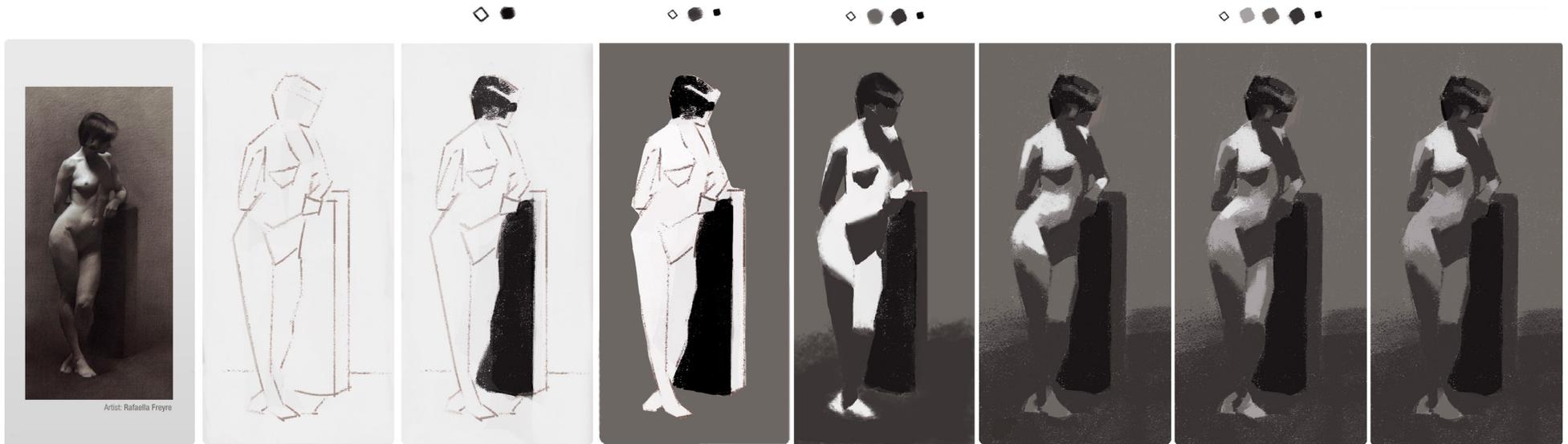


Value Study on White Paper

A "Value Study" is a small drawing that serves as a map. It saves you time on a 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.*



PLAN GROUPS

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

LINE SKETCH

Draw the main shapes of the pose & the cropping of your composition.

KEYING

Establish the extremes: the lightest group and the darkest group. This will help you to properly relate the other groups. The lightest group will be the paper value or, depending on your subject, close to it.

BACKGROUND

Add a value for the background. This is usually a large area within the picture and will also help you to compare groups.

FIGURE IN SHADOW

Add an average tone for the shadow area of the figure. Can you group it with anything else? Here we have combined it with the box and the floor.

DARK HALFTONES

Establish the dark halftones on the figure. Keep your value study simple and organized into big masses. Remember you only have a maximum of 5 value groups available. Here we've grouped the dark halftones with the background value.

MEDIUM HALFTONES

If you still have a spare value group, add a group for the medium halftones. Remember, the lightest halftones (center light) are the value of the paper, or close to it. Depending on the subject, the 5th group is better used for reflected lights instead of medium halftones. Think 3 lights + 2 darks, or 2 lights + 3 darks.

FINAL BALANCING

Review your 4-5 groups. Make any adjustments necessary to best capture the overall effect. Here we simplified the thigh and the hip. Your value study is done when you are happy with the relationships between your value groups. You can now use it as a map for your big drawing.