

"FLOWER & LEAVES"

The process of "orchid" drawing

my interpretation

(I) Three strokes as a principle

- Each stroke proceeds from left to right
- The order of ^{different} strokes go from right to left



① First stroke is a main marking

..... must be clear, strong

..... General direction is determined by this first stroke.

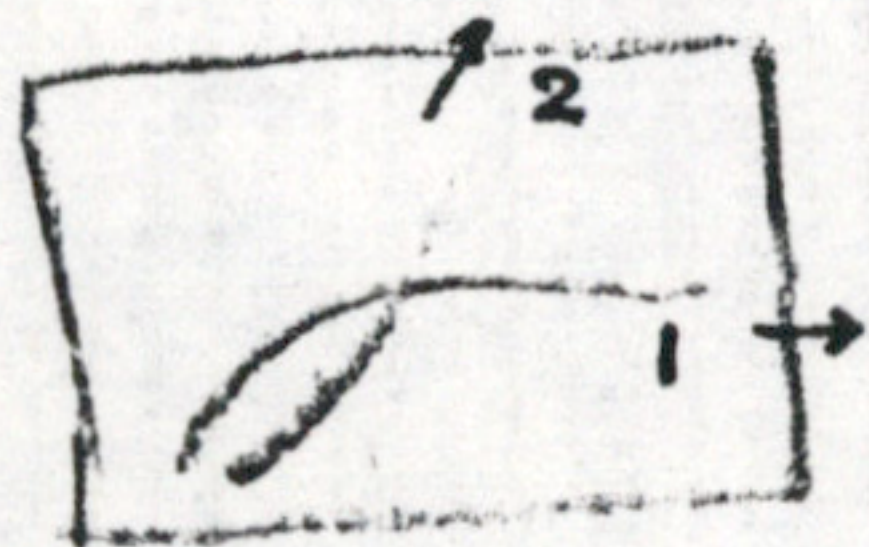
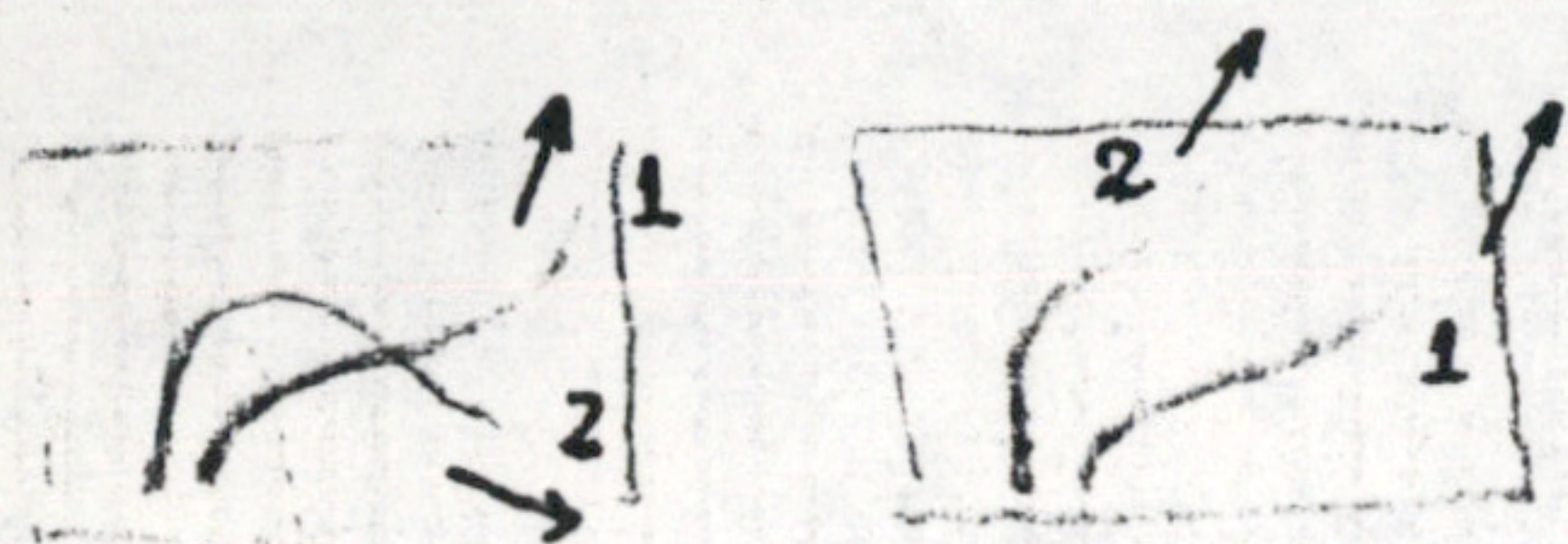


② For Second stroke, two choices

a) Two orientations

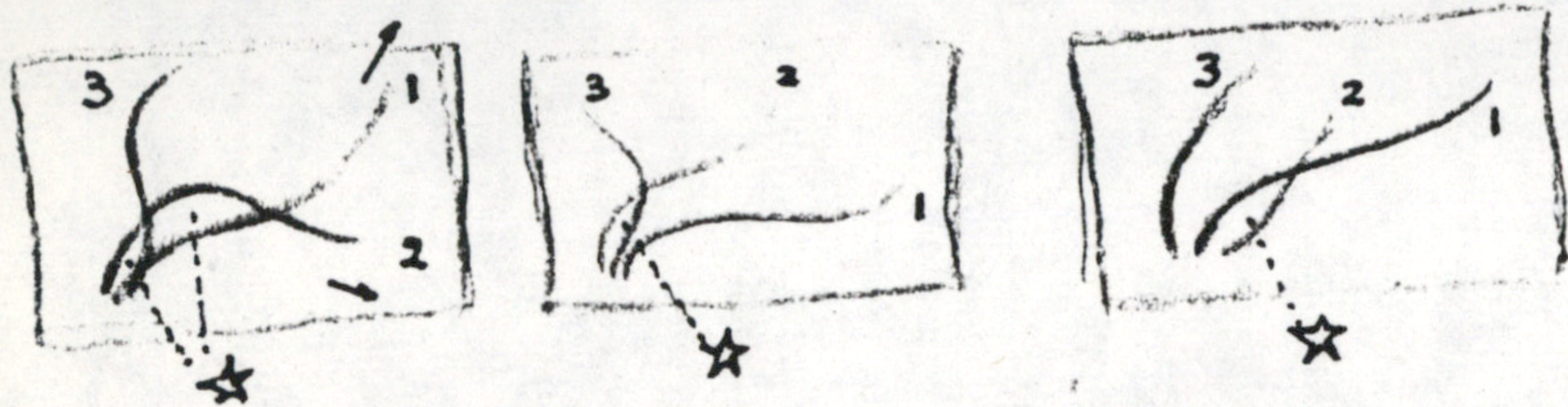
"Sub-stroke"..... Adding the strength of 1st.

"Counter-stroke"..... Oriented toward the opposite direction



b) The existence of criss crossing (eye) or not.

③ Third stroke



o When "sub-stroke" was chosen, Third one should be bent toward the opposite.

o When "counter-stroke" chosen, Third one must follow the first one.

* There must be at least one "eye" at this stage.

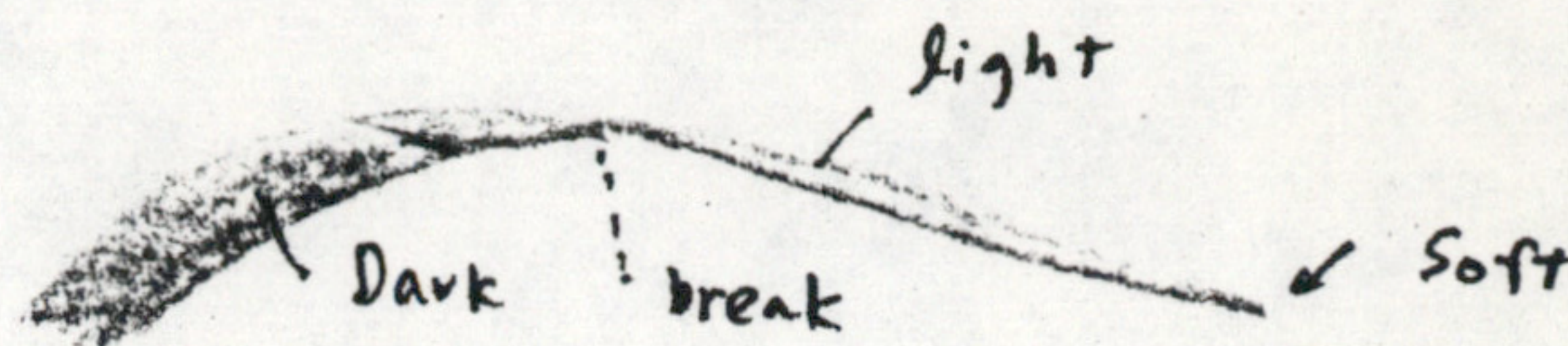
《Notes》

(i) The shape of the field or sheet that you draw on it is very crucial to the location of first stroke, eventually, therefore, — whole shape is affected by this stroke.



◀ Note cont'd ▶

- (ii) Be attentive to the continuity and its various change of each leaves shape well-delineated by tones
 ↑ (like face or back)



(II) The flower — the heart of drawing

① Five petals for orchid

2 — First → At least two large — straight broad petals.

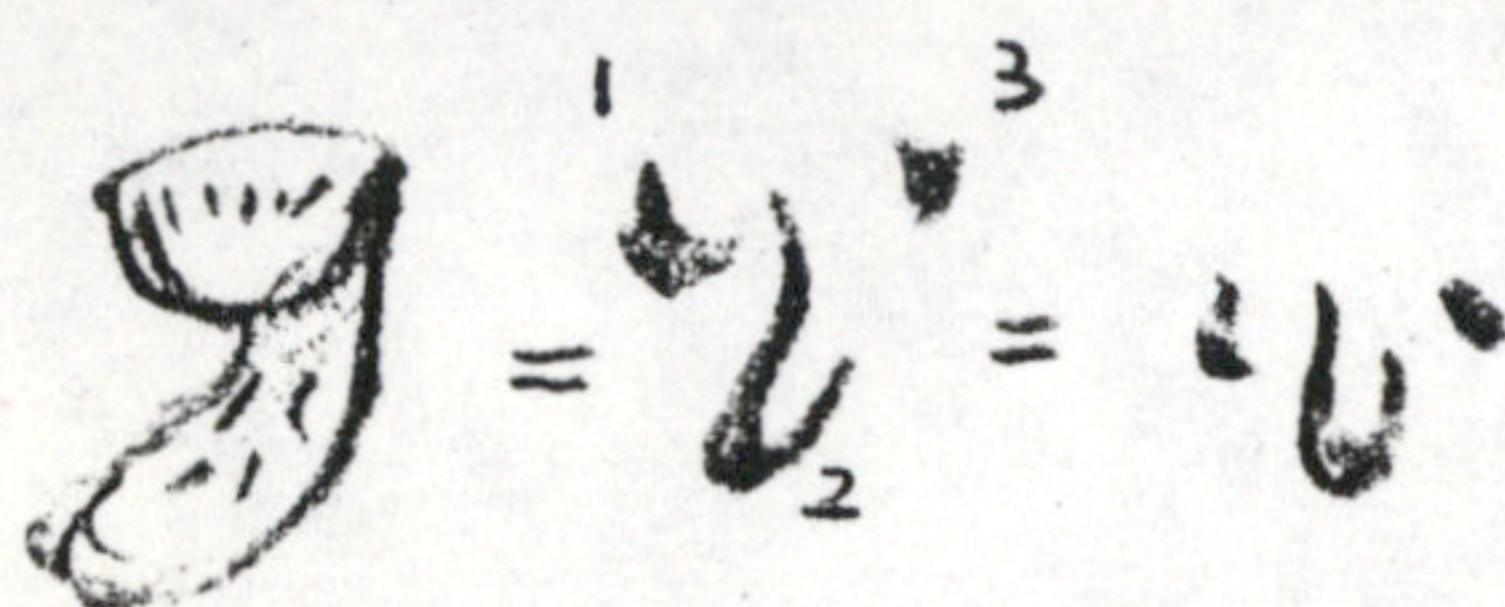
— Tip of the end of three petals will form
 4 vertexes of triangle,

② The location of flowers



base The space allotted between many leaves and few leaves

Stamen is simplified by the method below



chinese character
 = 山
 = 山
 mountain

③ Stamen is the heart of flower.
 as a last touch.

..... This determine the direction of flowers.

(III) Conclusion

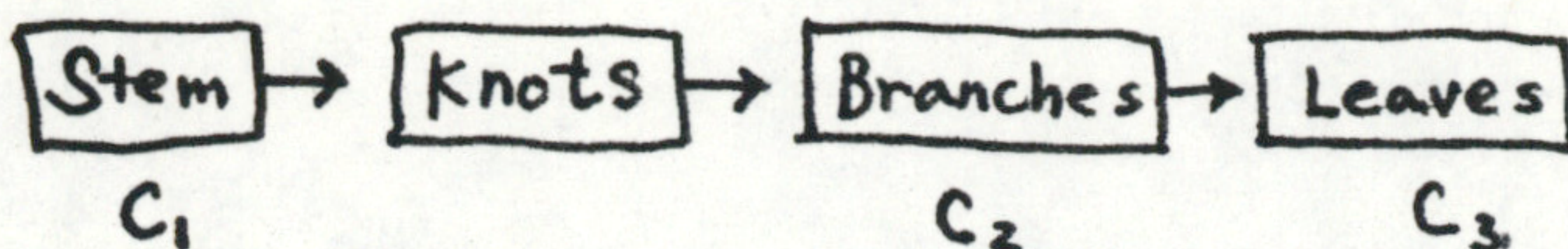
(1) The method for 3 strokes, flowers is a PATTERN itself. You need some practice to obtain the ^{most} appropriate shape. That is most true to your-self and most natural to you.

(2) To get each shape of patterns you have to stick to the order specified.

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①

The process of "Bamboo" drawing My interpretation

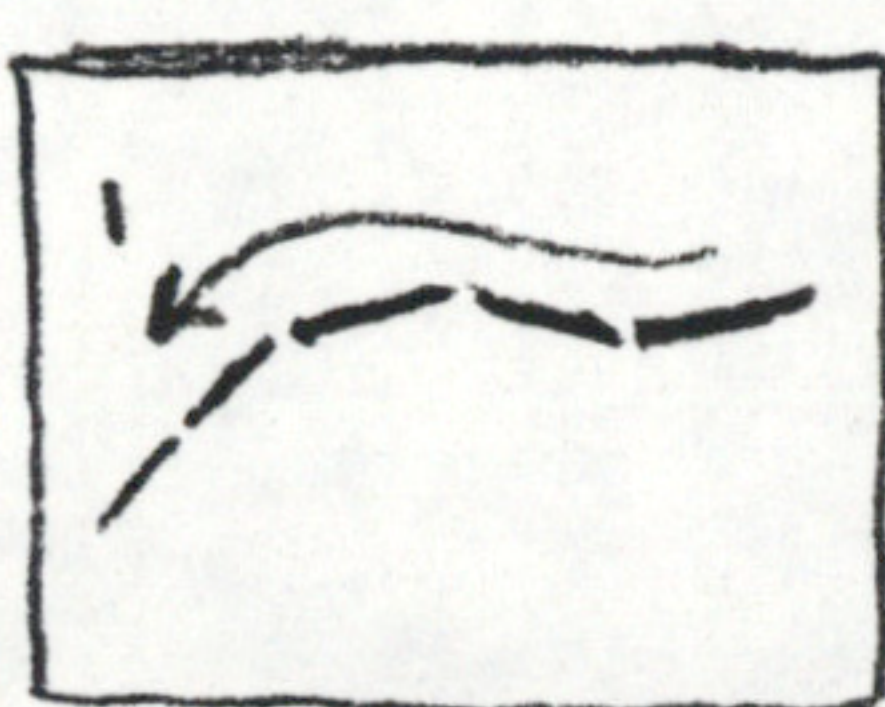


* Use proper tools!

