

The Stippled Eye

A Visual Gallery of
Dotwork Studies for
Tone, Texture, Shadow,
and Creative Practice

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Welcome to the Stippling Inspiration Gallery

Stippling is the art of building form, shadow, texture, and atmosphere through dots. At first glance, it may seem simple: one dot, then another, then another. But when those dots are placed with intention, they can create depth, softness, weight, movement, and light.

The following gallery is designed to inspire careful observation. Each image shows how tiny marks can transform a blank page into something dimensional and alive. Some subjects are smooth and rounded. Others are rough, sharp, delicate, furry, glossy, or fragile. Together, they show the wide creative range of stippling.

As you move through these images, do not look only at the subject. Look at the spacing between the dots. Notice where the dots become dense and where they fade into white space. Study how shadows are built gradually, how highlights are protected, and how texture is suggested without heavy outlines.

This collection is not meant to be copied perfectly. Instead, use it as a visual guide. Let each image teach you something: how to shade a curved surface, how to create contrast, how to suggest texture, how to simplify a form, or how to make a small detail feel important.

Before you begin drawing, take a moment with each piece. Ask yourself:

- What is the lightest area?
- Where are the darkest shadows?
- How close together are the dots in the deepest tones?
- Where does the artist leave empty space?
- What texture is being suggested?
- Which part of the image feels most realistic?

Stippling rewards patience. It also rewards restraint. Sometimes the most powerful part of a drawing is not where the dots are placed, but where they are deliberately left out.

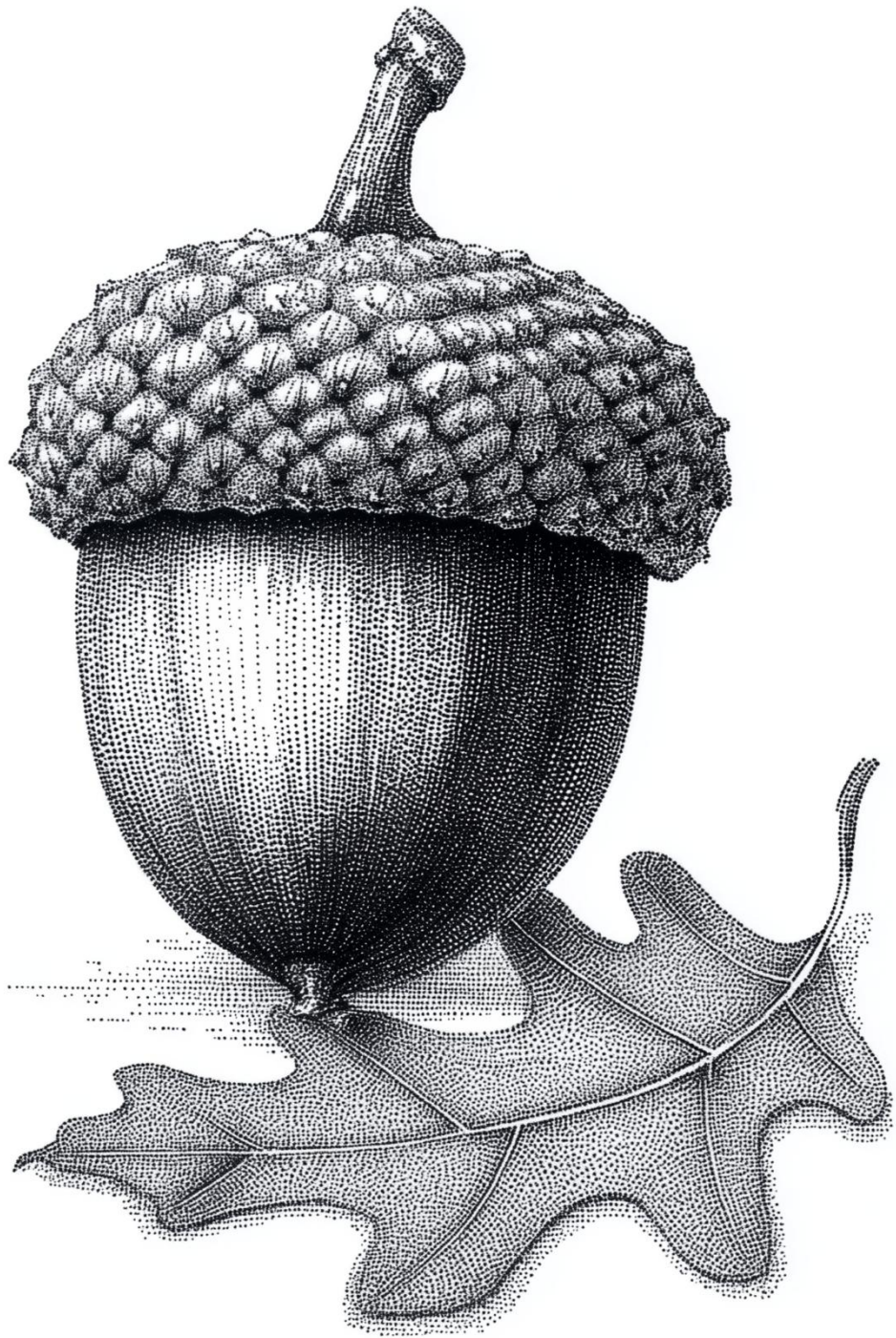
Use these images as a quiet source of practice, focus, and creative direction. Let them remind you that every detailed drawing begins with one small mark.

