

JAMEEL LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

DRAWING AS COMFORT: EXERCISES IN READING SPACE

IDEAS AND DRAWINGS BY ZARA MAHMOOD

THE EXERCISES IN THIS DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PROVIDE COMFORT IN OBSERVING FACETS OF LIVING WITH AN AIR OF DISCOVERY, THROUGH THE ACT OF DRAWING. DRAW WITH WHATEVER YOU HAVE AT HOME, ON WHATEVER YOU CAN FIND, AND FOR AS LONG AS YOU WISH.

DAY 1

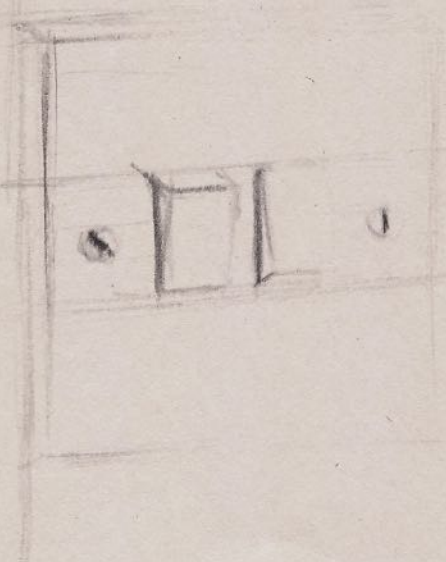
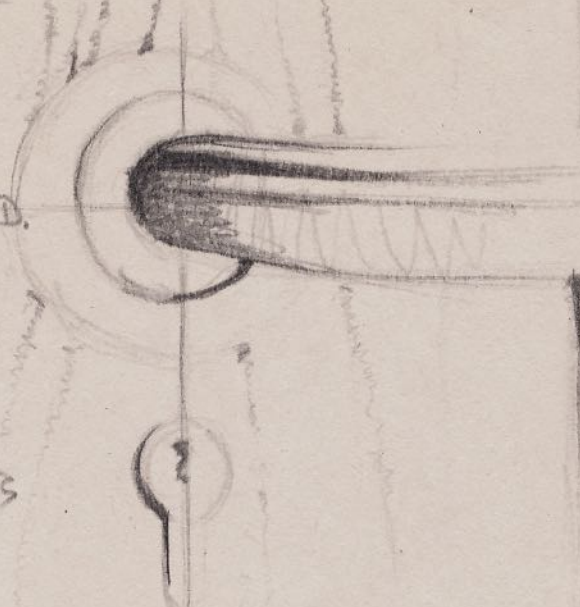
DOOR HANDLES, BANISTERS, LIGHT SWITCHES, FRIDGE HANDLES, MICROWAVE DOORS, TV REMOTE CONTROLS ARE ALL SURFACES THAT CONSTANTLY ENGAGE OUR SENSE OF TOUCH & YET TEND TO BE OVERLOOKED.

FOR THIS EXERCISE, CHOOSE A SELECTION OF HIGH TRAFFIC SPOTS IN YOUR HOME.