- o Soft pencil
- o a sized sheet with rough surface



(I) First center Main stem



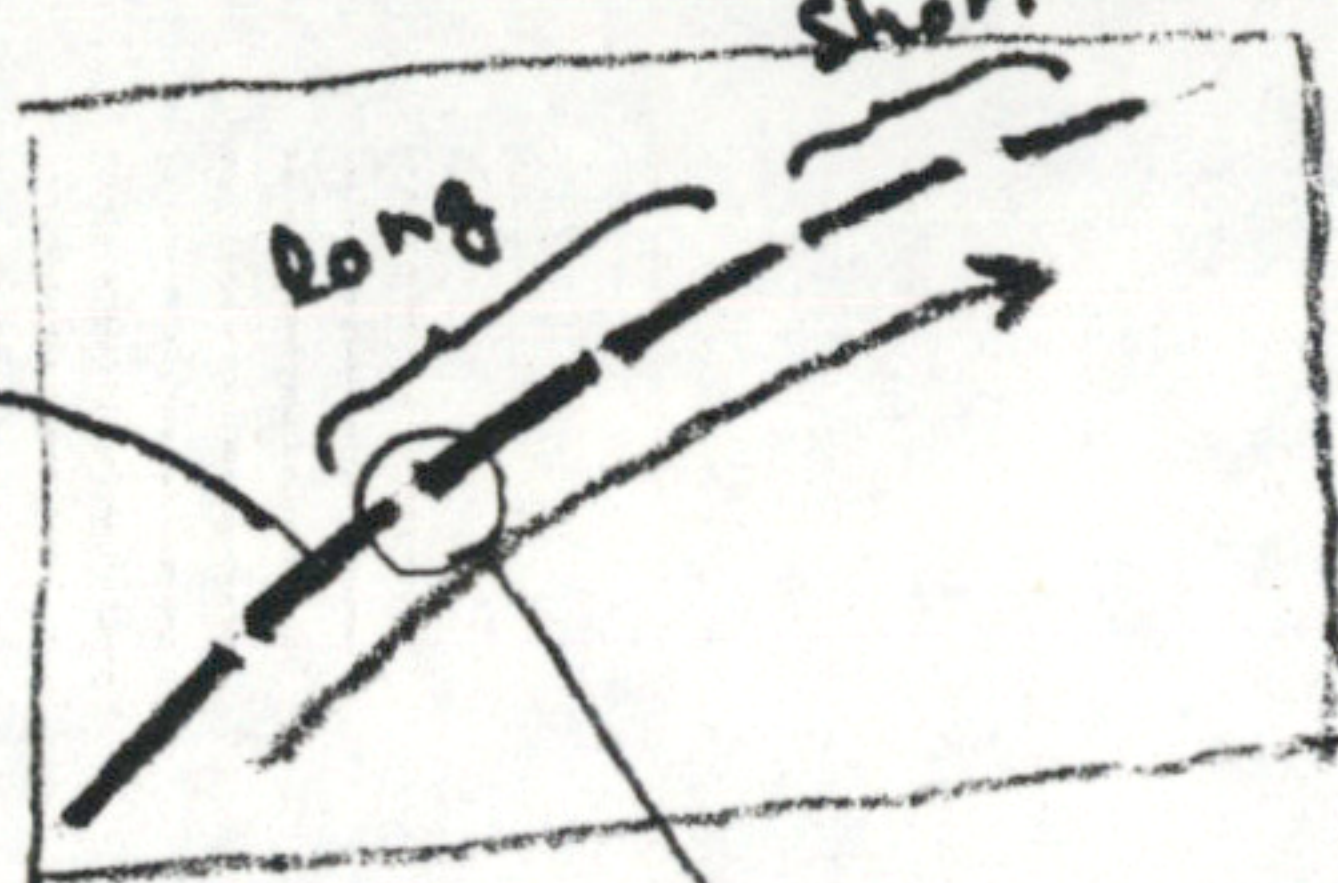
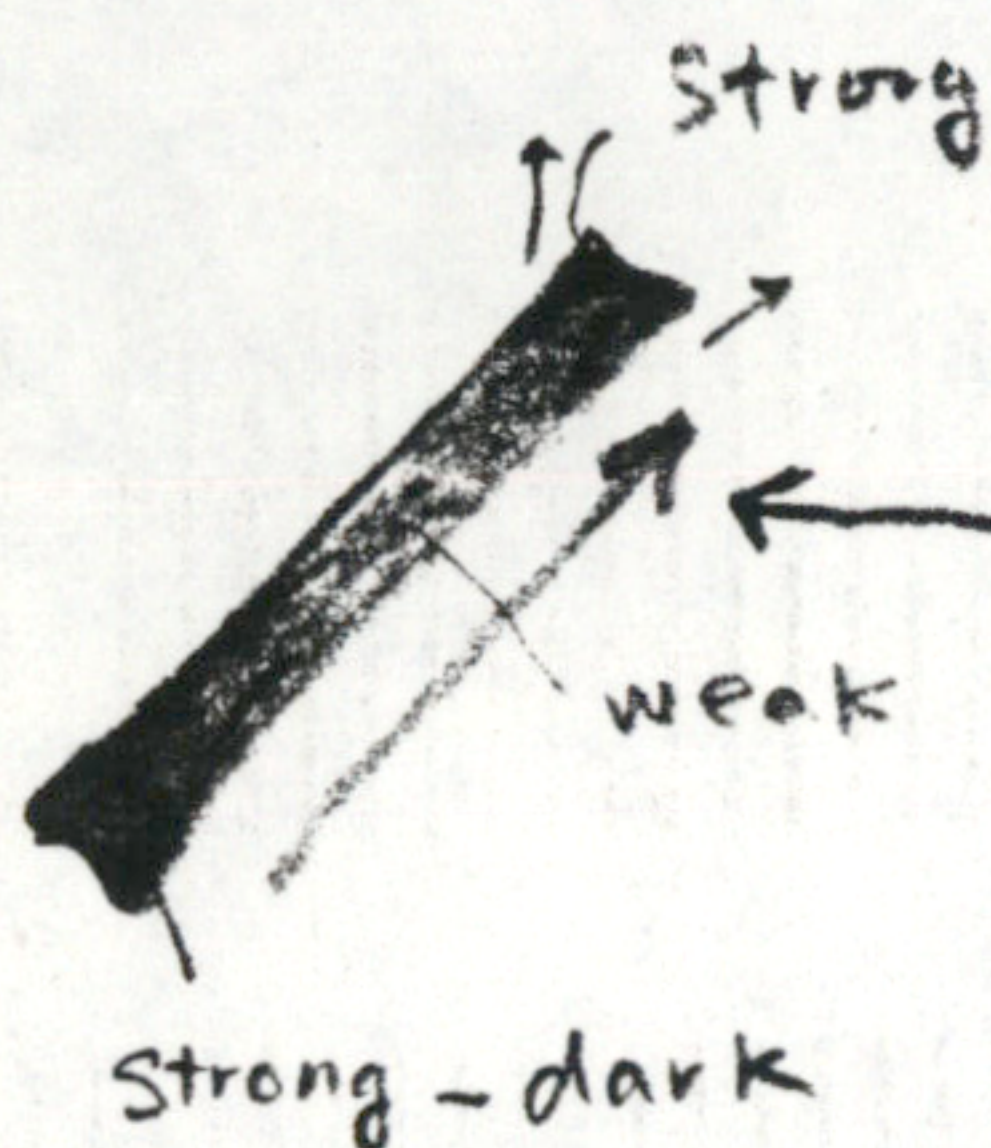
① — This stroke determines a general direction of a picture.

— The continuity is important.

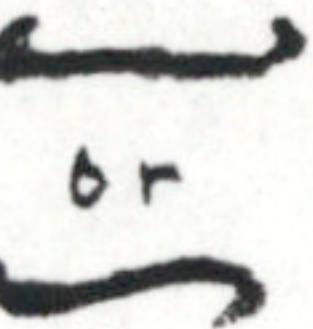
(Each section of stem is almost straight)

Middle part stem between knots longer

Both ends " shorter



o Put these between stems

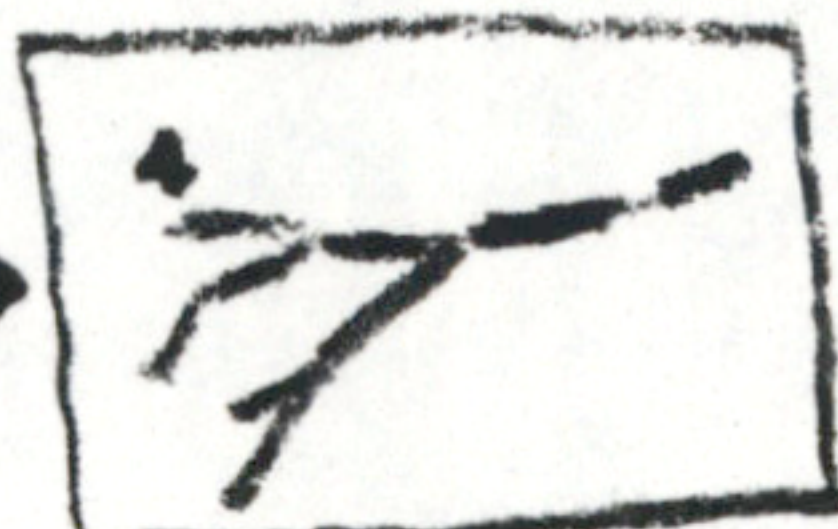
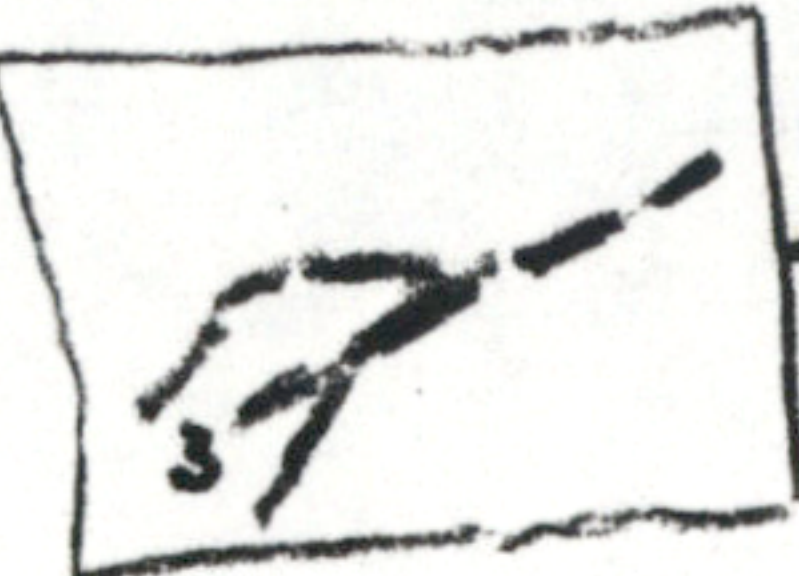
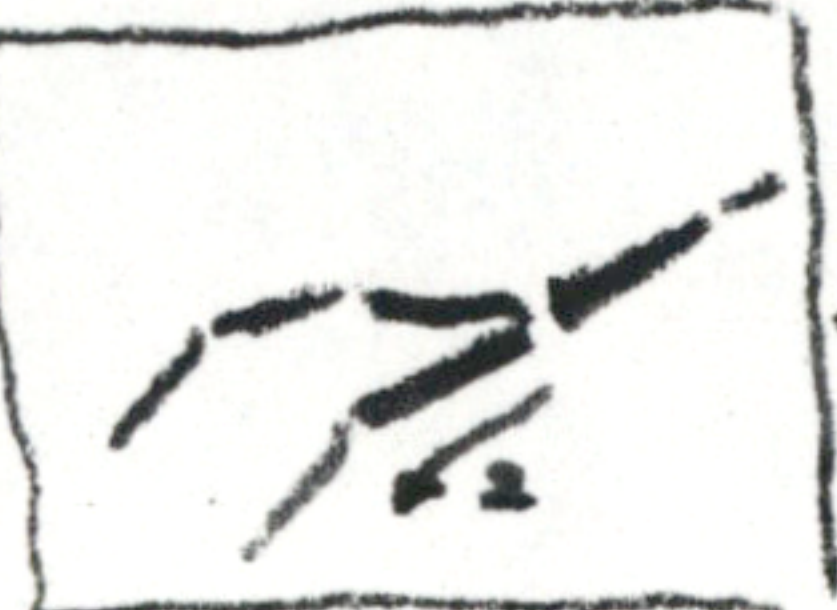


1.... Main stems
2... Branches.

② Knots from which branches grow

Proper spacing is critical.

(II) Second center Branches



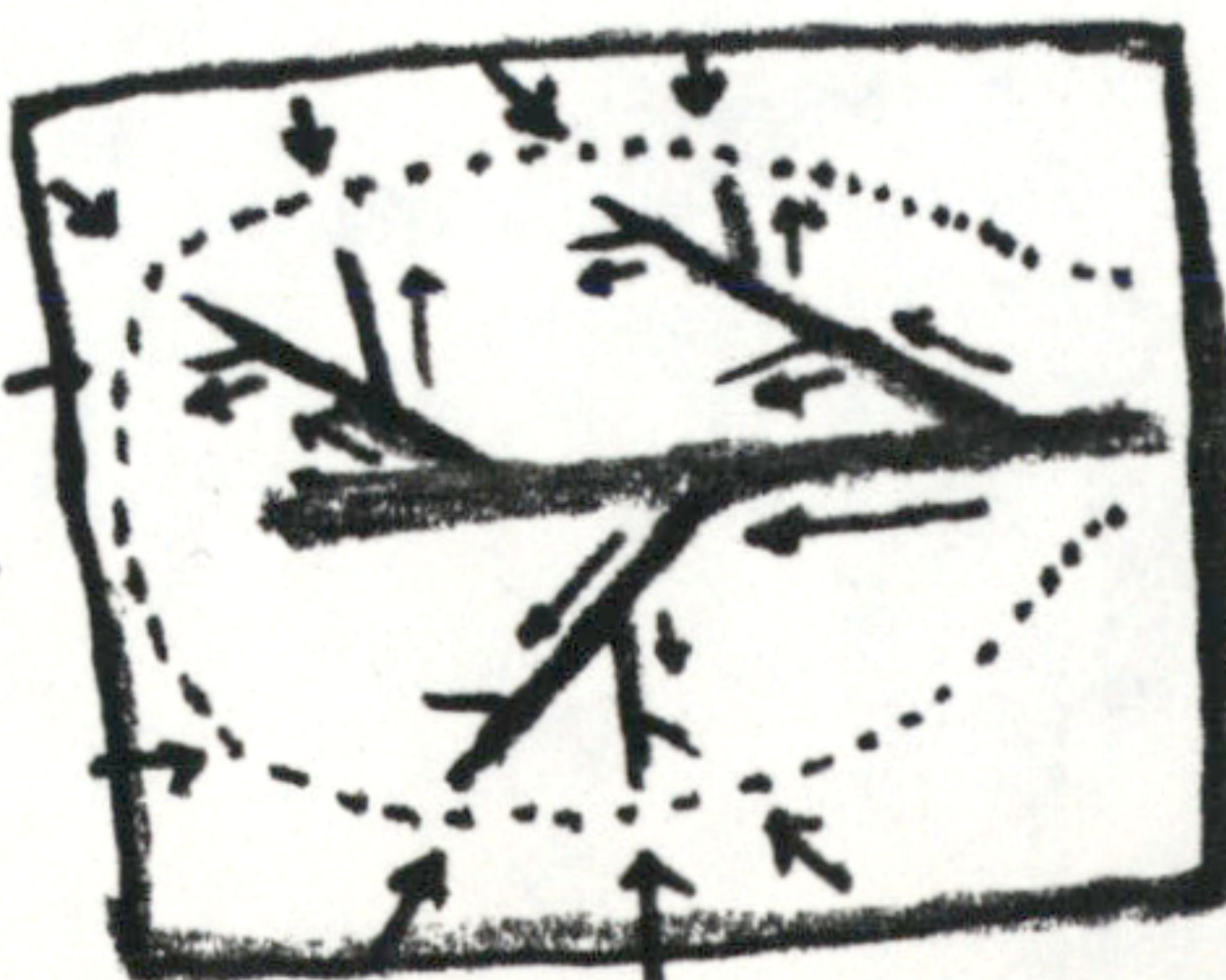
① As soon as you finish the main stem, draw in the branches
* → to left and to right alternately

Starting from the place near base up to the end of stem.

② Each branch has its identity by growing ^{toward} different direction and length. Young branches are shorter than the old.

Leaves are also distributed almost the same way.

So simplified pattern is this way →



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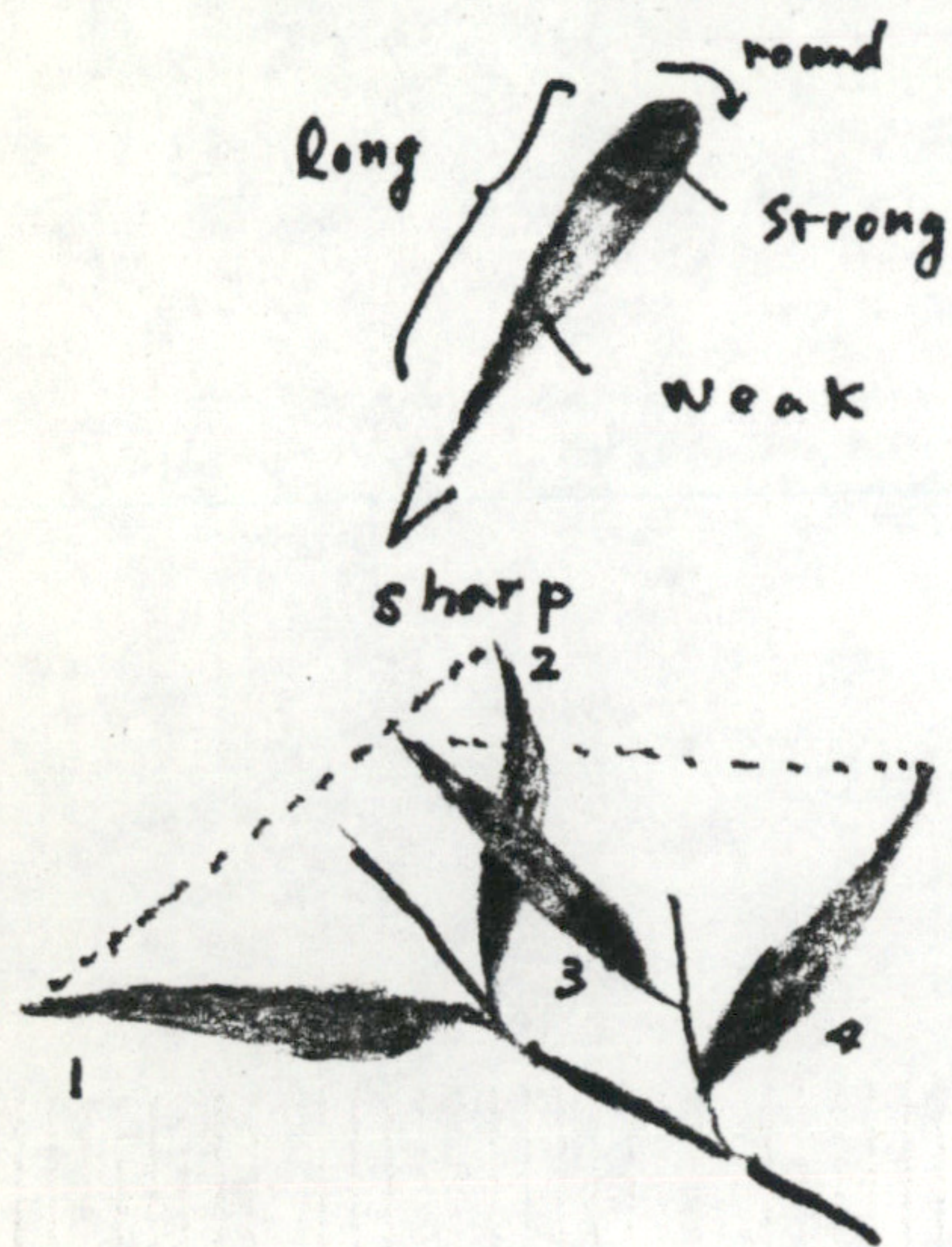
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(2)