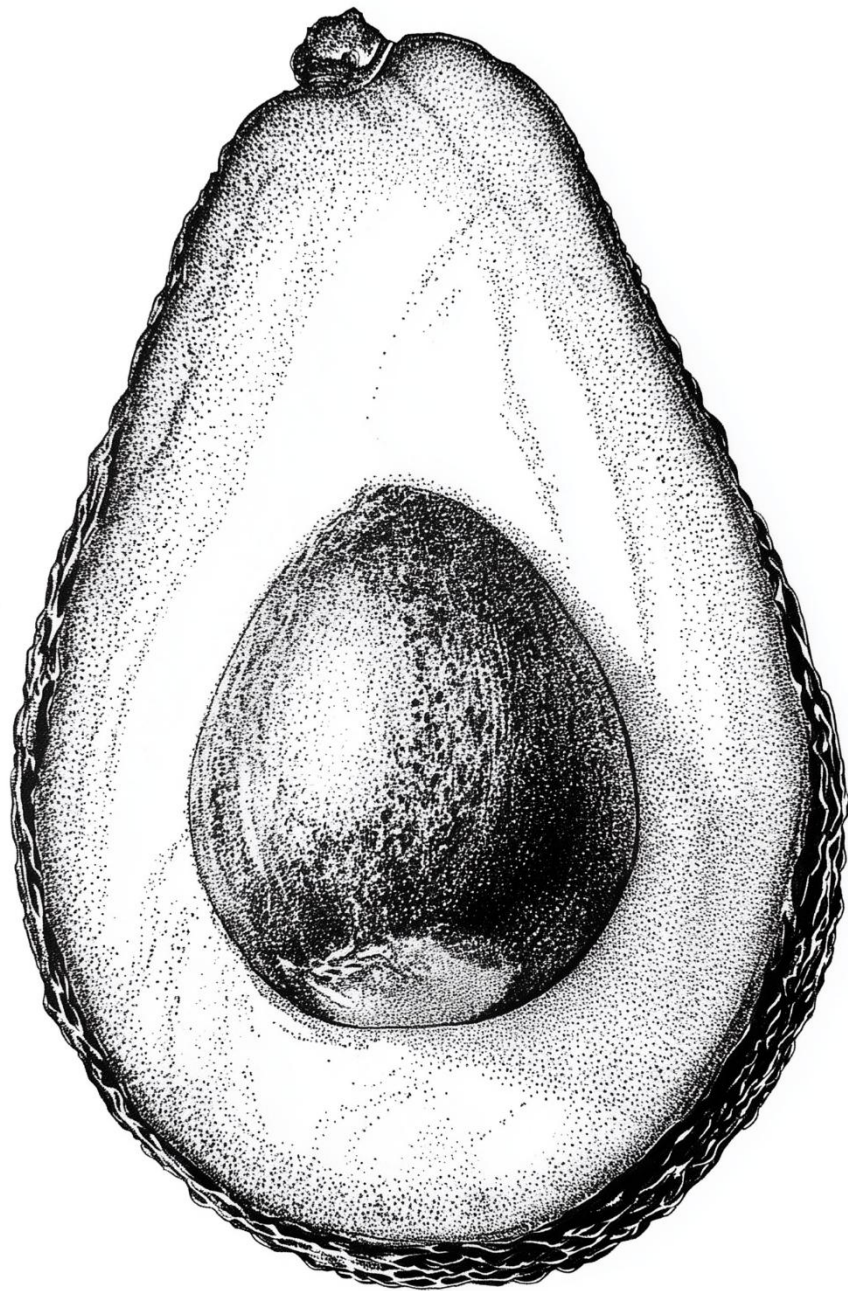
How to Use These Images

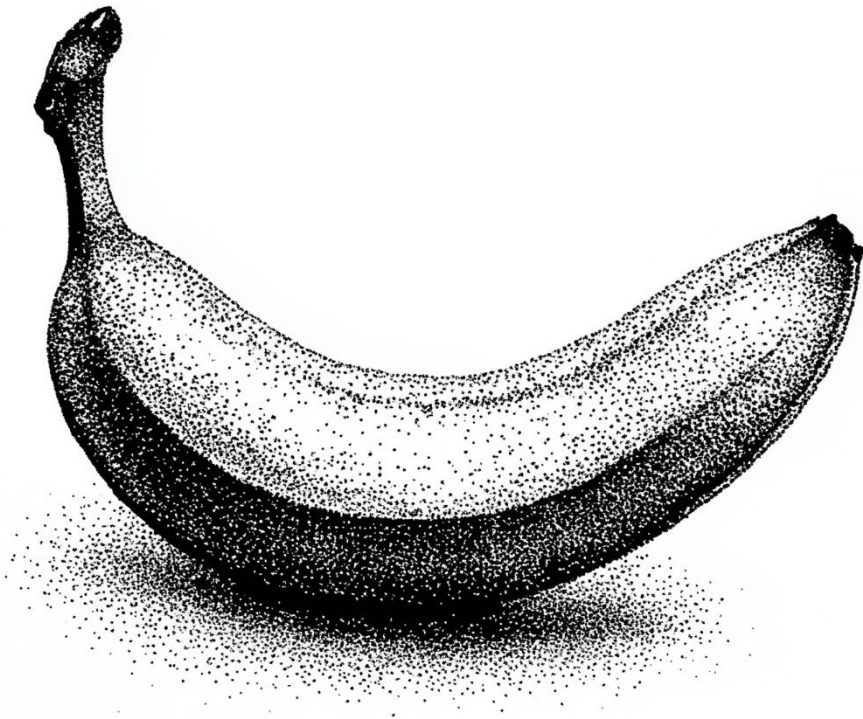
Choose one image at a time and study it slowly. Look for the direction of the light, the density of the dots, and the way the darkest areas are built. Then select one small