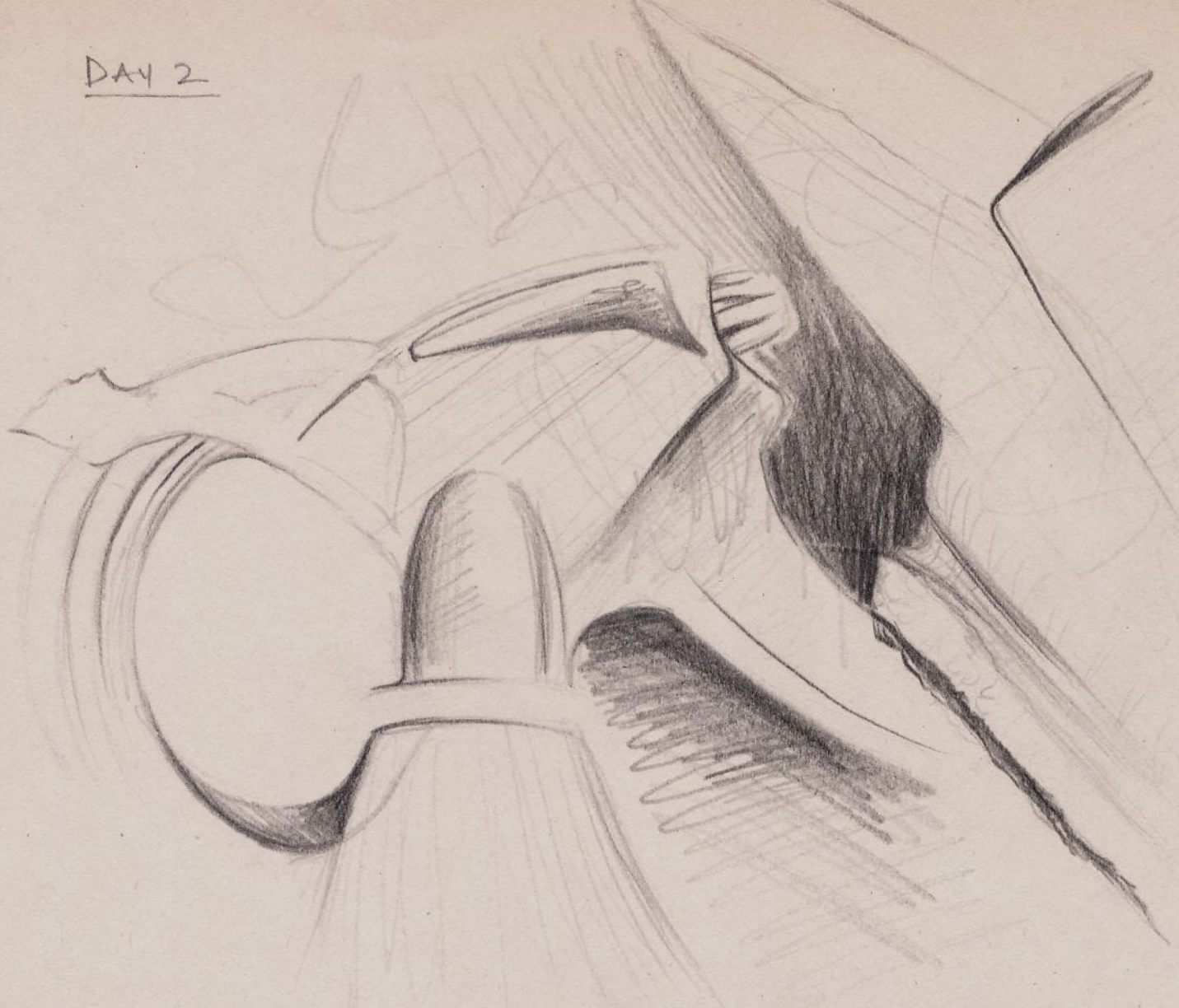
CREATE A DETAILED STUDY OF EACH, TRYING TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE TEXTURE AND SURFACE QUALITIES.

TRY TO EXCAVATE SIGNS OF USE, SUCH AS SCRATCHES OR FADING COLOUR, FEEL FREE TO EXAGGERATE.

AS WITH ALL THE OTHER EXERCISES IN THIS SHEET, FIND SOMETHING TO DRAW WITH AND FIND SOMETHING TO DRAW ON. YOU CAN TRY USING THE BROWN PAPER BAGS THAT COME WITH YOUR FOOD DELIVERY.



DAY 2



WHAT SUPPLIES DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR PANTRY OR KITCHEN CUPBOARDS AT THIS VERY MOMENT? WHICH ONES WOULD YOU REALLY STRUGGLE WITHOUT?

SPEND SOME TIME CREATING A STILL LIFE COMPOSITION USING THE SUPPLIES YOU HAVE, THINKING ABOUT IT AS A SCULPTURE.

SUGGESTIONS TO GET YOU GOING:

TOILET PAPER BALANCED ON TOP OF YOUR COOKING OIL WITH CUPCAKE CASES PROPPED ON TOP, FIT IN A BLENDER, CUTLERY & PLASTIC BAGS.

ONCE YOU ARE HAPPY WITH YOUR COMPOSITION, START DRAWING.

