

S2 Shadow Illustration Home Learning Task

Inspired by the work of Vincent Bal

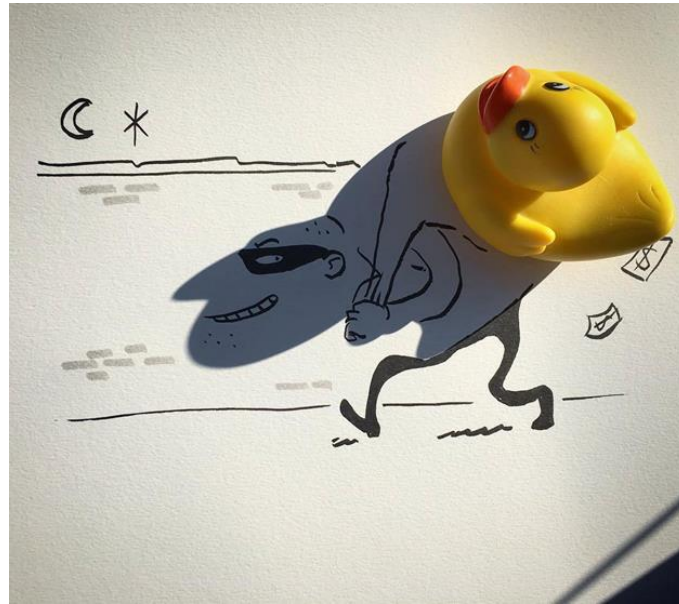


Try this task at home and ask your parent or guardian to help you or to do one of their own. This is a fun illustration task which requires **creative thinking** and a bit of **imaginative drawing**.

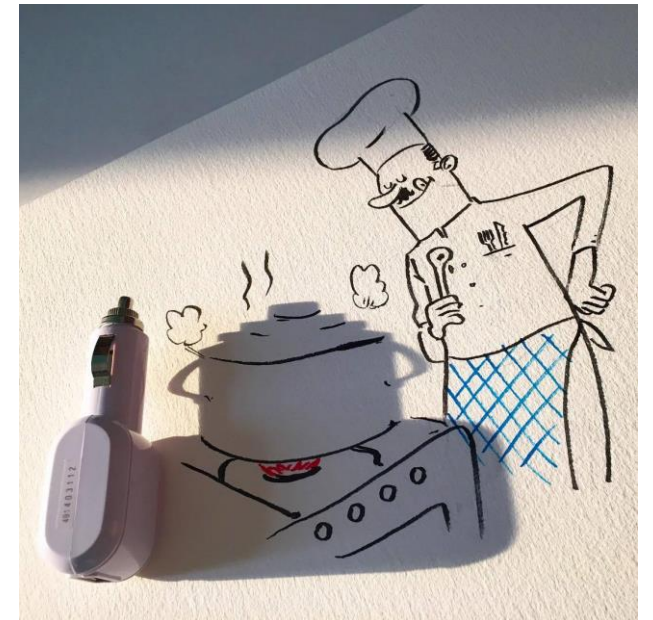
Vincent Bal

Belgian filmmaker and illustrator Vincent Bal works within the confines of long shadows of everyday objects resting in the sunlight to create a wide range of whimsical doodles. The shadow of a film canister becomes a forbidding tower, or the filaments of a lightbulb cast a dramatic backdrop as a staircase for a daring escape.





A selection of illustrations by Vincent Bal



You can view other works by Vincent Bal by clicking on these links:

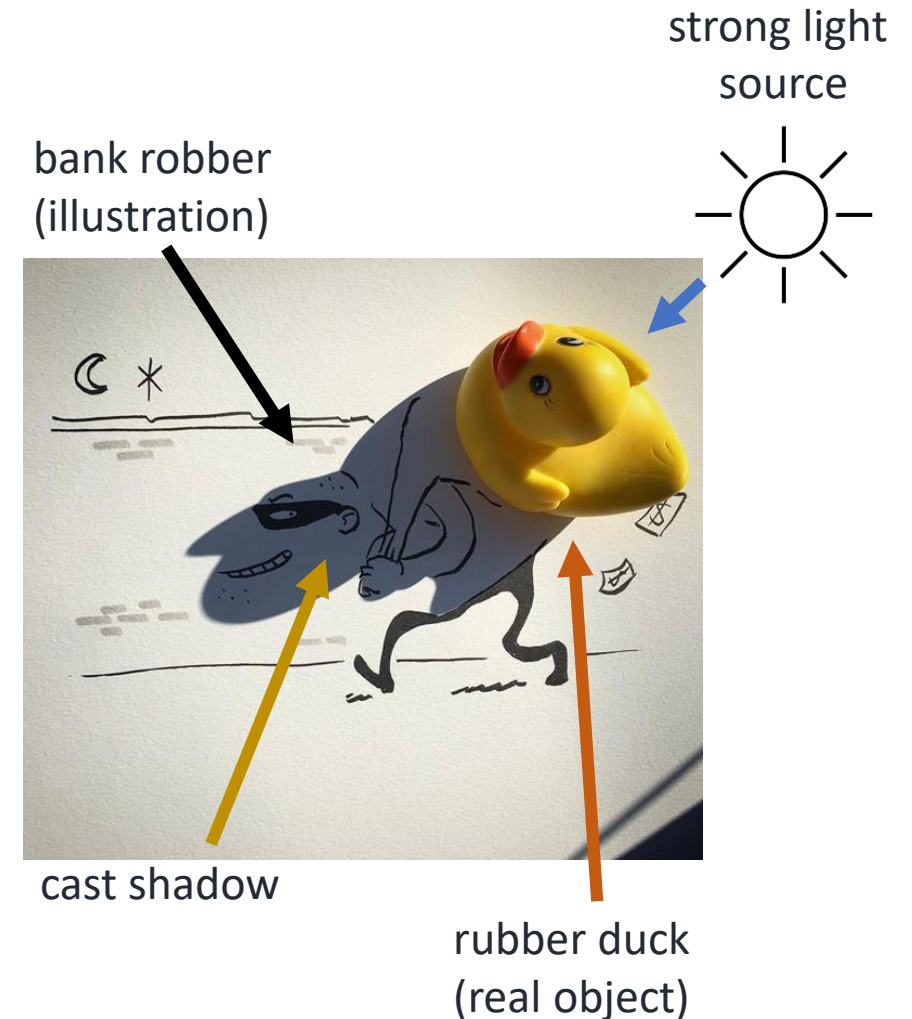
<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2016/11/vincent-bal-shadow-doodles/>