section to practice, such as a shadow, a highlight, a texture, or an edge.

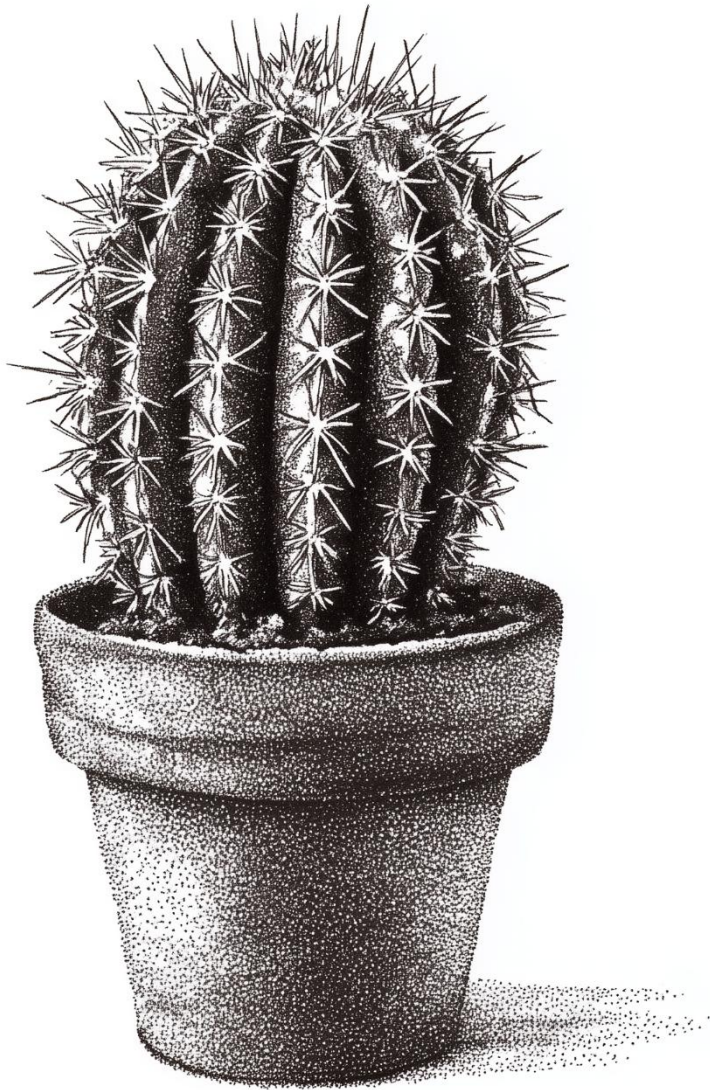
You do not need to finish a full drawing every time. Even a small study can sharpen your eye and improve your control. The goal is not speed. The goal is awareness.