« Cont'd »

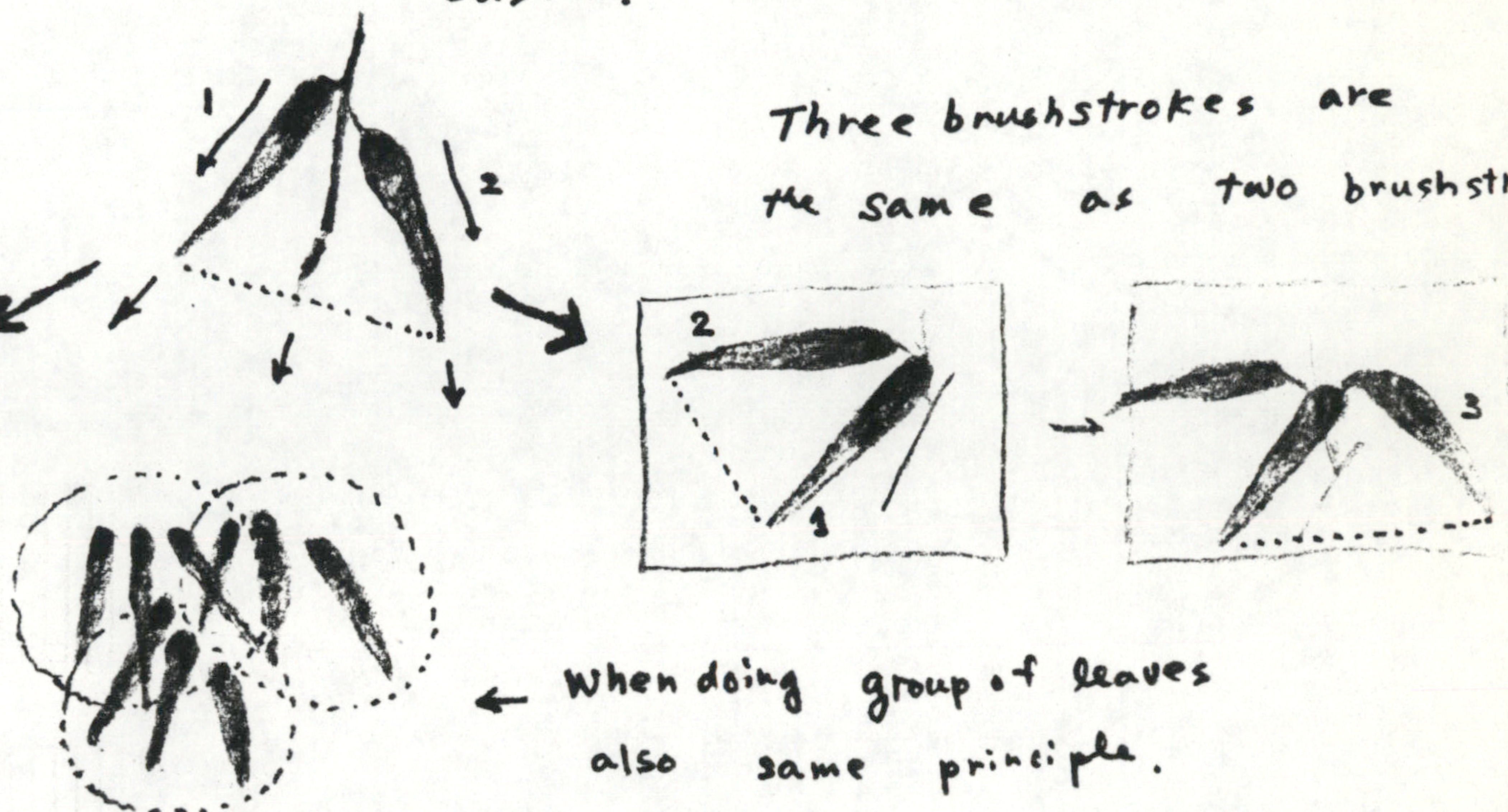
You have to fully understand the "branch" pattern, because the "leaves" distribution is also under this order.

(III) Third center

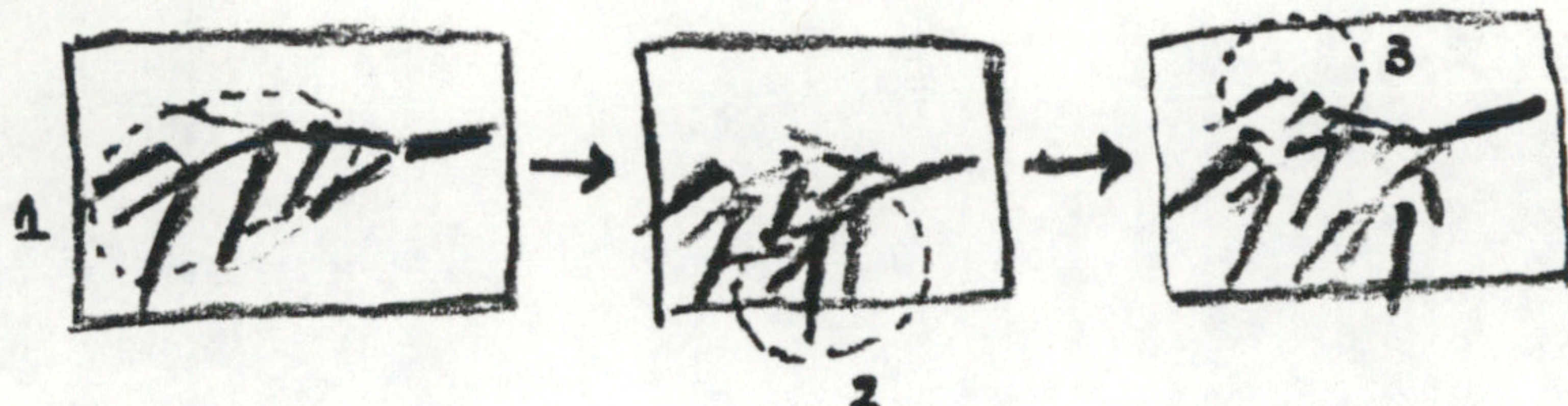


① Two-brush-strokes method would be basic.

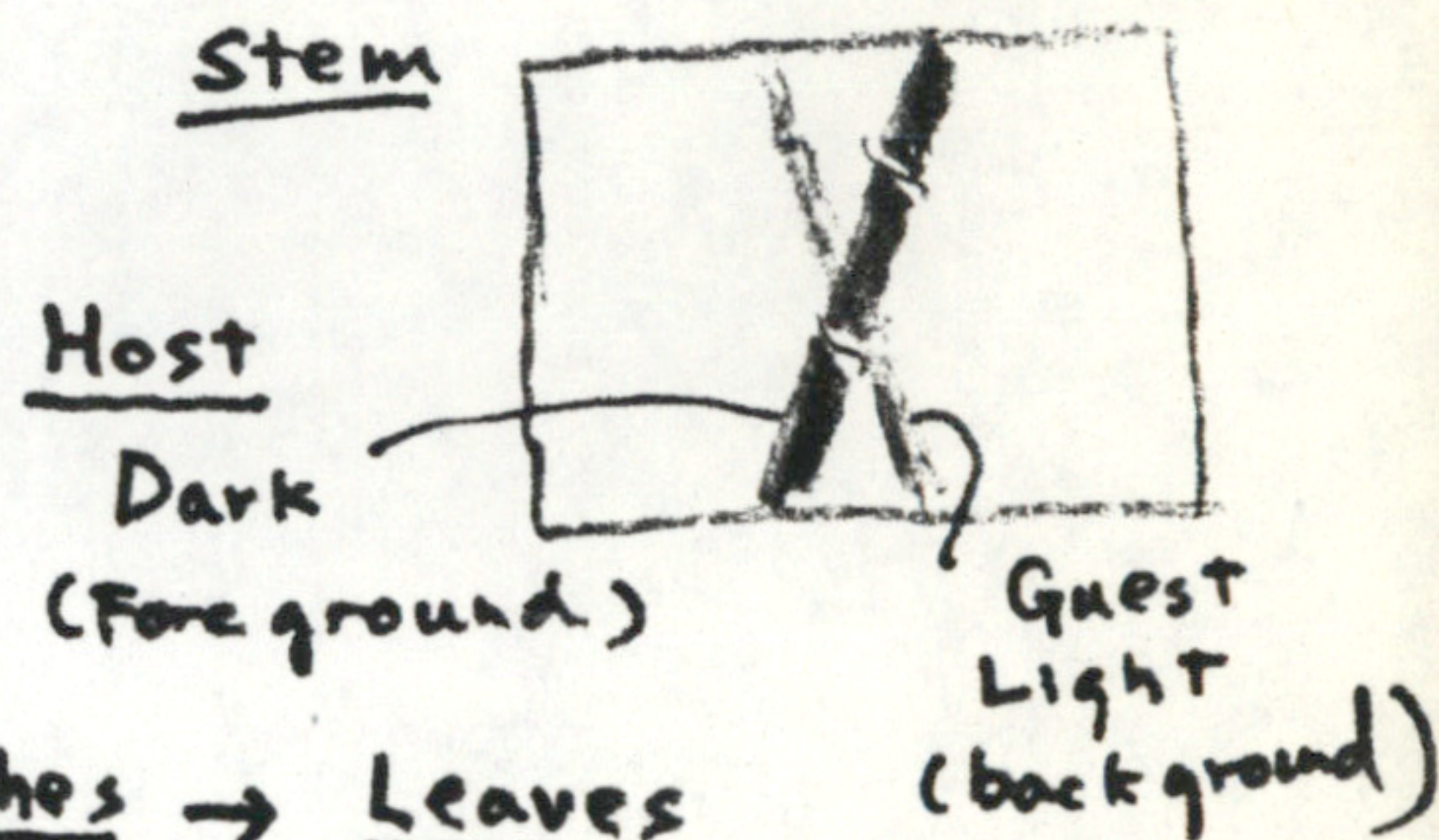
Three brushstrokes are the same as two brushstrokes.



② Finish leaves on each branch at a time.



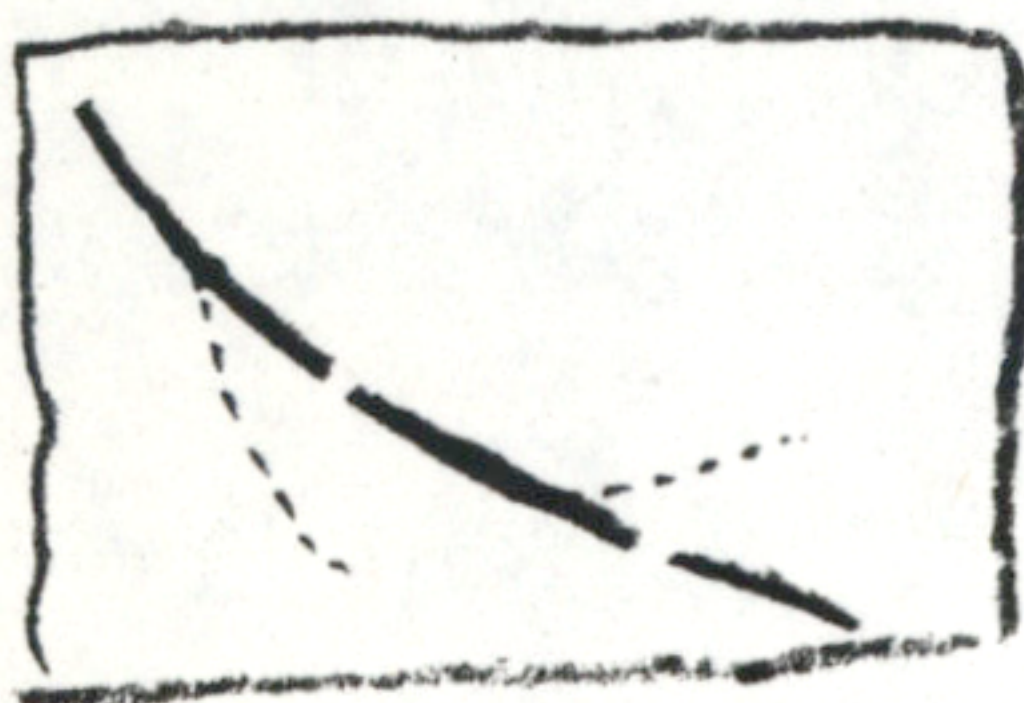
③ Guest-host relation for second Stem



(IV) Conclusions

(1) Three centers $\text{Main stem } C_1 \rightarrow \text{Branches } C_2 \rightarrow \text{Leaves } C_3$

(2) The composition of whole structure is determined by the First stroke - Main stem



(3) The leaves — Last touch but not least

— This give a birth to the main feeling.
(Need speedy drawing)

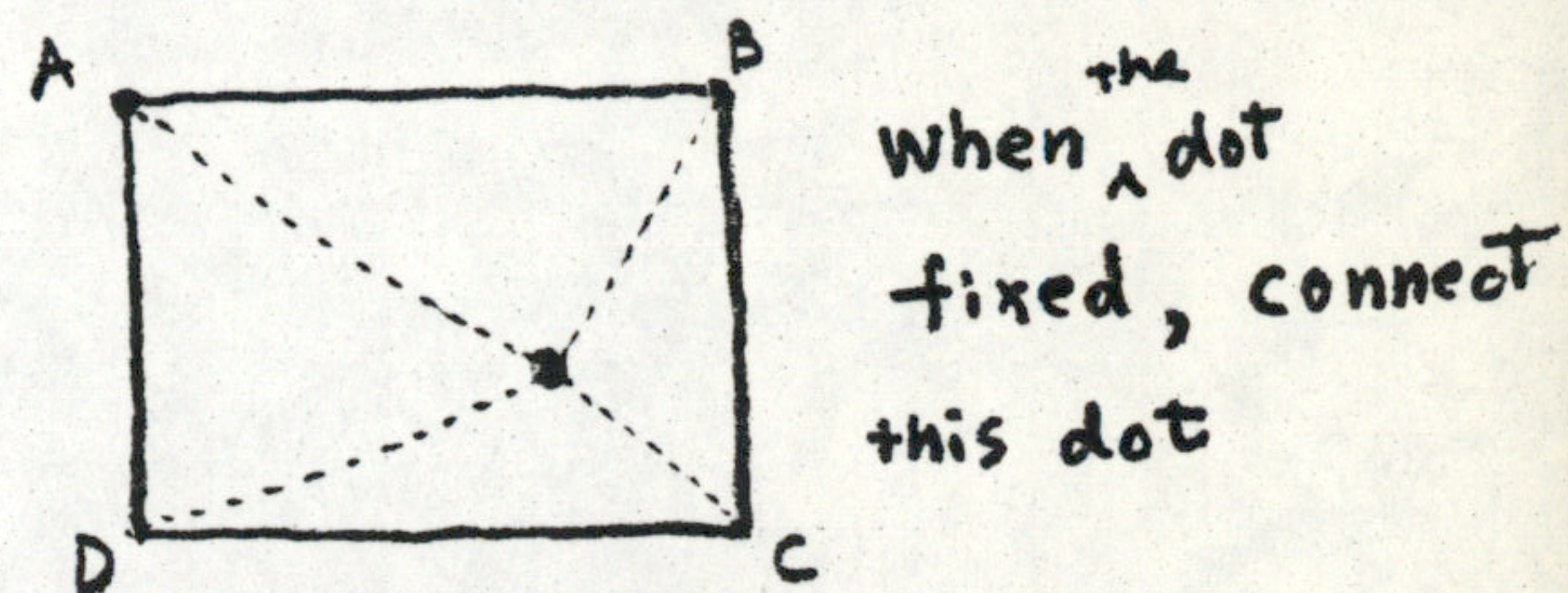
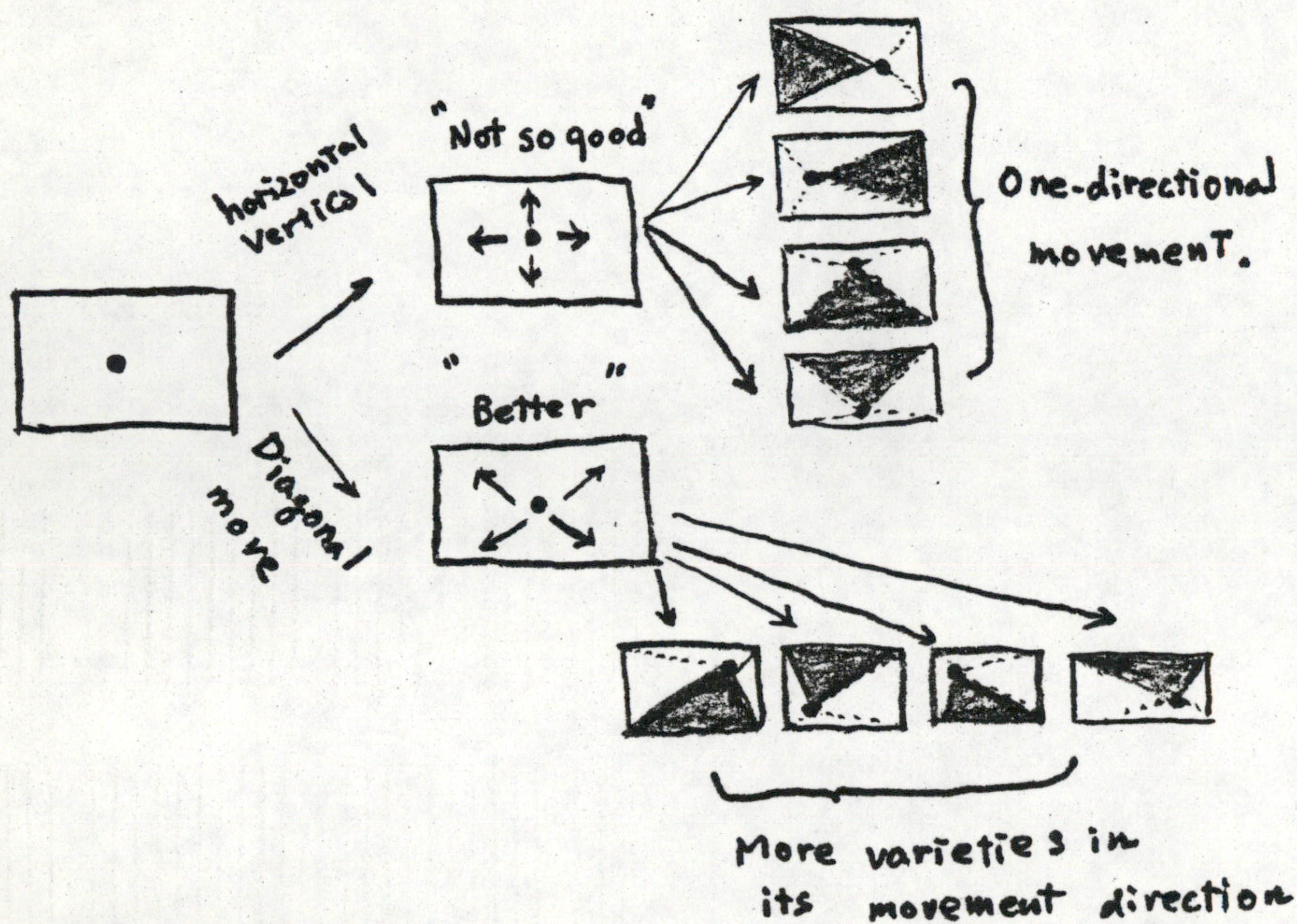
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①