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2019/02/new-illustrations-by-vincent-bal/>

As you can see, Vincent Bal experiments with placing objects in light to see what kind of shadow they cast. When one of the shadows gives him an idea, he makes a drawing over it and turns it into something else.

- Your task is to create a Vincent Bal style illustration.

Follow the instructions on the next slides and have fun.



Creating a shadow illustration in the style of Vincent Bal (READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY)

1. You will need a **sheet of blank paper(A4 is best)**, a **pencil or pen**, a **strong light source** and a **few different objects**.

Notes on a light source:

Vincent Bal sets up his objects in strong sunlight so that they cast a strong defined shadow. You can use the sun, but it might not be sunny. Alternatives could be a good torch, a bright desk lamp or a phone torch. Remember, you need to leave the light source in place while you make the drawing, AND, you will need to take a photo before you turn the light source off. If you use a phone torch, you will need another device to use to take the photo. Keep this in mind when you plan.



I'm using a torch and the object is a nasal spray.

2. Planning your illustration:

Put one of your objects at the edge of the paper and shine the light over it. What kind of shadow do you get?

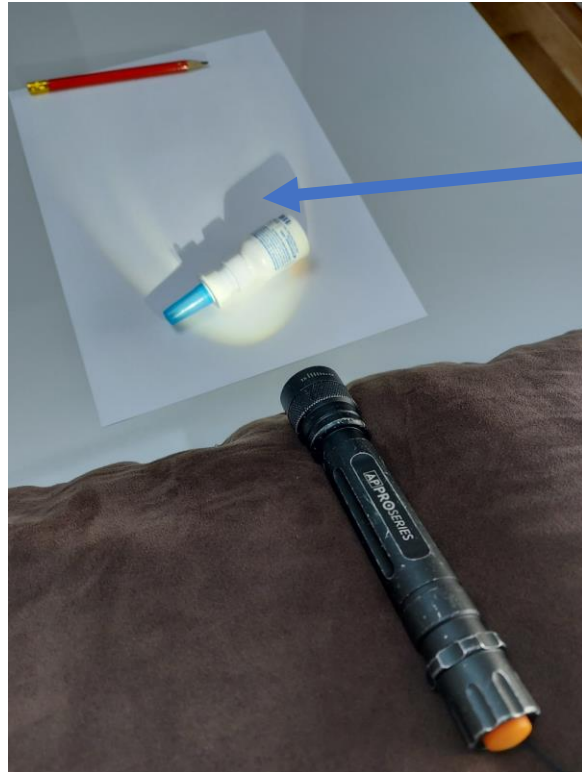
Try moving the light to lengthen or shorten the shadow and try this with different objects. Keep experimenting until you get a shadow that you think you can turn into something. This is the creative bit; it's a bit like when you 'see' a face or object appear in the clouds. You use your imagination to complete the image.



I have propped my torch up on a cushion so that I don't have to hold it when I move the object or draw the picture.

3. Making the drawing:

Once you have an idea, you will need to leave the light source in place while you make the drawing. Once you have completed the drawing, take photos of it before you turn the light off. Remember, the shadow forms part of the image.



I moved the object around until I had a shadow which gave me an idea. I thought the shadow looked like the side of a face of somebody with a big quiff hairdo.



So, I turned it into a kind of Elvis character. Thank you very much!

Final note:

It can be tricky to make your drawing without moving the object. If this happens, start your drawing then take it away to add to it and then return it carefully to the shadow before taking the photo.

If you want to try more than one illustration, go for it!

Have fun and be creative!