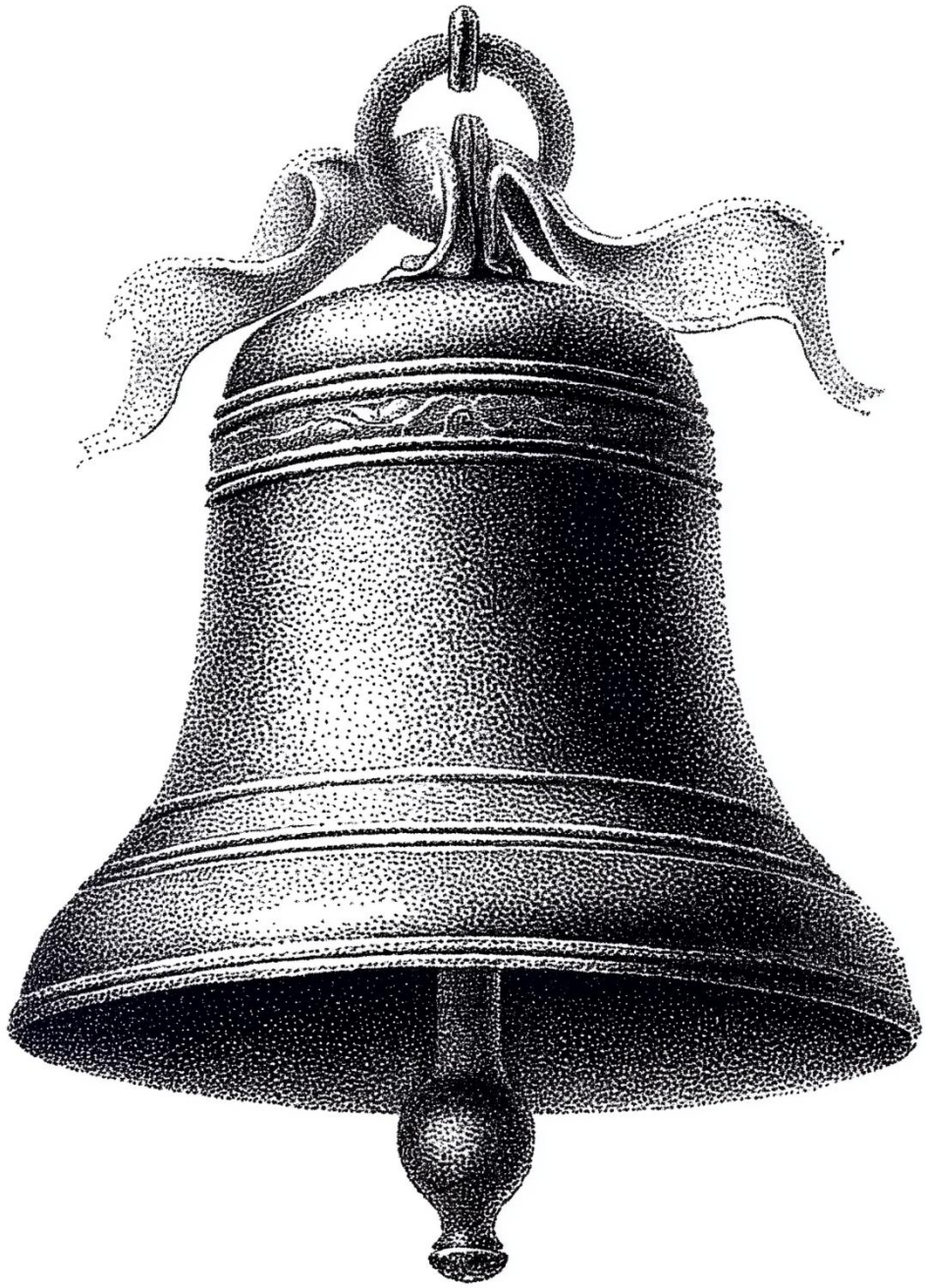
Let each image become a lesson in patience, contrast, texture, and tone.