The process of "Plum tree" drawing My interpretation

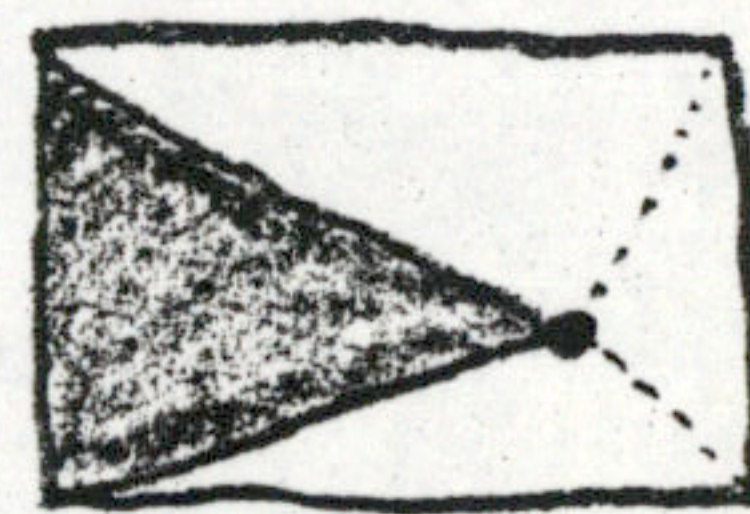
(I) The rule Which one is "the simple" "simpler" "simplest"?

Suppose A picture and A dot. Then, move a dot in the picture.



with lines from four corners of this picture.

Pick out the largest triangle in the picture.

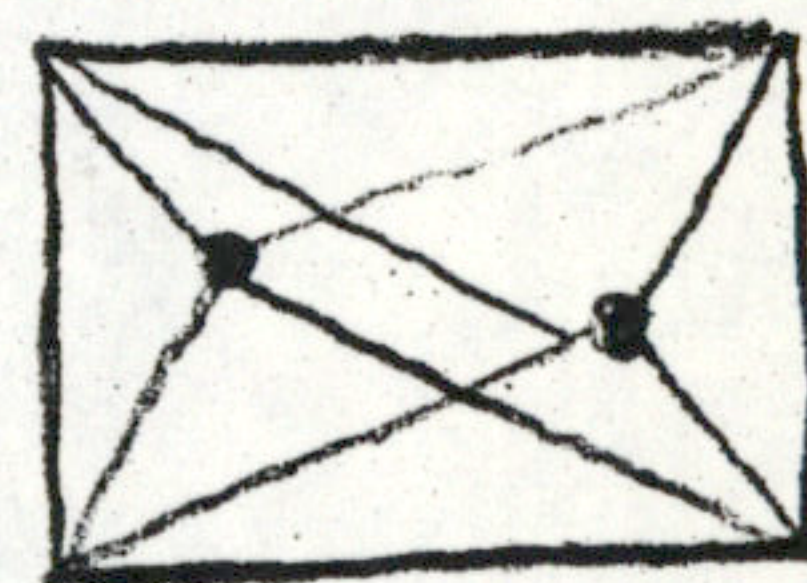


this largest triangle is a kind of

central type for deciding

the composition of

the plum tree drawing



The hierarchy of simplicity

(1) The simplest use only one triangle. (despite of its size)

(2) The second simplest Two triangles

(3) If you use TWO DOTS It gets much more complicated.

(II) First step for "plum tree" drawing.

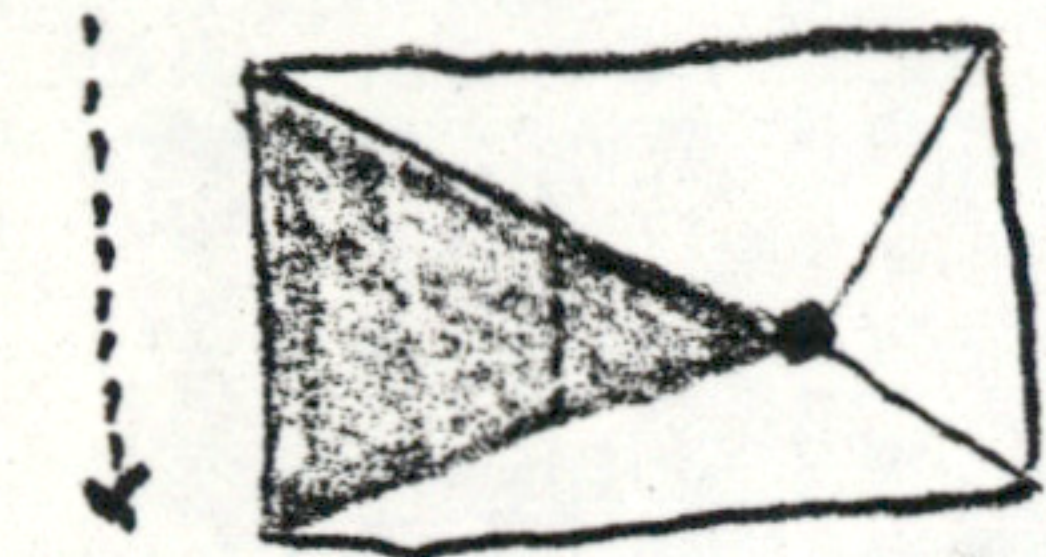
The following step are to be done in your mind or on the small pieces of scratch paper.

(II) (cont'd)



(1) Imagine that you have a dot in your sheet.

(2) Move a dot diagonally to get a stable position you like best.

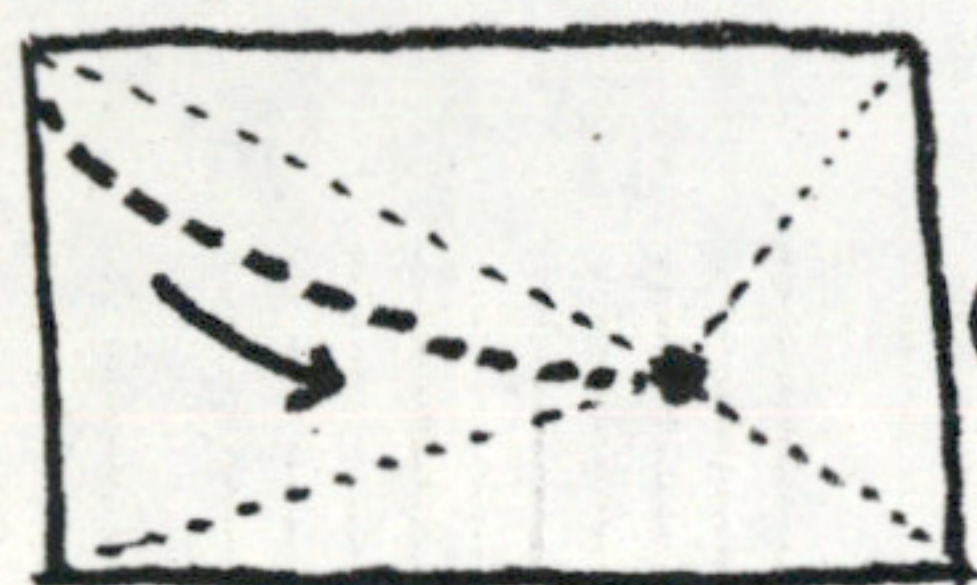


(3) When ^{the} dot positioned, draw lines from each corner of this picture to the dot to get Four triangles in the sheet of this picture.

(In your mind)

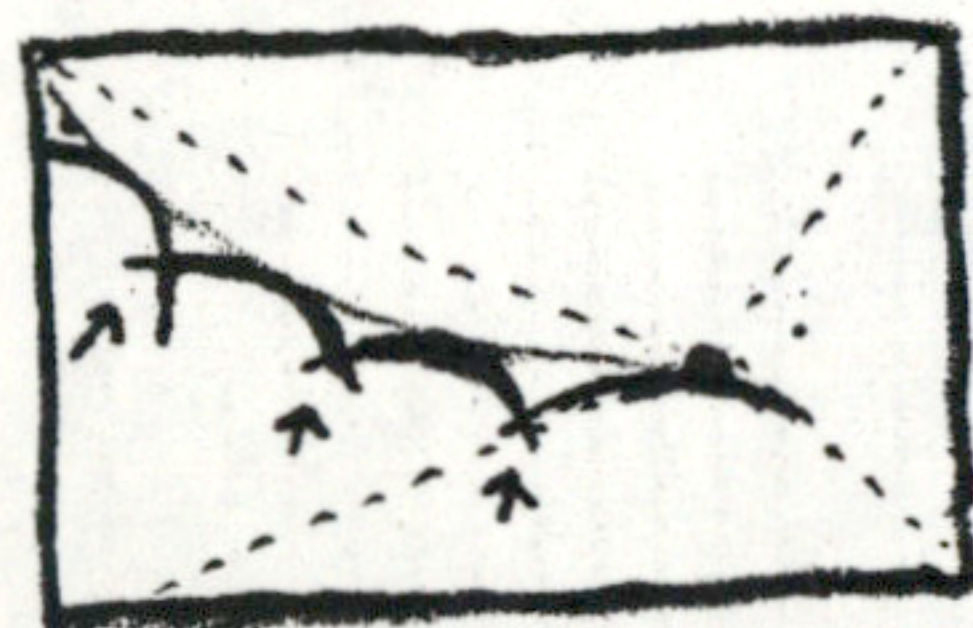
(4) Pick out the largest triangle. This is the first place you begin with.

(III) Second step.



(1)

(1) Draw a blurred arc on the triangle ending up with the dot.



(3)

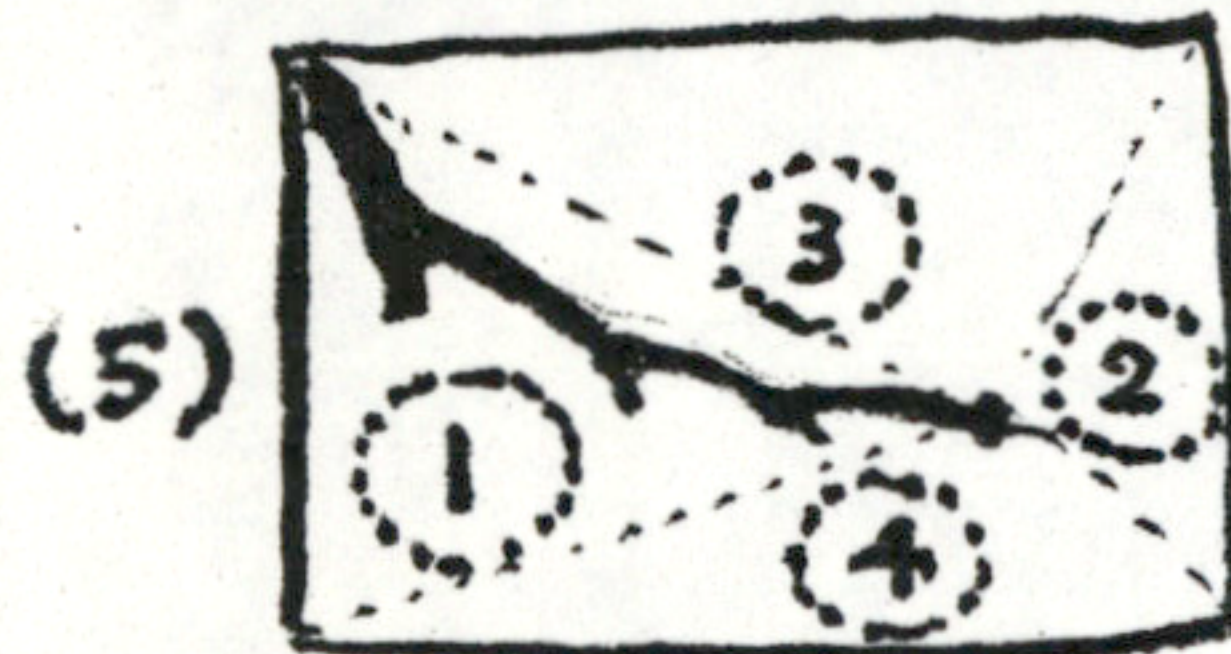
(2) Imagine that first arc is a branch.

If you want a trunk that must be dark and brodd at the base of this branch so that it supports whole structure beyond it.

(3) How to draw "knots" and "trunk".

Put small arcs back to back with the first Arc. These are guide lines for determing knots. (So the longer arcs are by the starting place and shorter one in the end.)

(4) So the intesecting parts (see arrows) are knots from which twigs are growing.



(5)

(5)

(5) Here, take a look at the remaining spaces. First within the main triangle and adjacent triangles. ① → ④

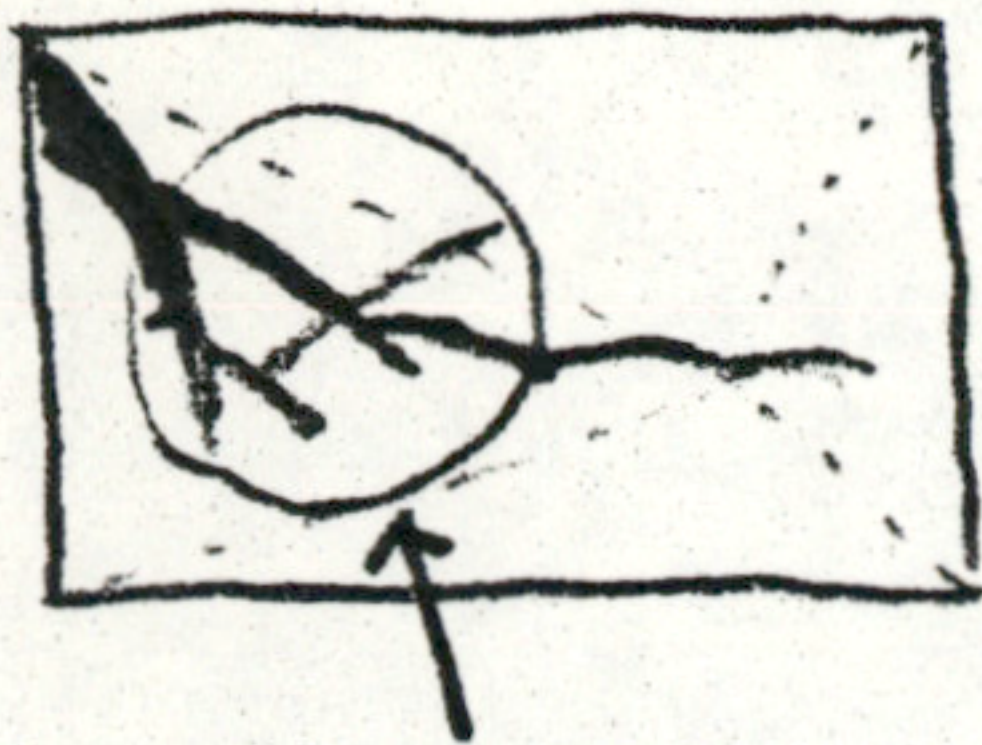


(6)