DRAW FROM AS MANY DIFFERENT ANGLES AS YOU CAN, TAKE SOME LIBERTIES TO PLAY WITH SCALE & CONNECT LINES THAT MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY MEET,

IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME LYING AROUND, TRY DRAWING ON BAKING PAPER.

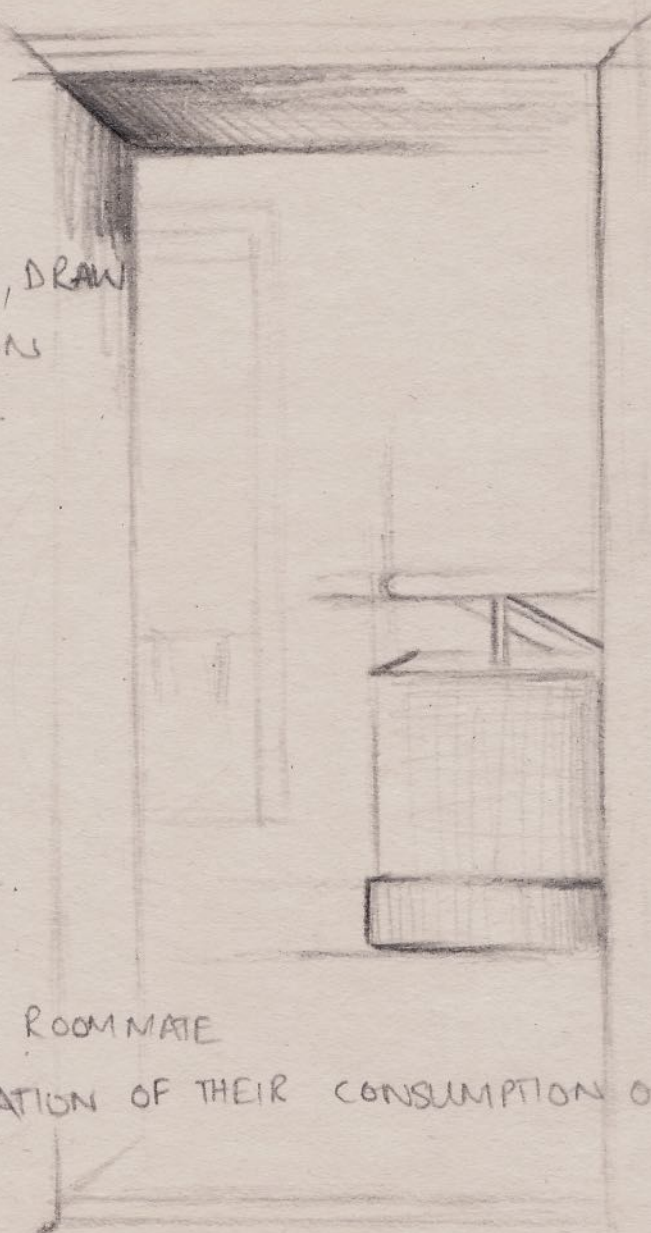
DAY 3

THIS EXERCISE INVOLVES DRAWING WHILST ENGAGING IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES. THE DRAWING ENDS ONCE THE ACTIVITY ENDS.

1. WHILE HAVING A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH A DEAR FRIEND OR A FAMILY MEMBER, DRAW FROM MEMORY OR IMAGINATION THE THINGS YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ACCURACY!
2. DRAW THE SPACE IN YOUR DIRECT EYE VISION AS YOU DRINK A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE.
3. DRAW A FAMILY MEMBER OR ROOMMATE AS THEY EAT FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR CONSUMPTION OF THEIR MEAL.

IF YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING TO DRAW ON, SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY PAPER ENVELOPES LYING AROUND.

