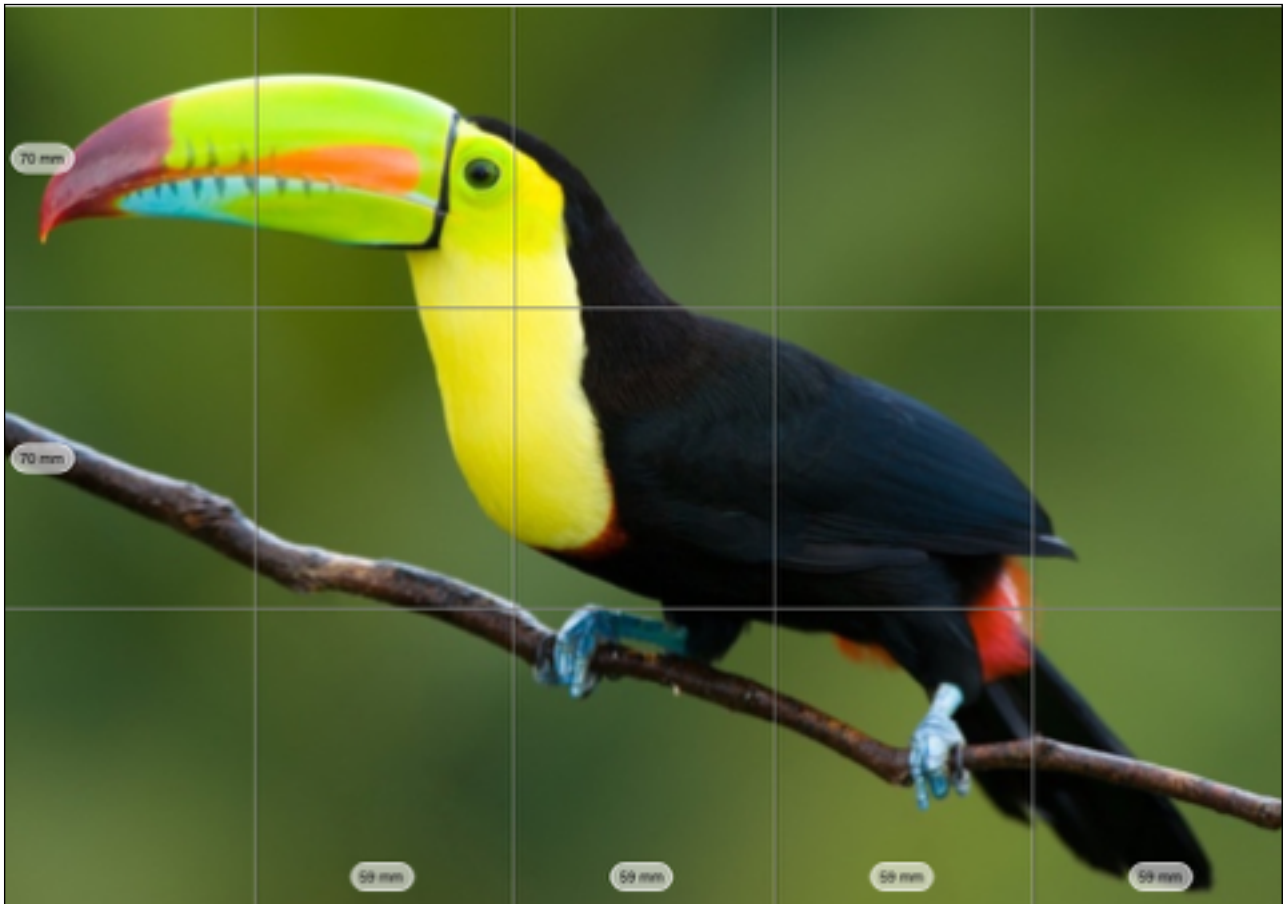

Drawing a bird

Tips from Jane on drawing an exotic bird

Skyblue Online Projects by Jane Denman - 16 July 2015



As a group class project we are drawing and painting birds. That should be fairly straight forward or is it?