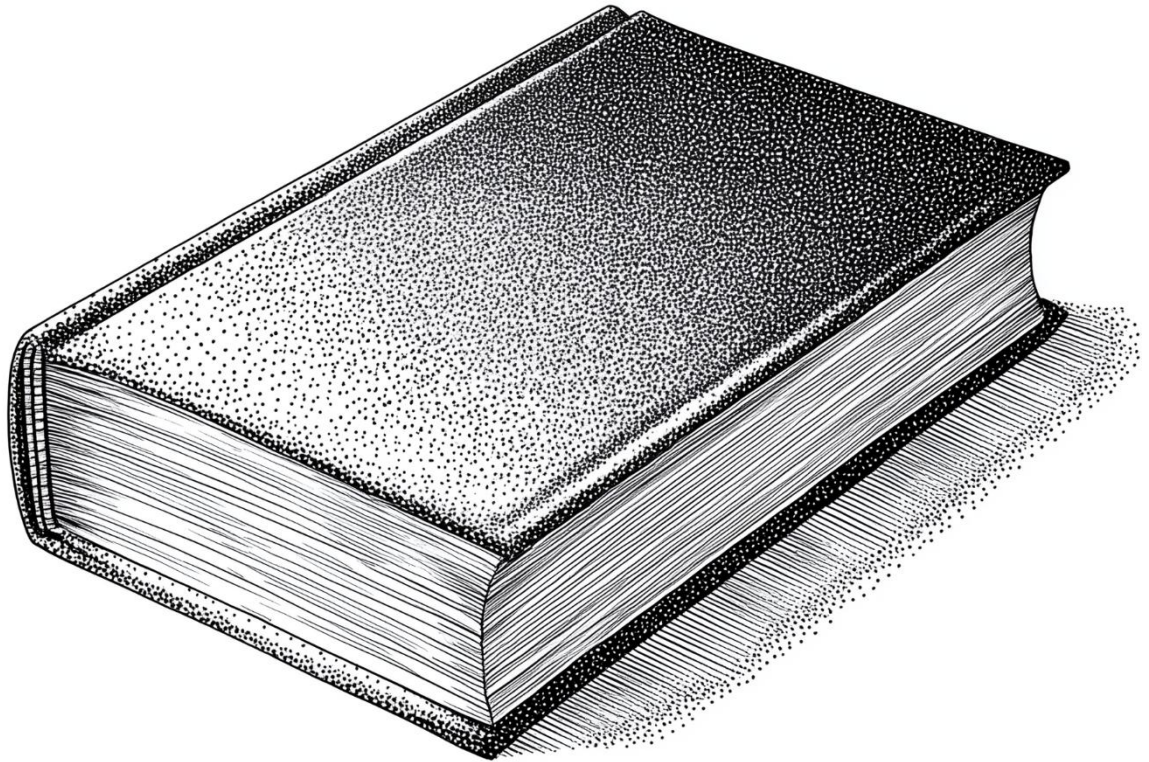


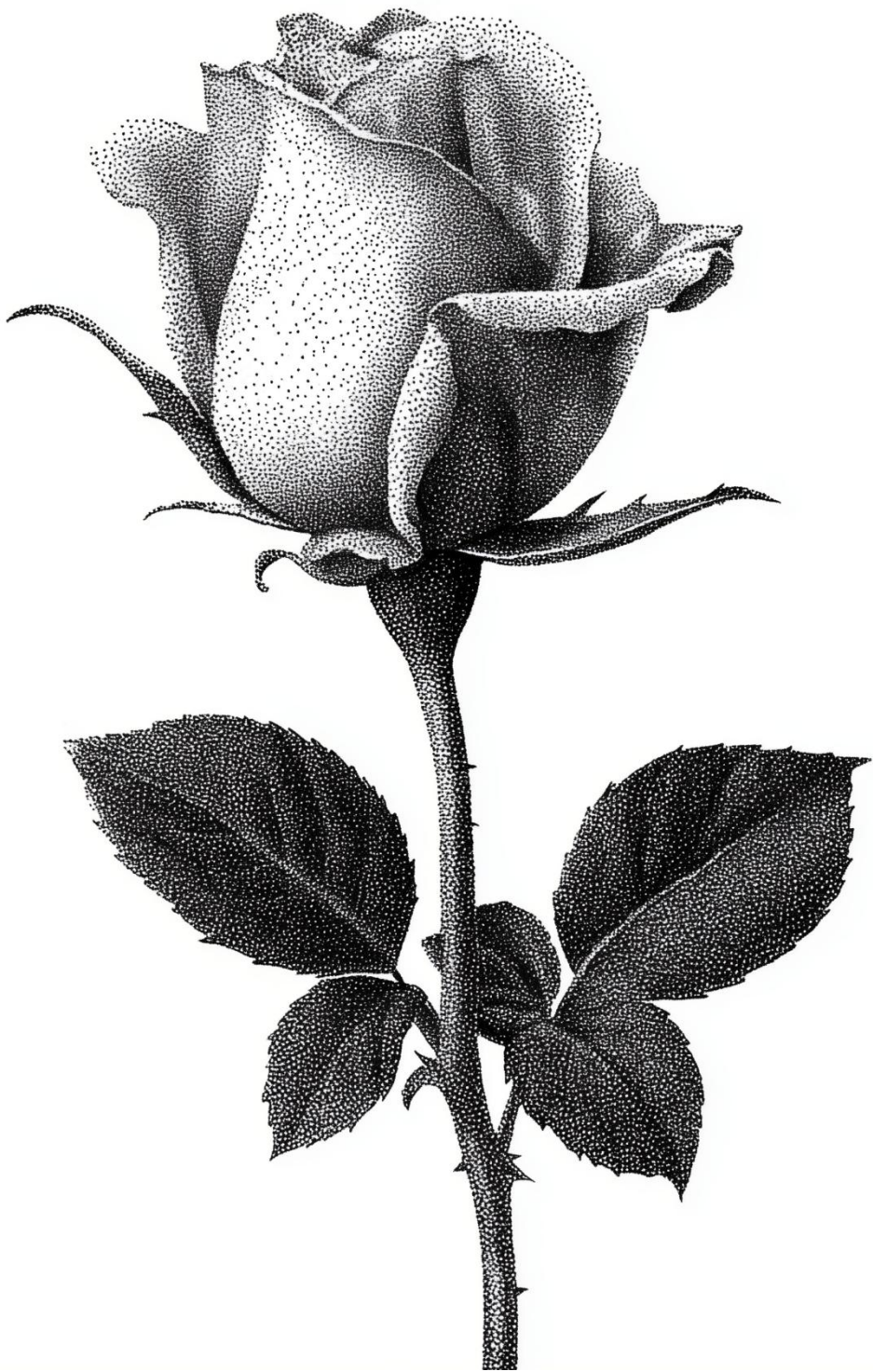