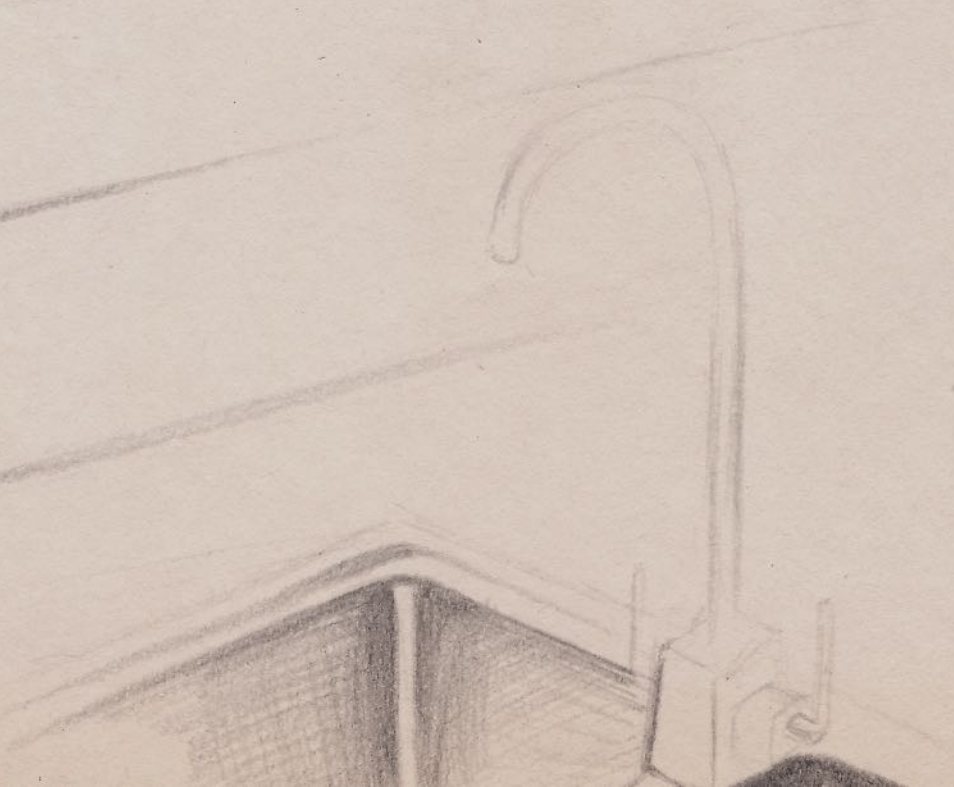
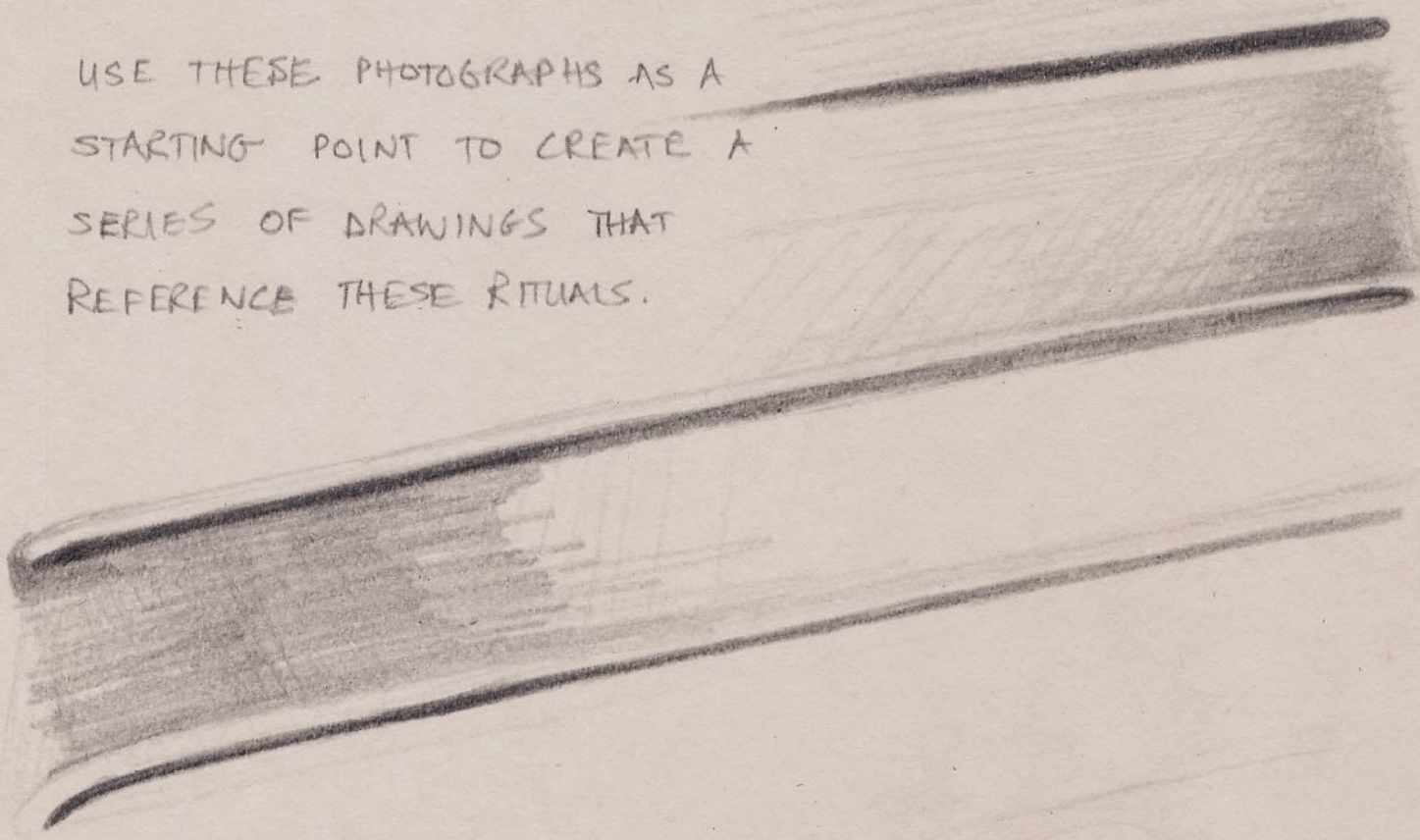
IN PREPARATION FOR TOMORROW'S EXERCISE, SPEND SOME TIME NOTING YOUR DAILY HABITS. IT COULD BE ANYTHING FROM PACING, TO YOUR MORNING COFFEE OR YOUR CLEANING RITUALS.