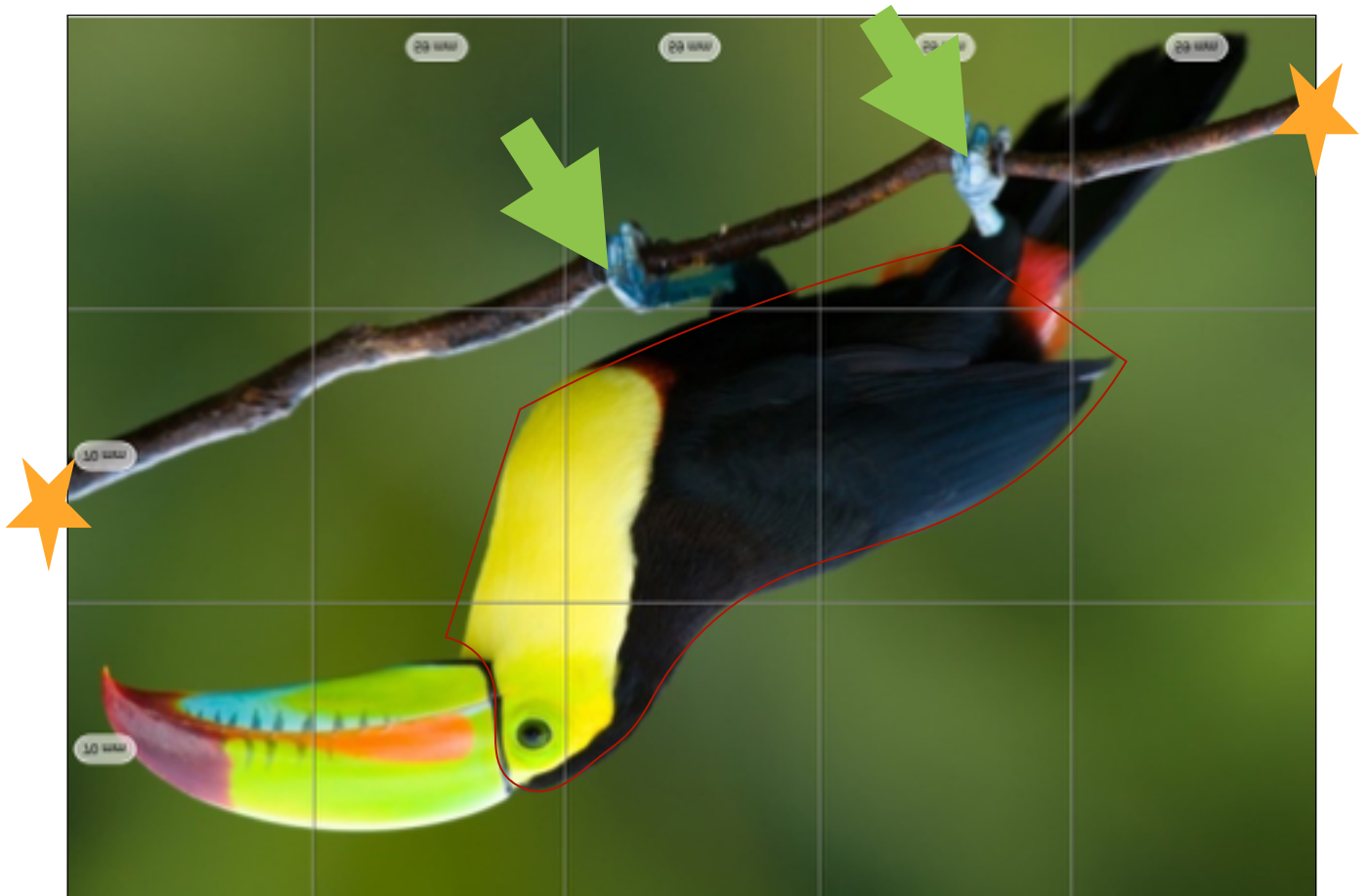
This fabulous bird above has lots of interesting shapes but how do you draw them and what are the lines overlaying them?

The lines are a “grid” often used by artists to help with complex shapes and with resizing an image (not needed here). You can check out the app, you can see the [YouTube video here](#) it works on the iPhone and iPad

Shapes

In class you may always hear me talking about shapes.

1. Firstly draw a **frame** for the whole picture. You can use the grid but its not essential
2. Using the frame, locate the ends of the branches, marked with a star on the picture, draw the branch in, pay attention to the way the line dips and bends.
3. Now turn it upside down! (turn your paper upside down too)
4. Note where both feet are on the branch, see arrow. Look at the space in between the feet, draw the feet in
5. Notice the big shape of the body, in the red line (this is a generalised shape). Notice where it connects to the feet. Draw in the beak (next largest shape) then the tail. Notice each time where they connect to the body shape and how the tail overlaps the foot and branch, draw through your branch lines you can erase later.



TIPS: Avoid any details until you have all the main shapes established. Turn the paper the right way round when you feel confident you have the major shapes as you want them. To draw a curve, divide it up with small marks, it is easier to draw small lines than larger ones to start with. Most importantly take your time to observe and then draw, draw slowly and then keep checking what you have done, this in itself will help enormously!