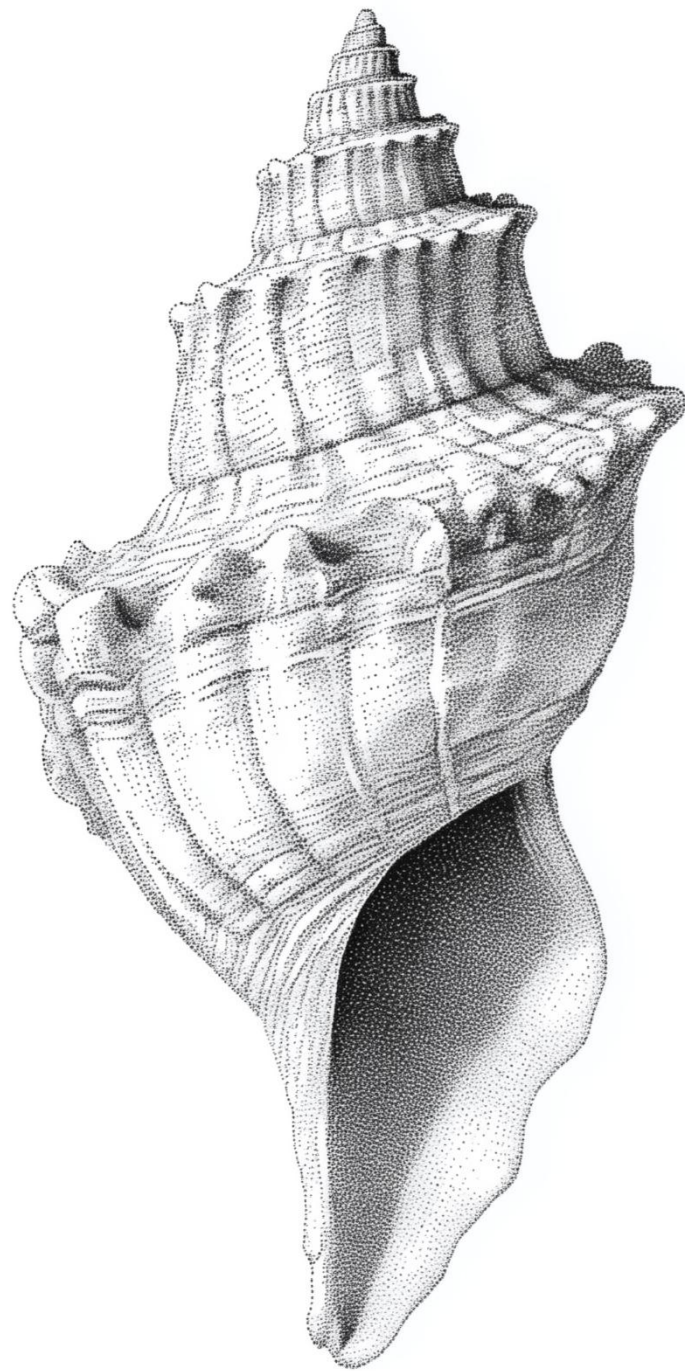