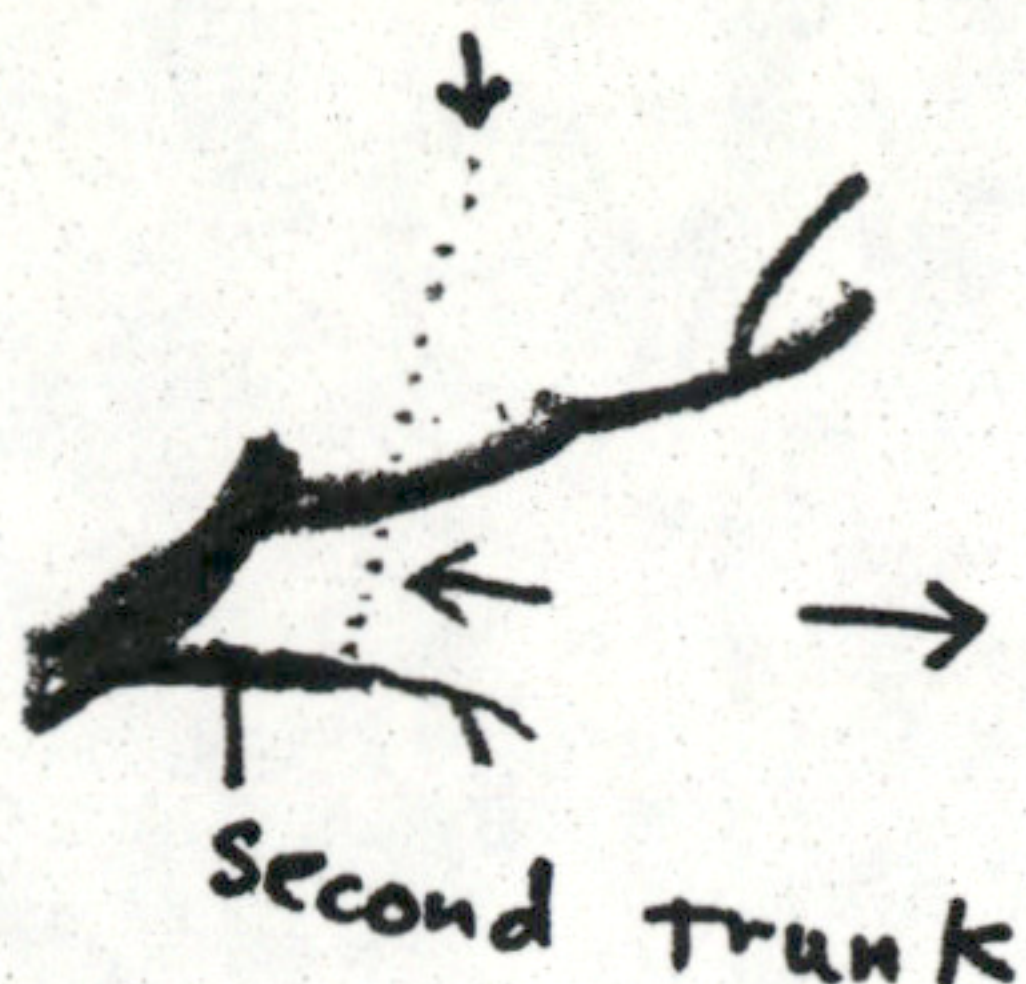
(6) First twig must be filled in a blank space with in the main triangle i.e. ①.



(7) At this stage, some tricks are necessary to have an outlook of plum tree.

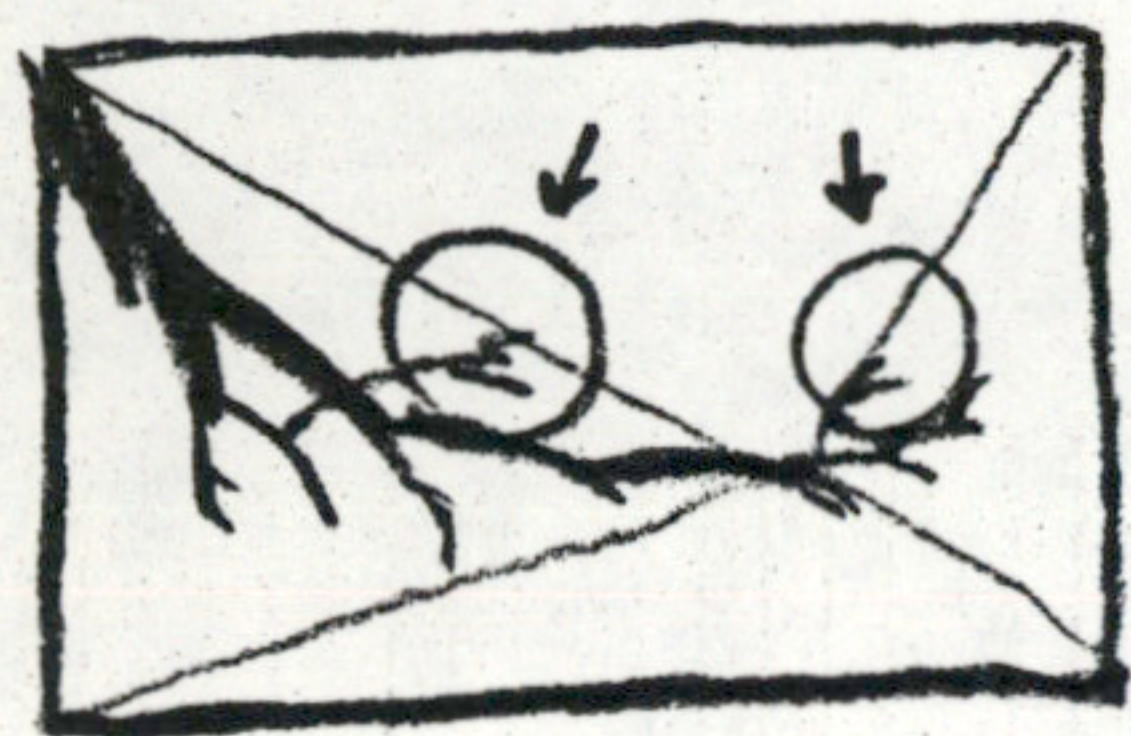


For example. ① Trunk is often divided in two parts.



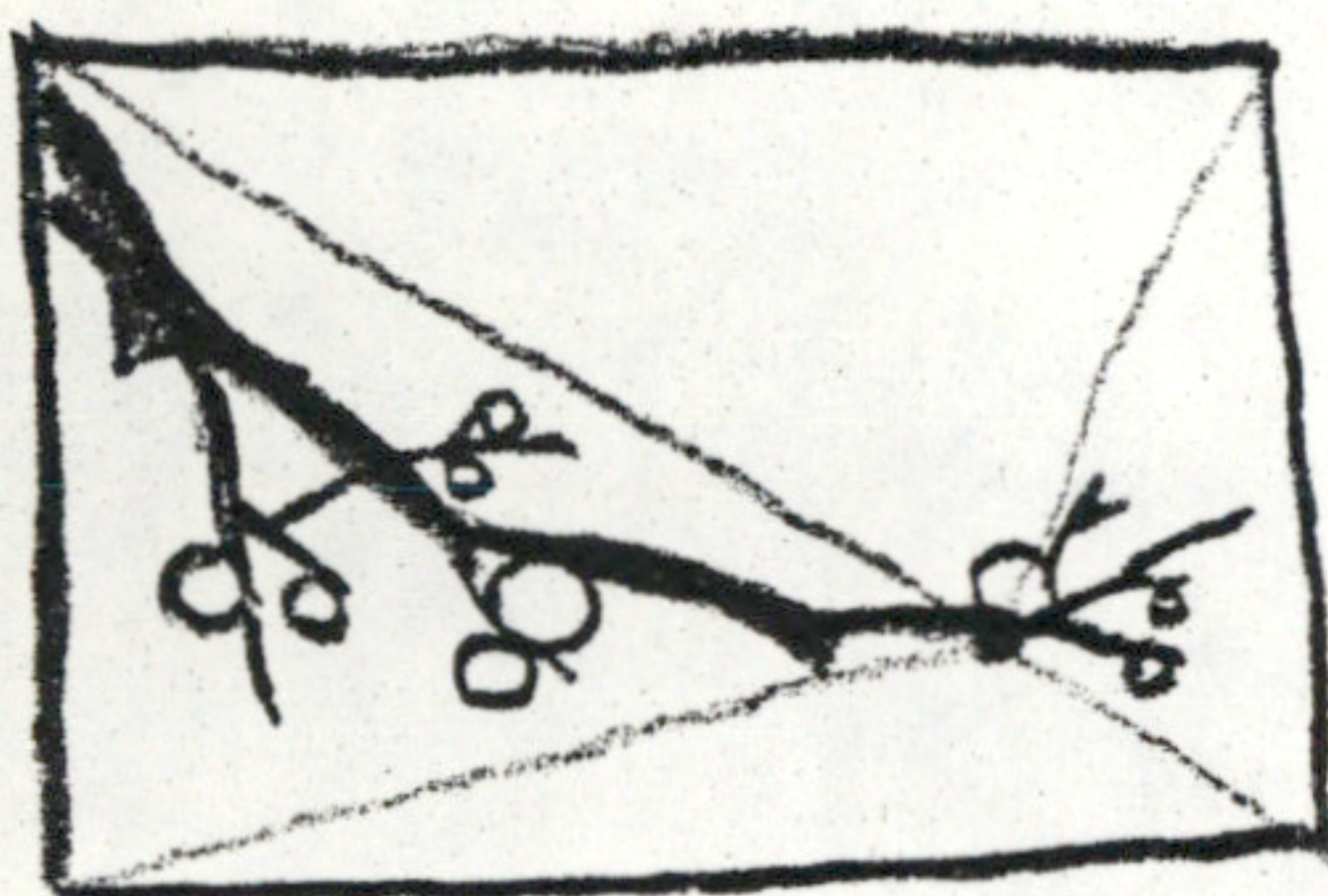
② The twigs from second trunk often intersect in the form of "Woman = 女".

« This trick is very efficient

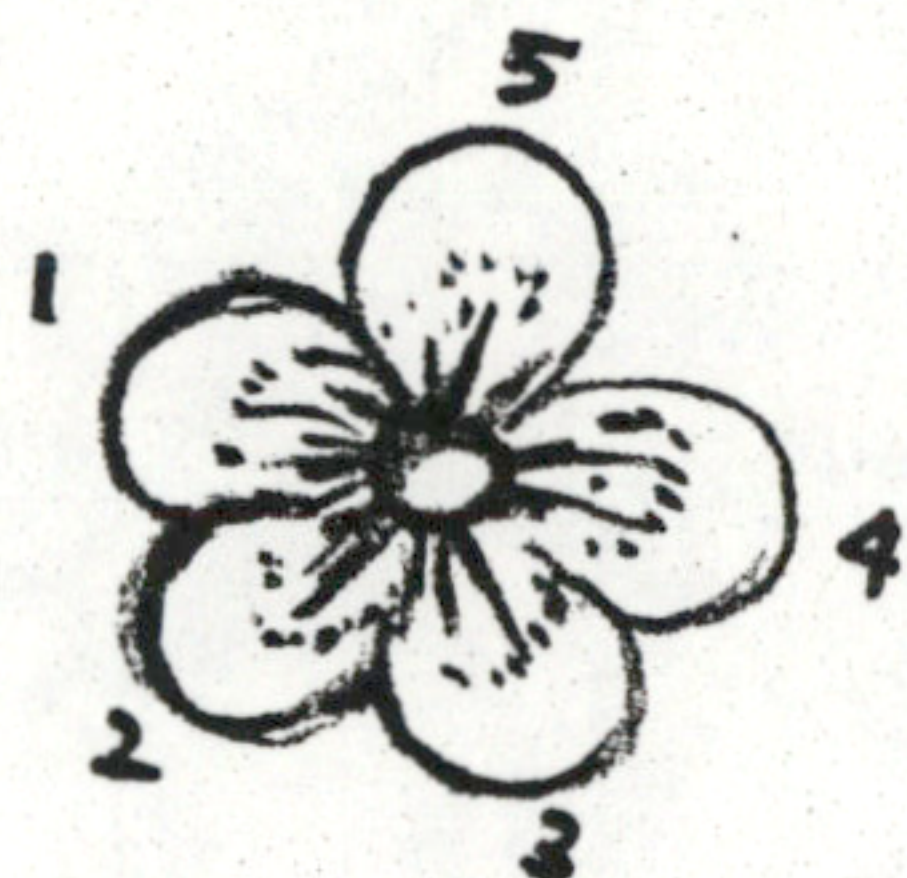


③ If you like more complicated twigs.

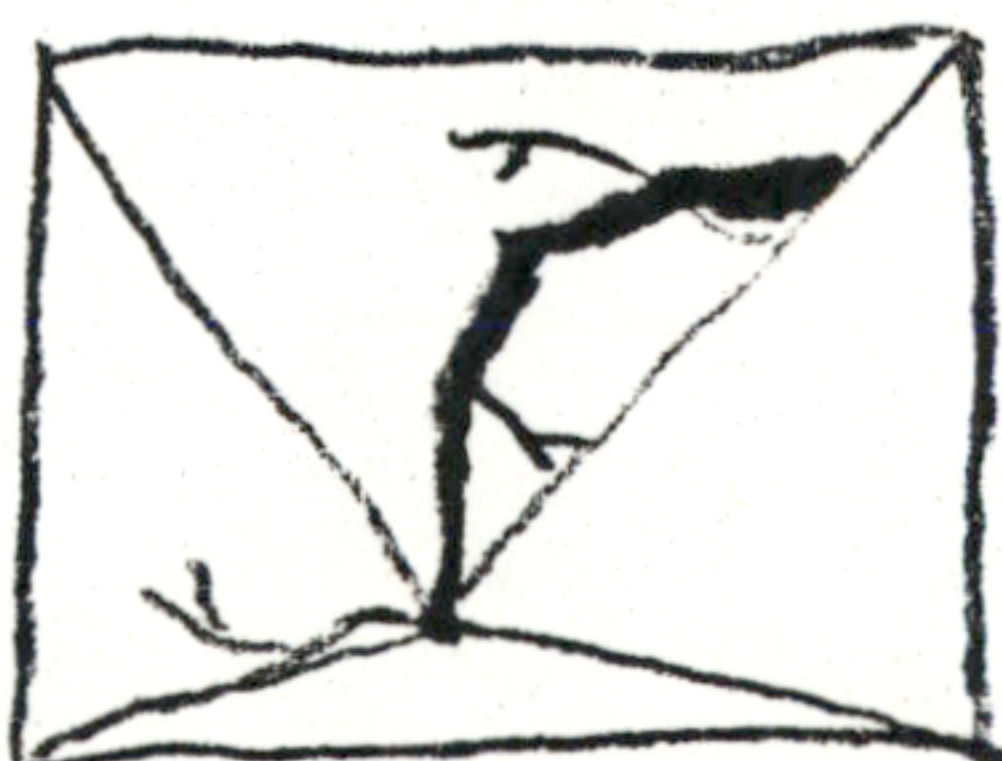
Stretch them out as far as the boundaries or along with the side lines of adjacent triangles.



(a) Flowers — 5 pedals, stamens are centers. They grow directly from the branches. Young branches have more flowers. Usually large one at the knots.



Facing toward you.
by putting a center (stamen toward you)



Can you tell
which one
is the simpler?

