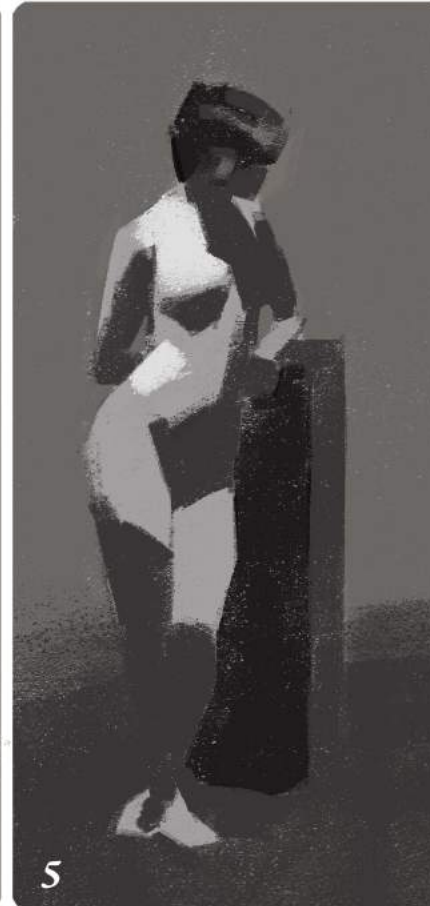
Establish the extremes of your value range: the **Lightest Light** and **Darkest Dark**.



4

## Background

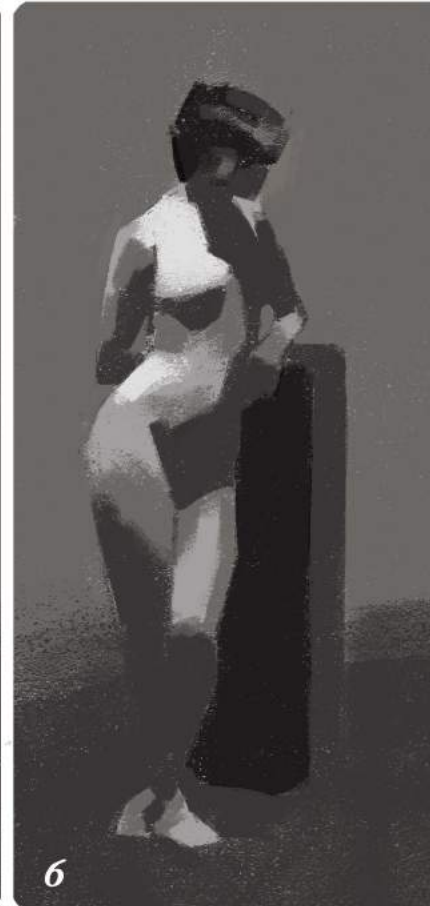
Add an average tone for the background.



5

## Figure in Shadow

Add an average tone for the figure in shadow. Can you group it with anything else? Here we've grouped the box and the floor.



6

## Dark Half-tones

Add an average tone for the dark half-tones. Can you group them with anything else? Here we can use the same group for the average background and the dark half-tones. *Nice!*



7

## Final Balancing

Review your 4-5 groups. Make any adjustments necessary to best capture the overall effect. Here we simplified the thigh and hip.

Your value study is done when you are happy with the relationships between your groups. You can now use it as a map for your big drawing!