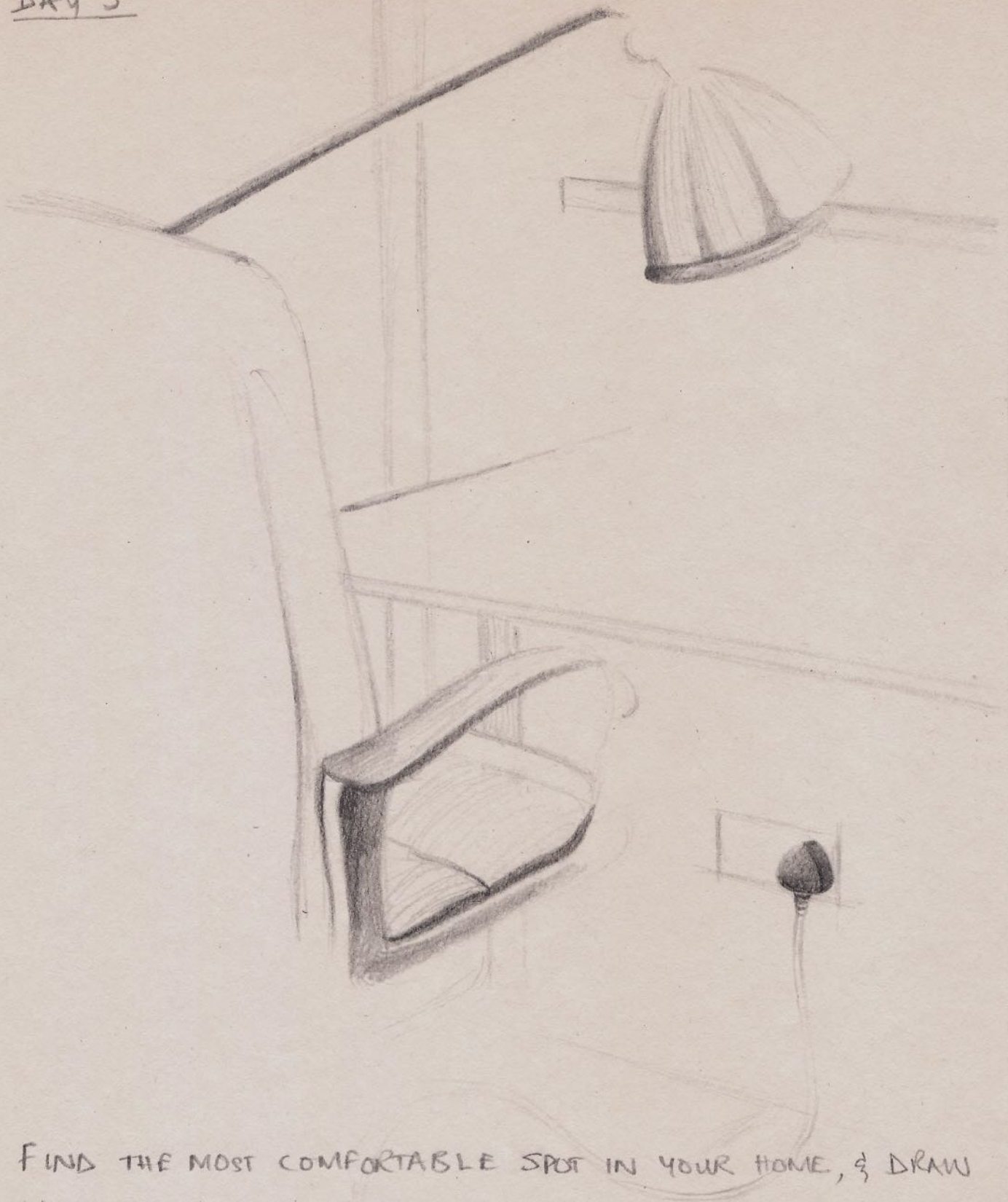
DAY 4

USE A PHONE CAMERA TO DOCUMENT THE RITUALS THAT FORM YOUR DAILY ROUTINE. PLAY WITH SCALE WHILE YOU DO THIS, ZOOM IN UNTIL THE OBJECT OR ACTIVITY IS UNINTELLIGIBLE, AND ZOOM OUT BY TAKING THE PHOTOGRAPH FROM AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN, PHOTOGRAPH FROM ABOVE, BELOW & SIDEWAYS.

USE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS AS A STARTING POINT TO CREATE A SERIES OF DRAWINGS THAT REFERENCE THESE RITUALS.



Day 5



FIND THE MOST COMFORTABLE SPOT IN YOUR HOME, & DRAW WHAT IS IN YOUR DIRECT VICINITY.

THIS COULD BE AN INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR SPACE (IF YOU HAVE A BALCONY OR GARDEN).

REMOVE ANYTHING THAT BOTHERS YOU, ADD IN FEATURES YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, MAKE THE EDITS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN REAL LIFE!