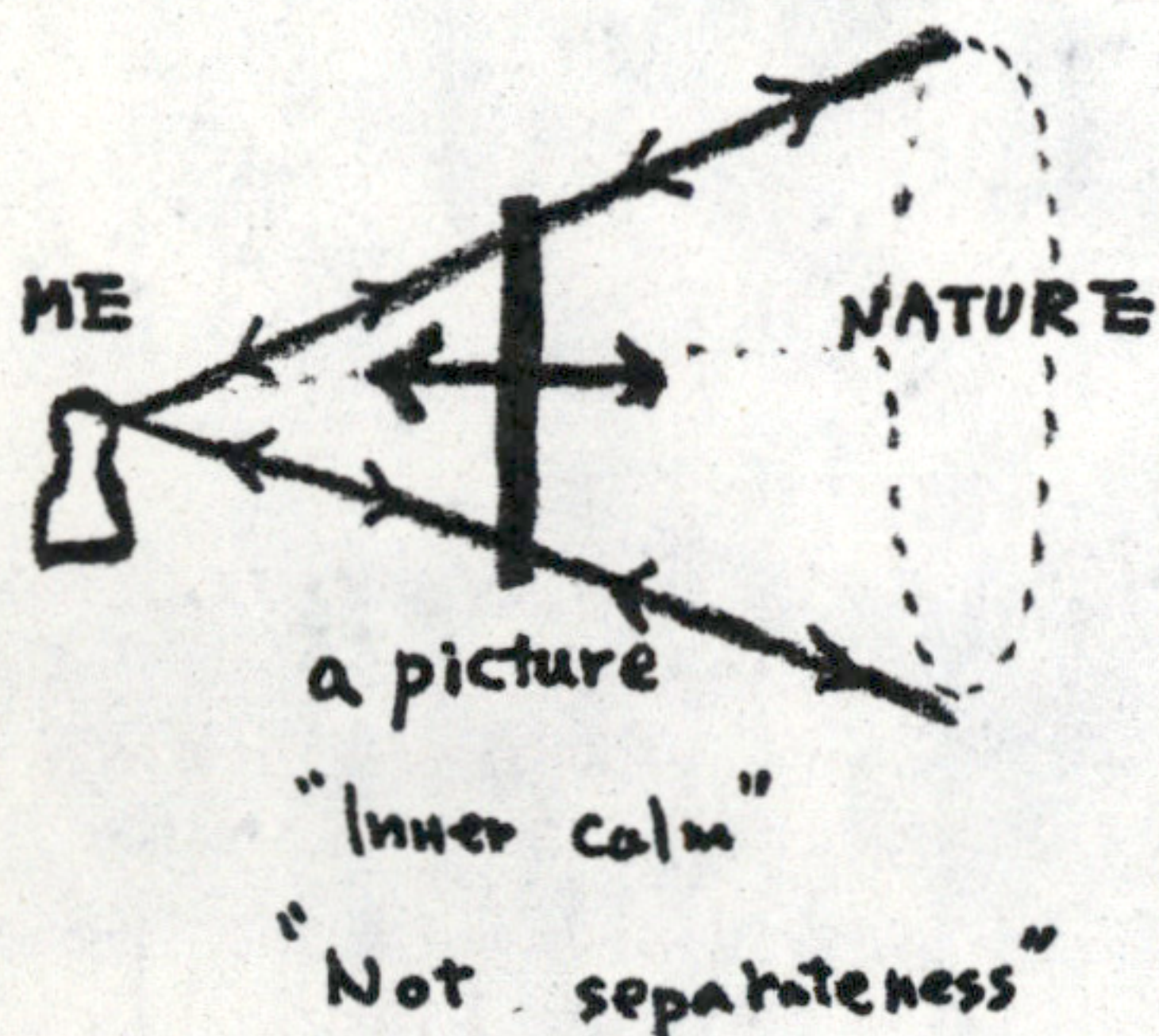
Hiro Nakano

#207, Dept of Architecture

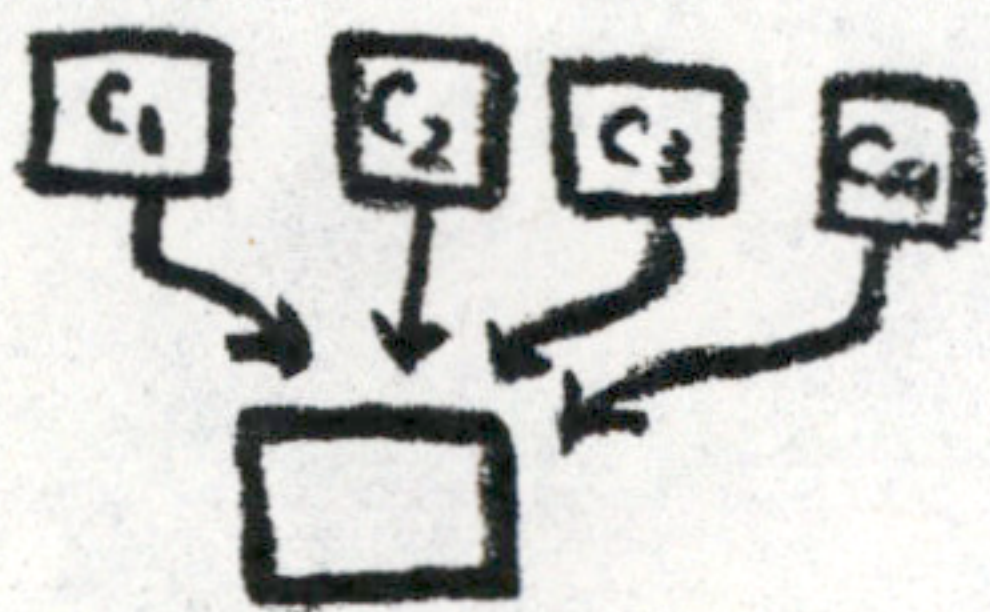
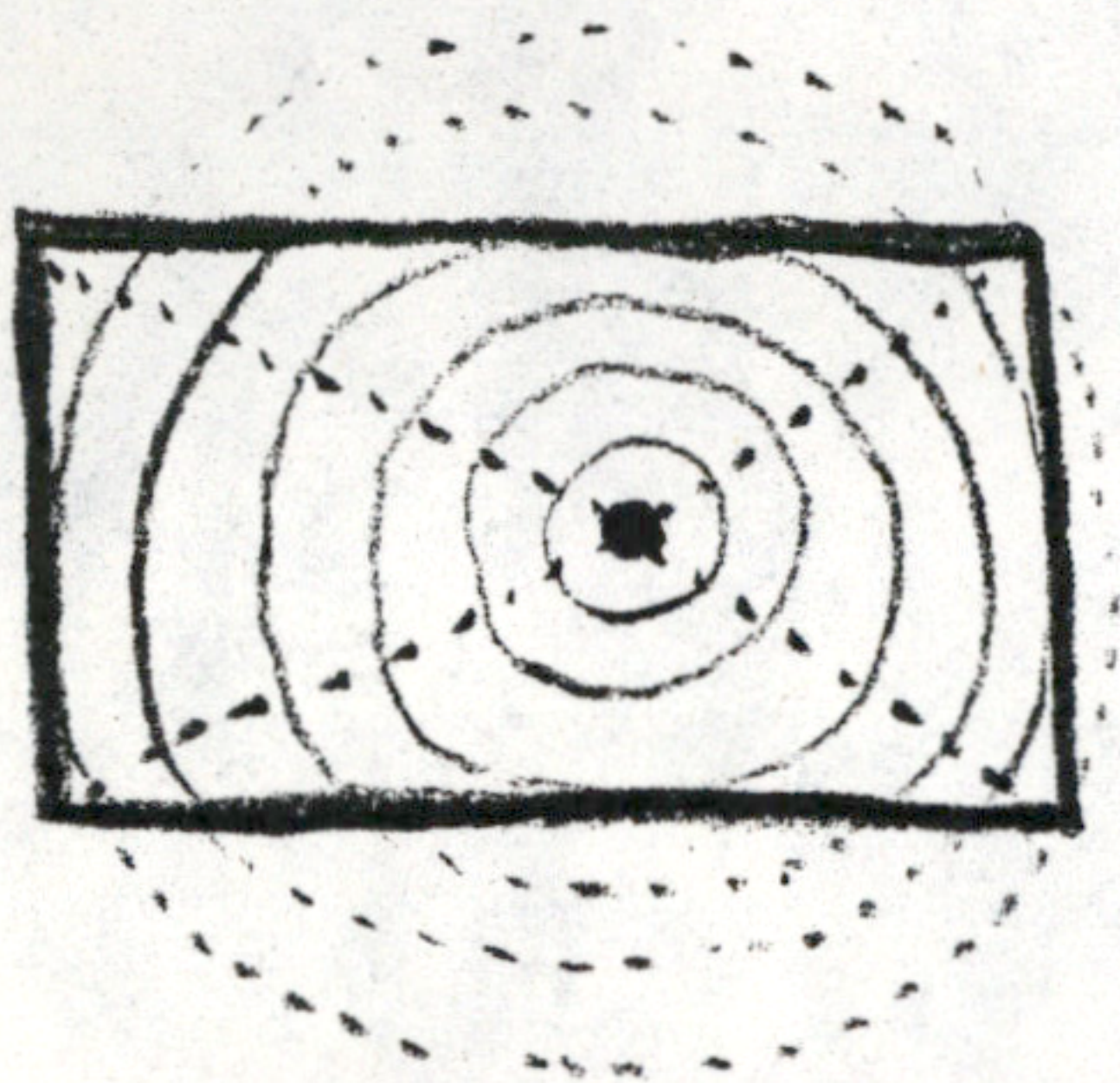
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①

(1) My essential task is to create something beautiful in the picture that gives people a feeling of "inner calmness". This calmness is almost the same peaceful feeling as a joy or excitement when you find yourself as being a part of NATURE — simple as a whole, but complex in its essence. So, in another word, my task is to create a simplest shape that embraces an essence of nature and the surrounding nature also embraces this shape.



(2) This kind of simplest whole is a point (dot) in the middle of the picture. If this dot is not a separate being from surrounding world (Not separateness), this is the shape I aim. Usually a point is meaningless. Therefore, the simplest whole, in my case, is a whole obtained by synthesizing MINIMUM number of patterns to achieve the beauty mentioned above.



(3) CONDITIONS

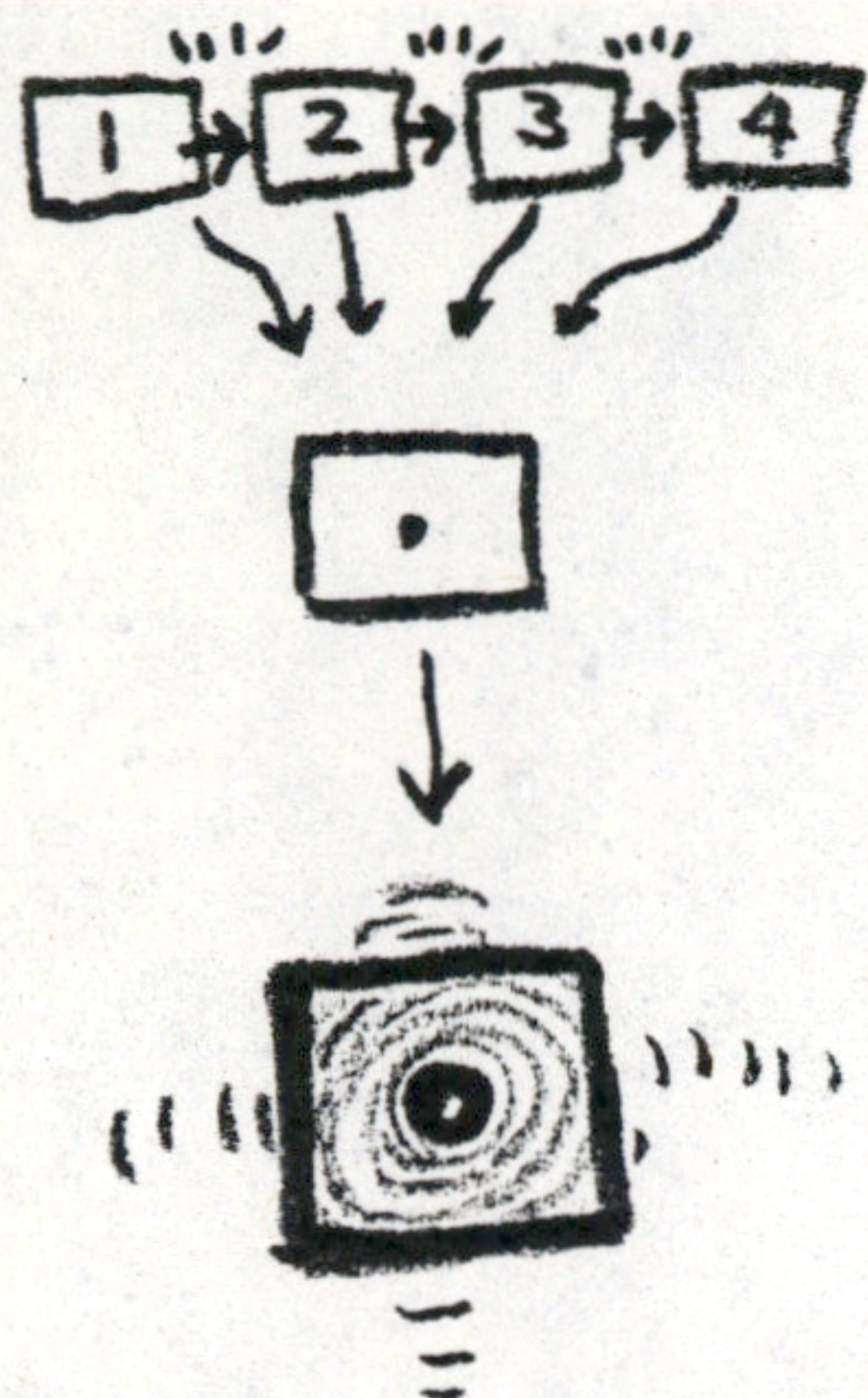
① How we can minimize the number of patterns that are necessary for my task?

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②

(3) Conditions (cont'd) ①...

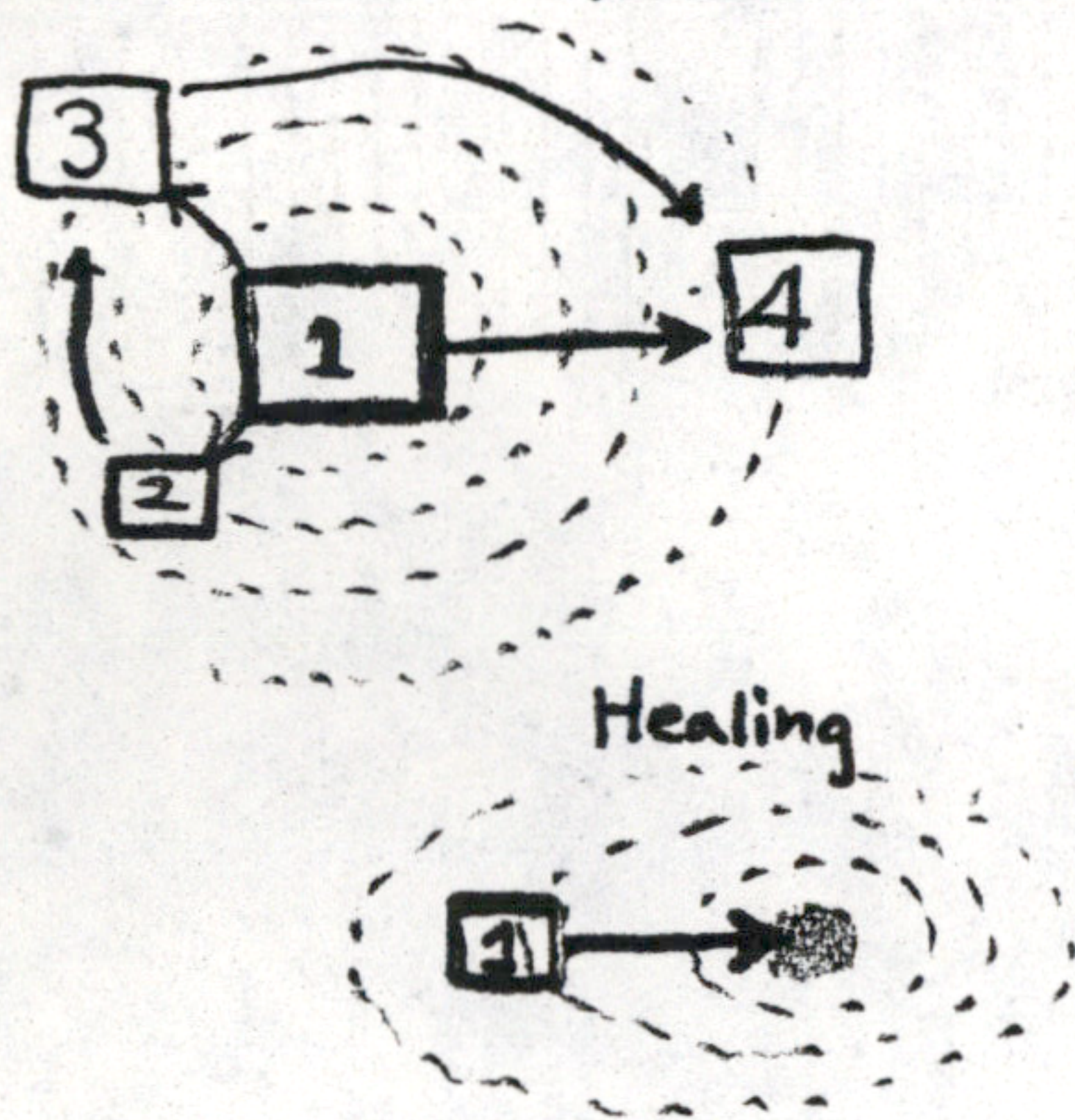


For the efficient minimization of pattern number, you must establish an appropriate Order of these pattern application process.

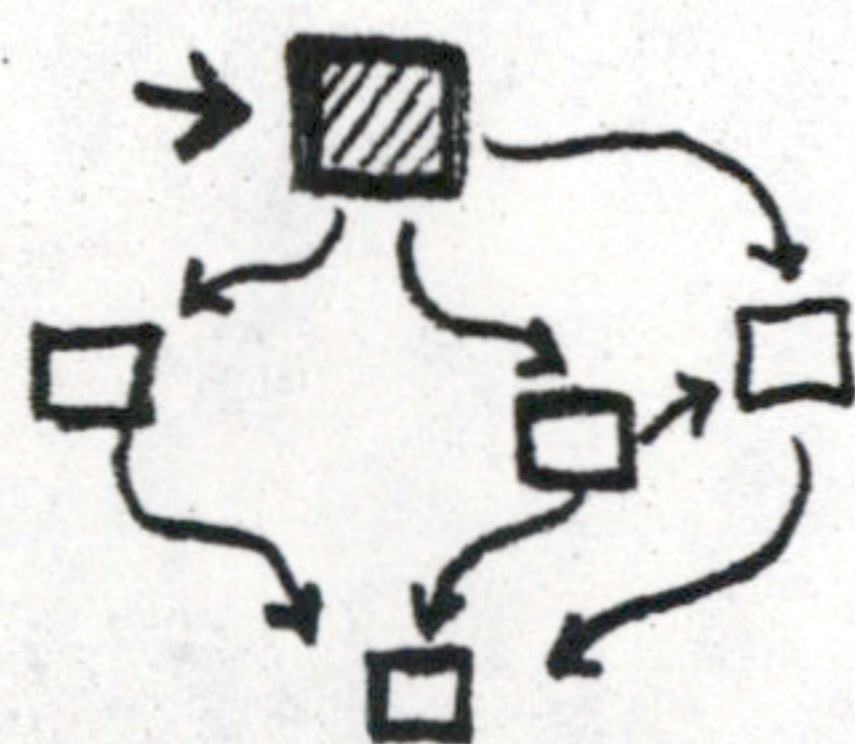
② Then, ^{the} question is how to find most appropriate pattern - synthesizing - process order?

This order is strongly influenced by the FIRST PATTERN that establish a strong center in the picture at first step.