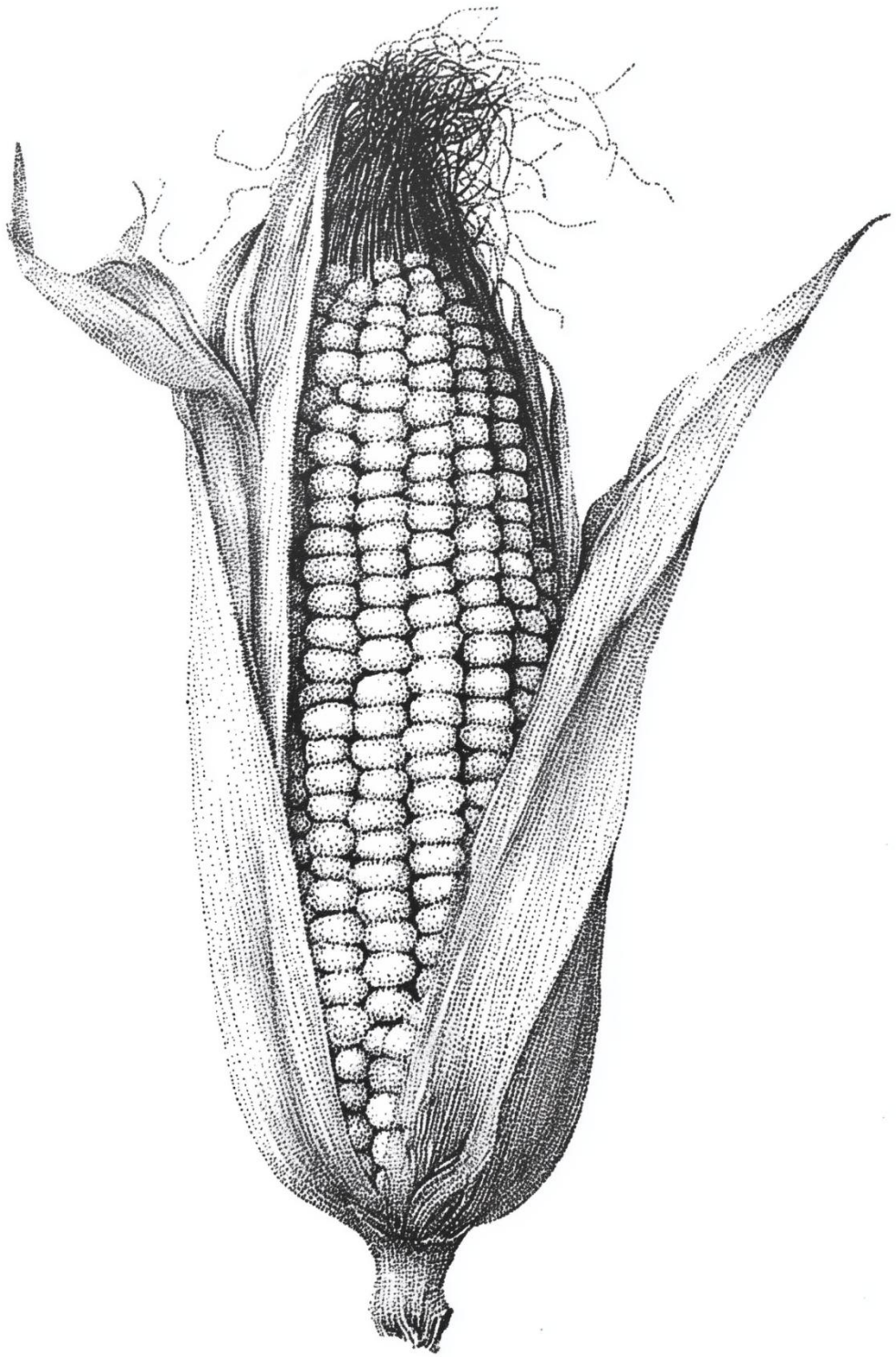


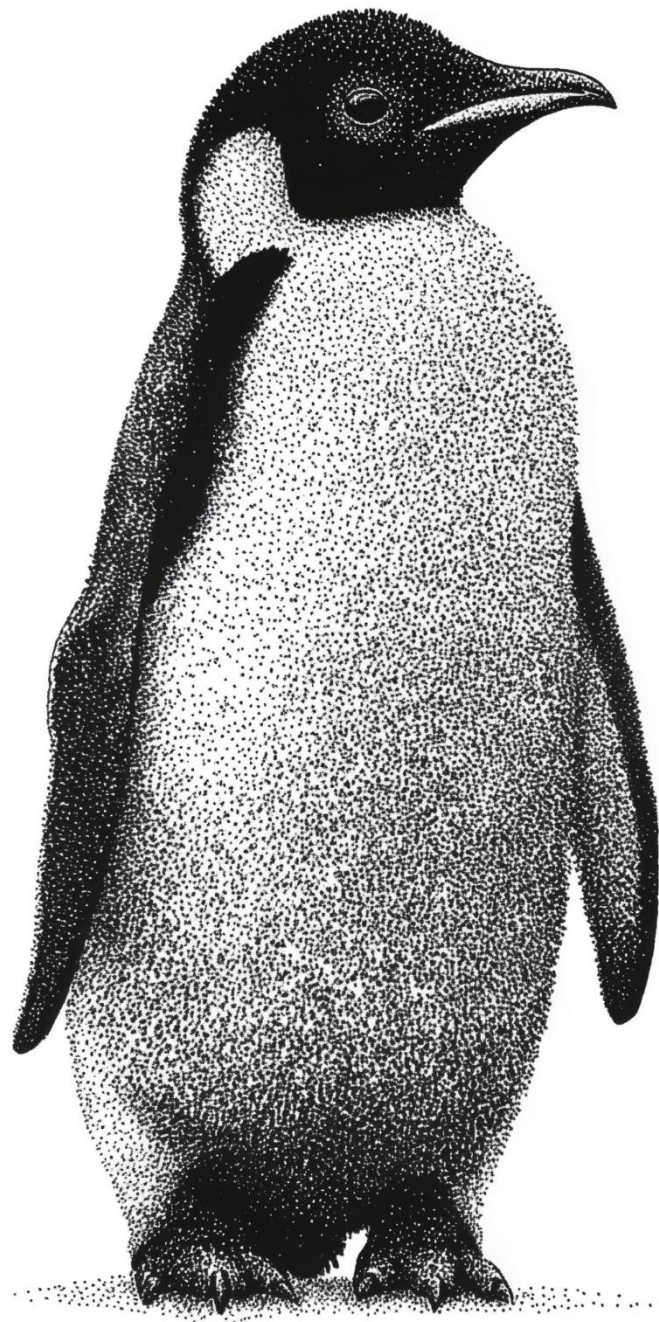