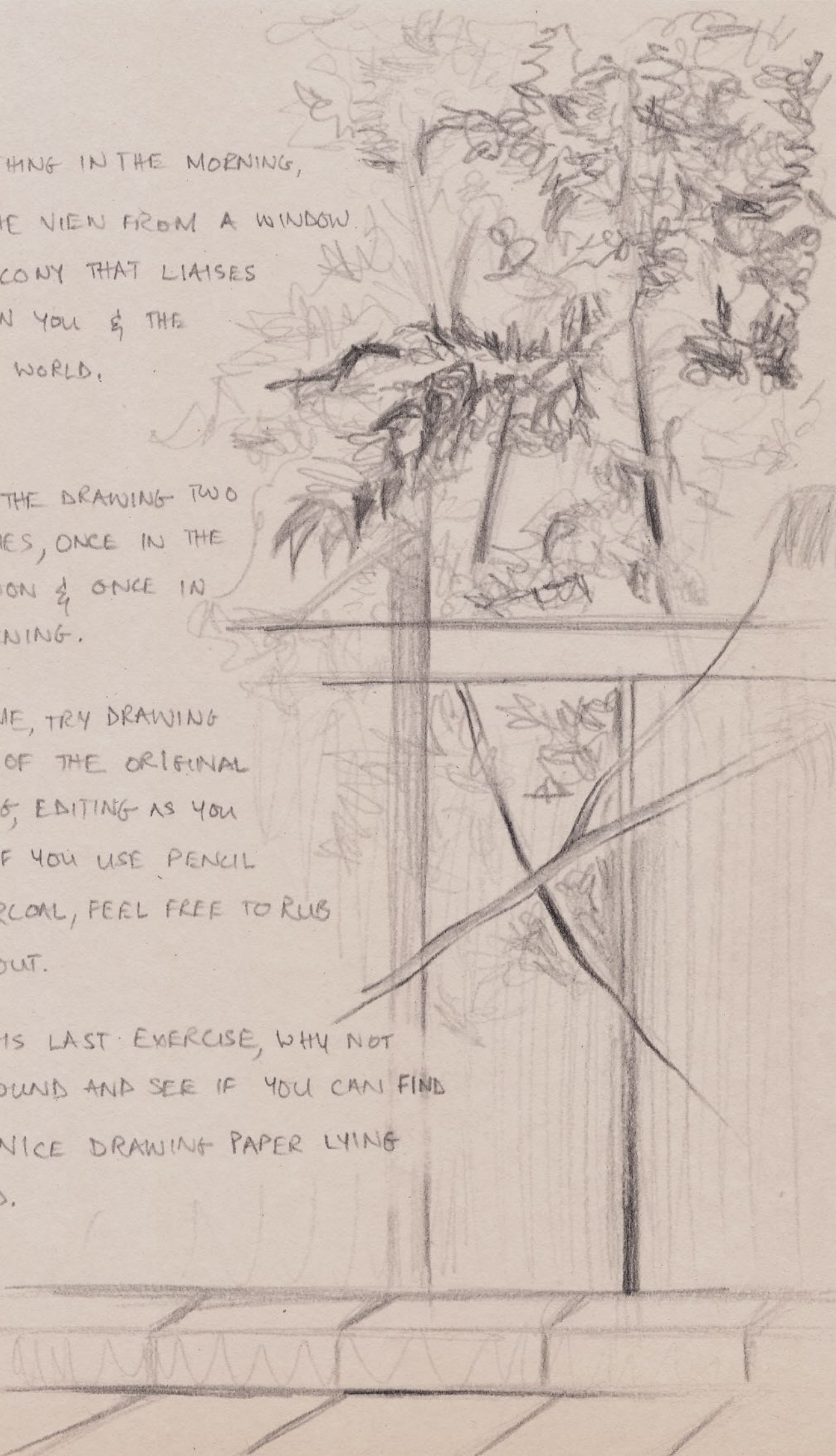
DAY 6

FIRST THING IN THE MORNING,
DRAW THE VIEW FROM A WINDOW
OR BALCONY THAT LIAISES
BETWEEN YOU & THE
OUTSIDE WORLD.

REVISIT THE DRAWING TWO
MORE TIMES, ONCE IN THE
AFTERNOON & ONCE IN
THE EVENING.

EACH TIME, TRY DRAWING
ON TOP OF THE ORIGINAL
DRAWING, EDITING AS YOU
WISH. IF YOU USE PENCIL
OR CHARCOAL, FEEL FREE TO RUB
THINGS OUT.

FOR THIS LAST EXERCISE, WHY NOT
DIG AROUND AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND
SOME NICE DRAWING PAPER LYING
AROUND.



ZARA MAHMOOD IS A DUBAI-BASED ARTIST. SHE HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN FINE ART FROM THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ARTS (NCA) IN LAHORE WHERE SHE SPECIALIZED IN PRINTMAKING. AFTER ACQUIRING HER UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, SHE PURSUED A MASTER'S PROGRAM IN FINE ART AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS (UCA), UK, WITH A FOCUS ON PAINTING.

HER WORKS HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN BEIRUT, DUBAI, SHARJAH, KARACHI, LAHORE, MADRID AND PHILADELPHIA. SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING AS AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN DUBAI AND IS A MEMBER OF DUBAI BASED ROCK/ELECTRONICA BAND 'SAIL INTO NIGHT'.