4) The Simplest Whole is the whole that is capable of generating an invisible field so that the other patterns can find its position most economically by checking this field. "The Simplest Whole that Heals" is the whole that turns existing incapable pattern into more efficient one in terms of organizing other following patterns.



(5) How we can obtain such whole?



① Find the first center by the illustration of each pattern's field of relationships.

② Try best to leave out "the Void" space as much as possible by taking into consideration the idea of "Positive - Negative" space. This blank void space is very crucial to its simplicity. ("Healing" is done by this space)



Hiro Nakano
#207, Dept of Architecture
5/1/80, Prof. Chris. Alexander

The process of "Chrysanthemum" drawing

(I) A concept of composition provided by Chinese way of PERSPECTIVE.

The following Chinese versions of perspectives — a way of grasping SPACE — are all based on the movement of viewer's eye.

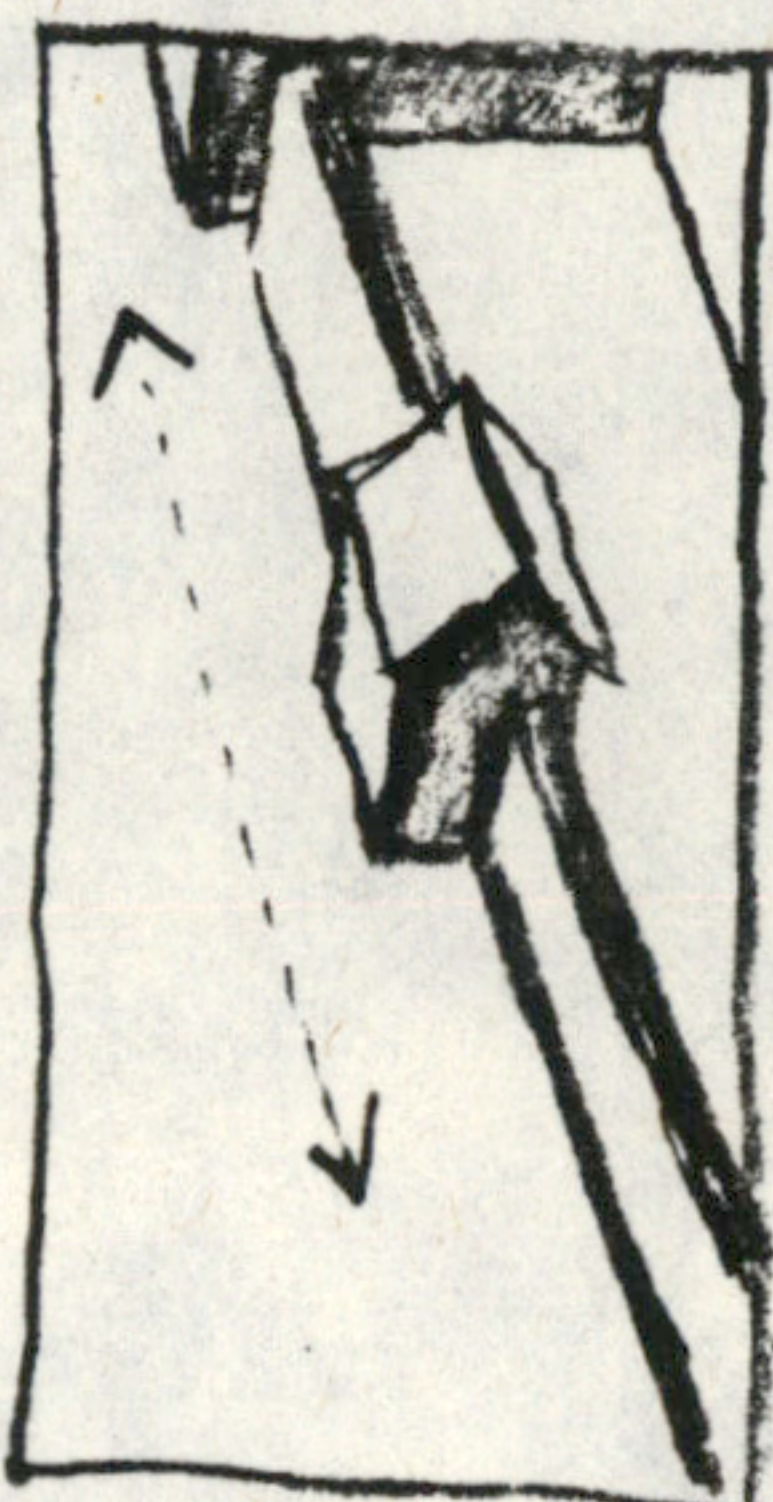
(1) "Deep-distance"

perspective



Usually, viewer's eye trace an object in the picture.

(2) "level-distance"



Your eyes must move to grasp the world in the picture.

(3) Relational-distance



The objects in the picture indicates the direction you must look.

(4) "High-distance" (ex. Mountains)



Your view point changes to see the objects

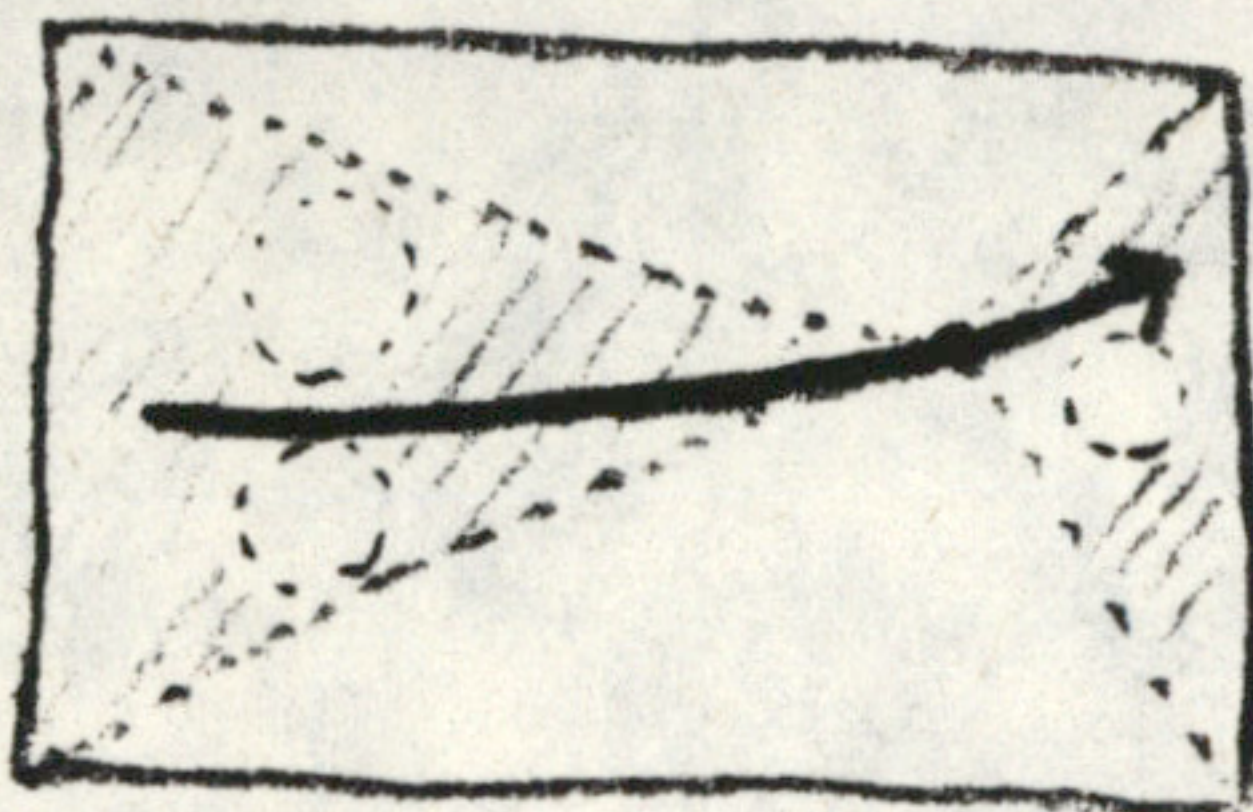
From left to right, from low to upward



*

These are all underlying the fact of viewer's eye movement to recognize its space in the picture.

closed
Pos.



(1) First step
Open
"Void"
Neg.



(2)

Second step

In other words, the triangles used in the composition of "plum tree" drawing is a process of selecting the direction of viewer's eye movement.

(1) At a first step, the direction of movement is usually oriented toward "VOID".

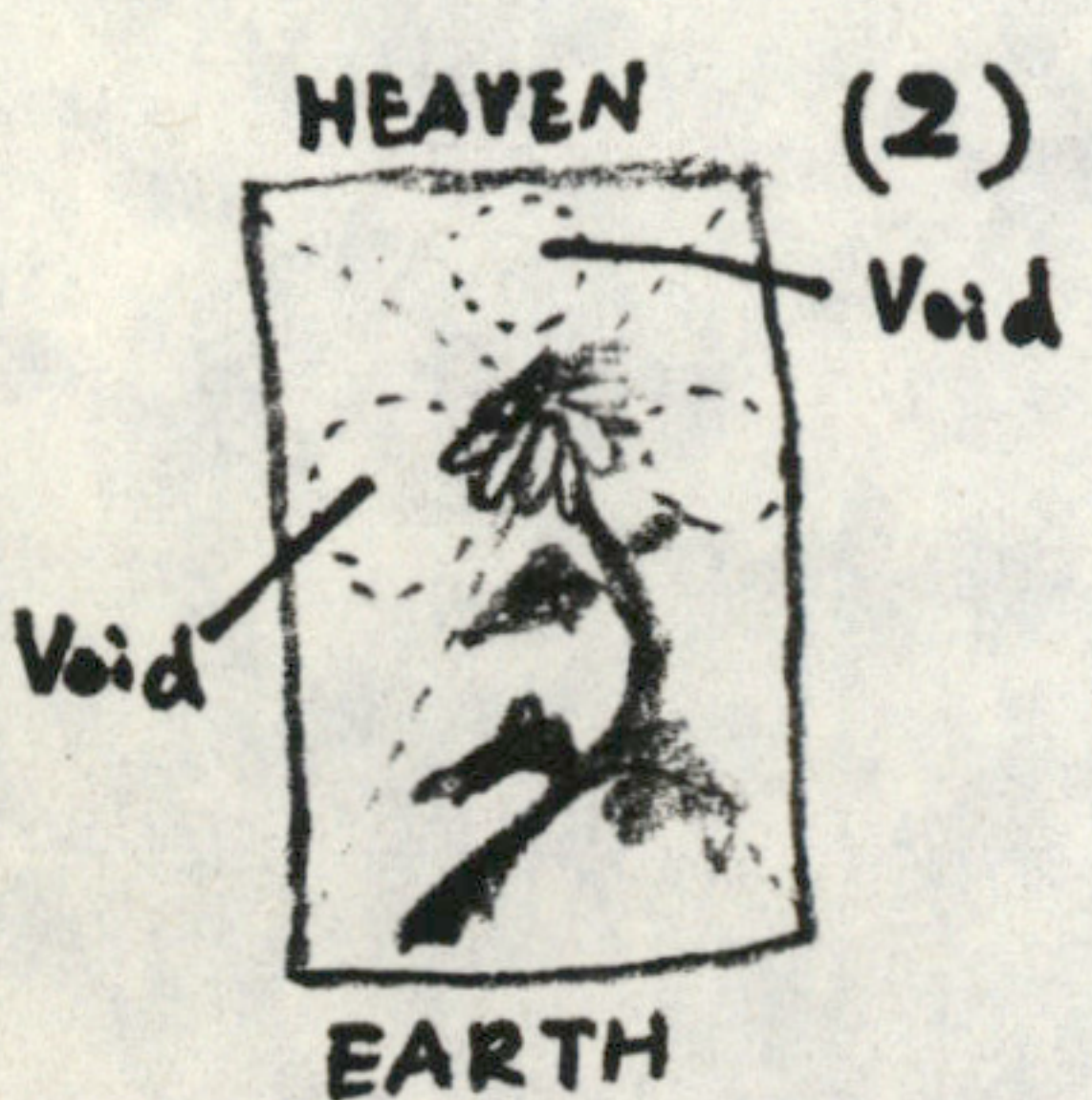
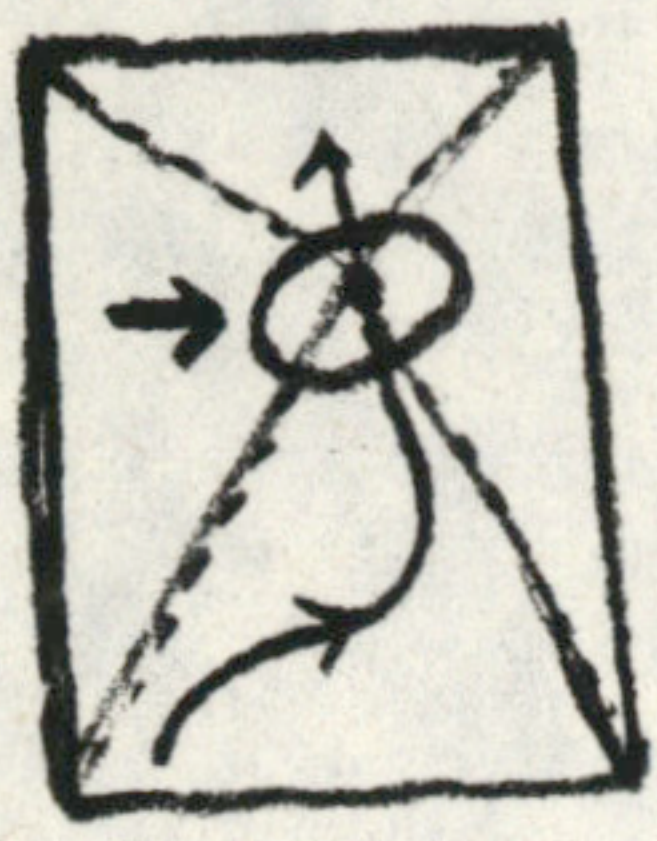
["Void" means, in this case, open area (heaven).]
["Closed" means EARTH, i.e., base of plants.]

(2) Second Step See negative space. From the main stroke, branches will grow toward blank (Void) spaces. (Not separateness)

Hiro Nakano
#207, Dept. Architecture
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(II) Steps of drawing

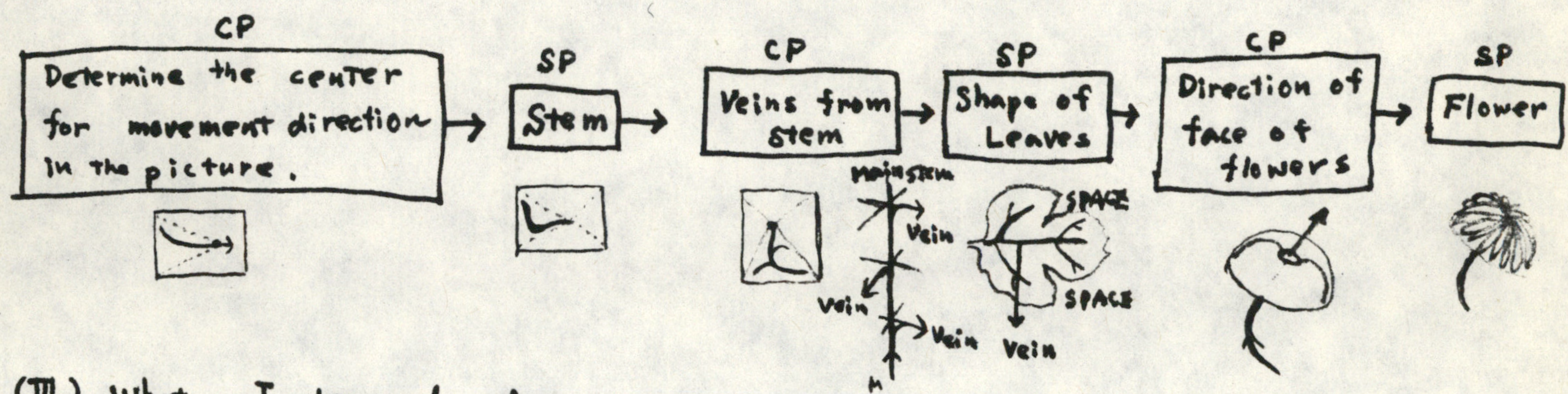
(1) I firstly checked the drawings of crysanthemum to identify the virtual center which determines the orientation of first stroke, ——— It was the place where STEM & FLOWER STAMEN meet.



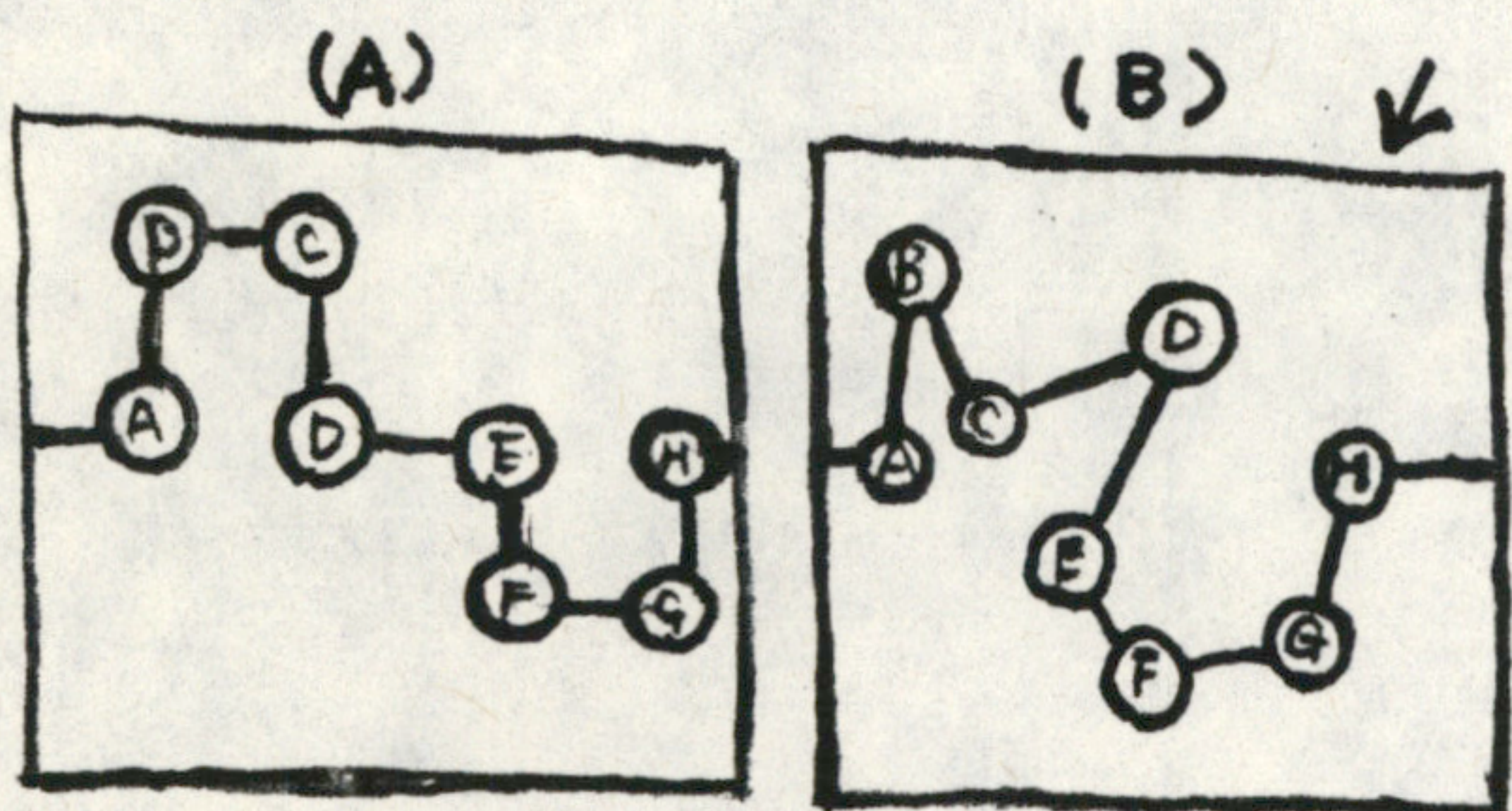
(2) Two different patterns are functioning in the process of drawing. { (1) Pattern that determines relationship of shapes. (SP)
(2) Pattern that works as to connect the patterns of shape. (CP)

The above two patterns have its own virtual centers. So the process is this continuous sequence of these center types.

(How I did in Crysanthemum drawing)



(III) What I learned from these facts



(A)-(H) are functional spaces. Lines are their connections. (ex: rooms) (ex: HALLS)

In chinese drawings, there is no difference between (A) and (B) in terms of its space arrangement. May be more like (B) than (A).

- o Co-ordinated
- o Axis. Symmetry Geometric shape
- o A look as a whole
- o Connections are important
- o Continuous change
- o Movement

(*) This characteristic of space concept has much influenced every aspect of Japanese, Chinese culture. See some of the Architecture plans of Japanese castles.

Hiro Nakano

#207, Prof. Chris Alexander

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3

(Cont'd) III. More details what I learned from Chinese drawings.

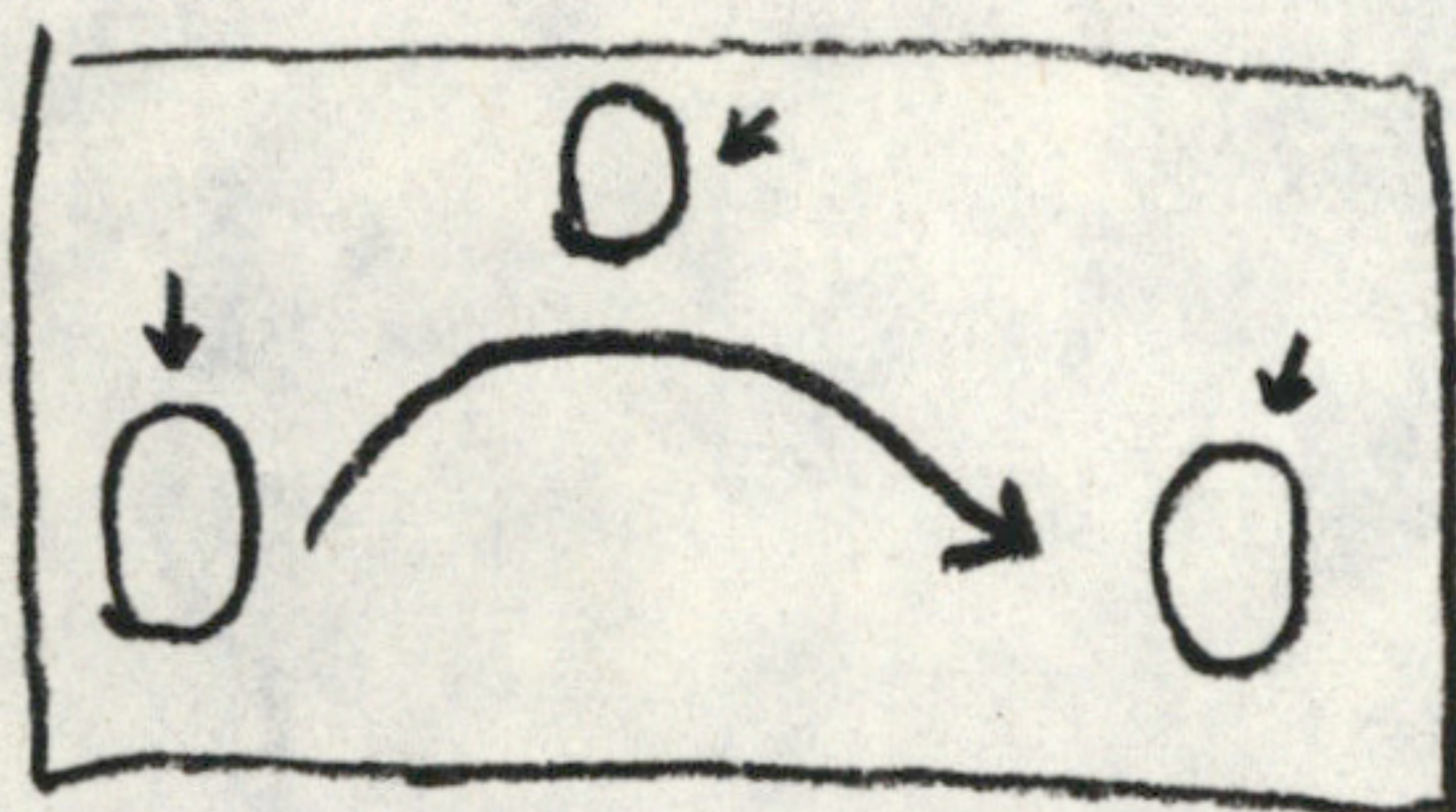
As a conclusion, the followings are its characteristics of its representation.

(1) Done by the continuous movement of "Lines", which produce the viewer's eye movement.

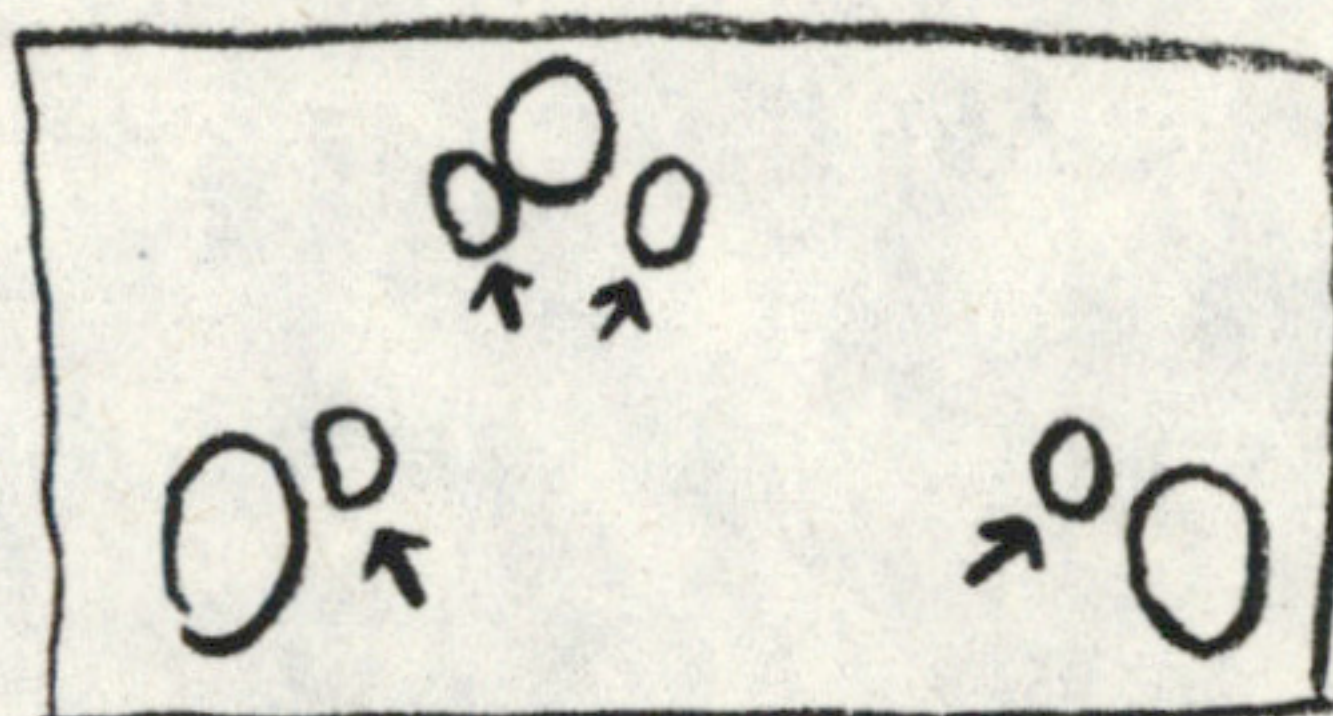
(2) At Each step, you only pay attention to the exact operation you are doing.

So the connections between operations are very important.

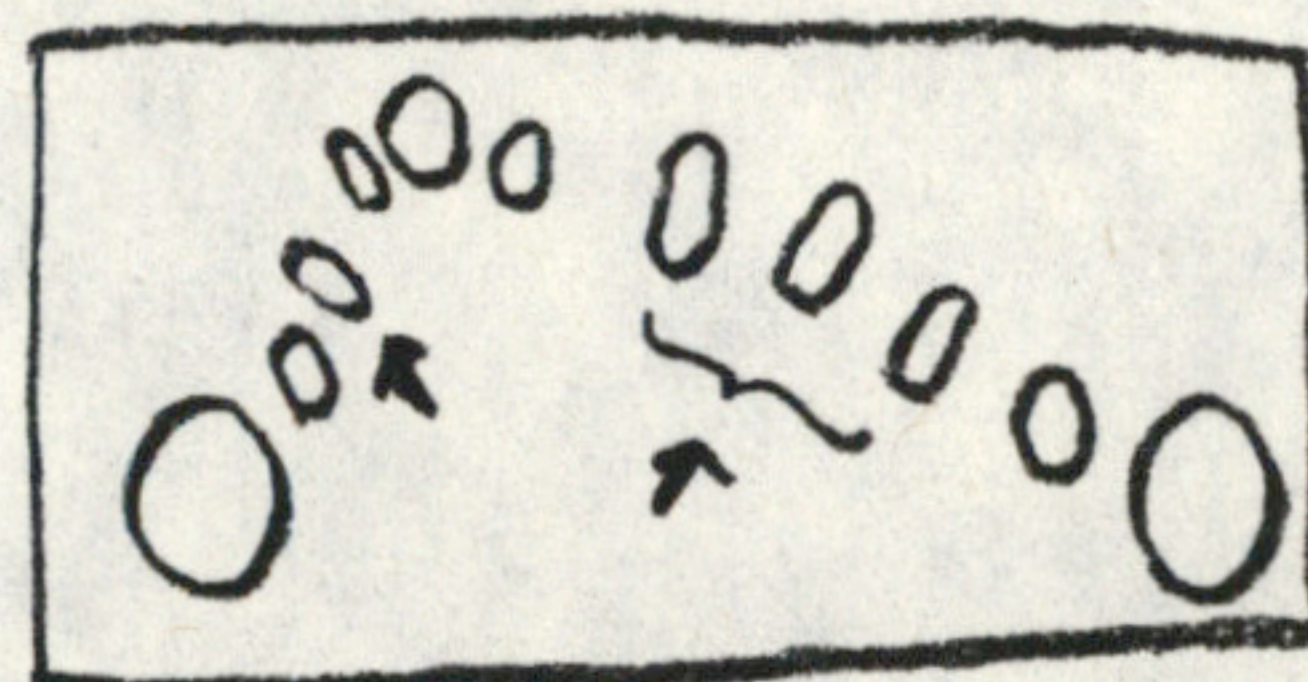
This seems very abstractive, but not actually. It is very practical as you see the process of "stepping stone placement" shown below.



(1) People's movement determine the place of "trump" stones.

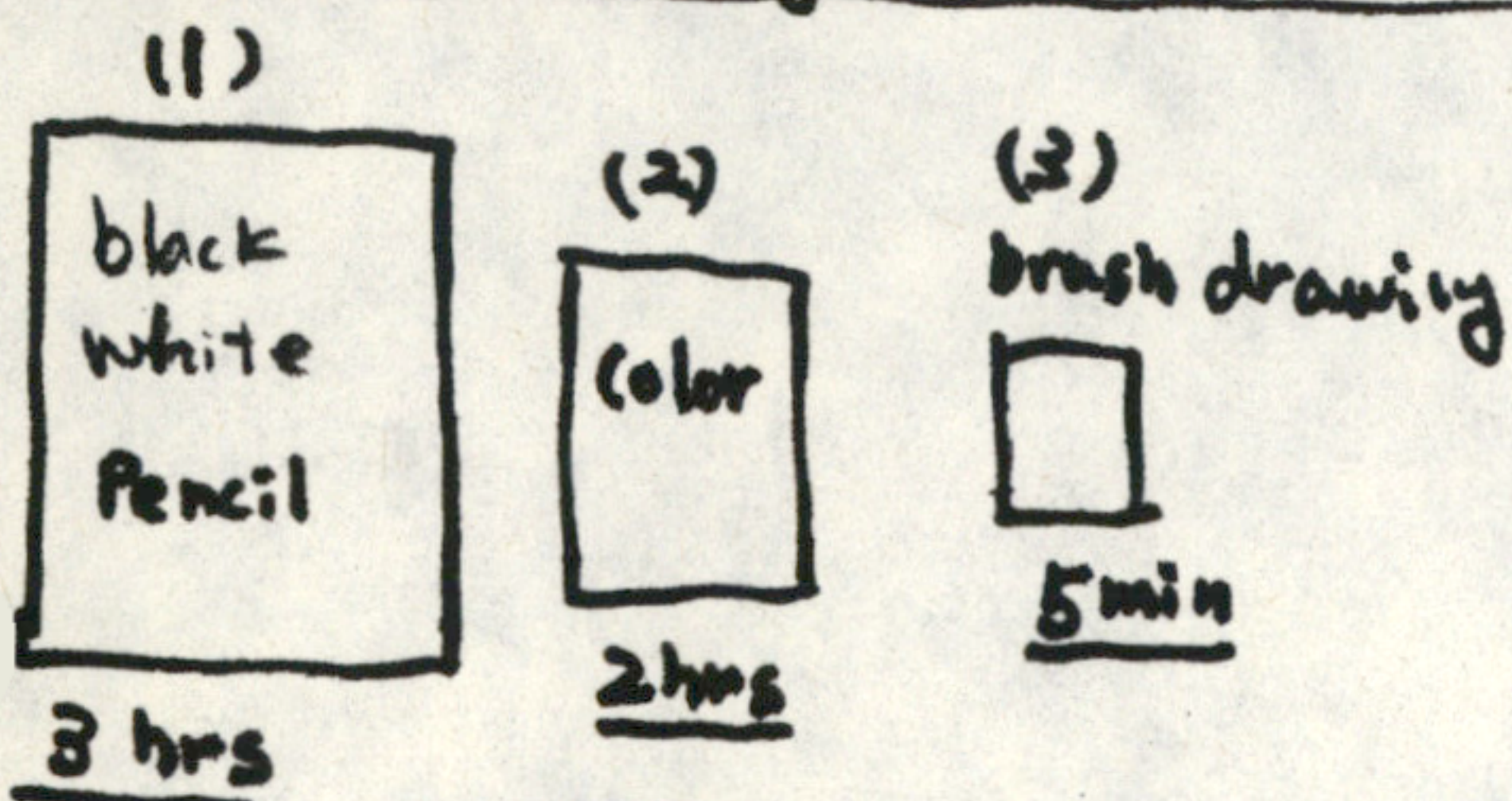


(2) Put stones on the side.



(3) Fill the gaps
(You must know the approximate number of stones necessary for each case, of course)

Three drawings I have done for today >



(2) is the one I wanted to do. I used only three colors. The rest is done by different tones. Grand color never bother the colors used in flowers. (1) is for my practice to learn

Composition, patterns, and tones. (Western like

style, I guess)

(2) is my attempt to produce the simplest thing

by using least number of patterns. (5 min)