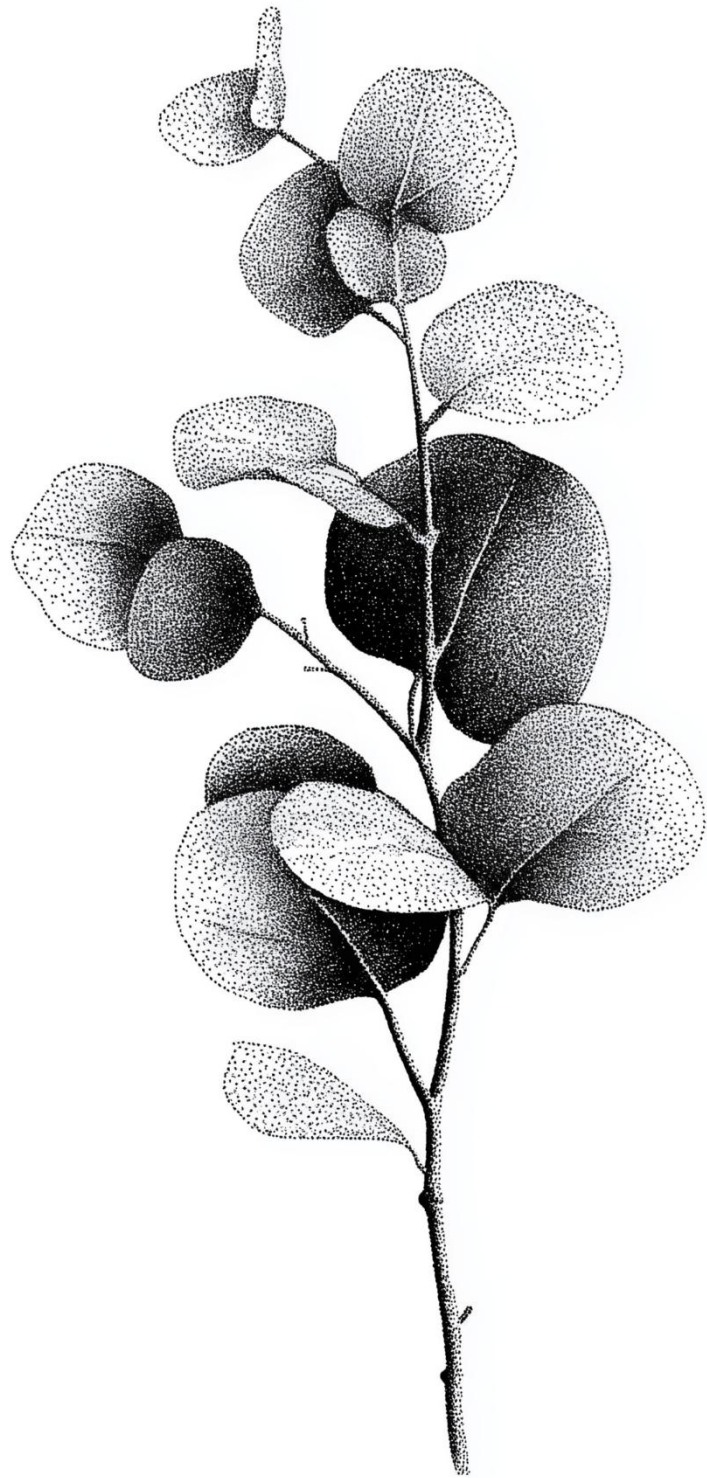






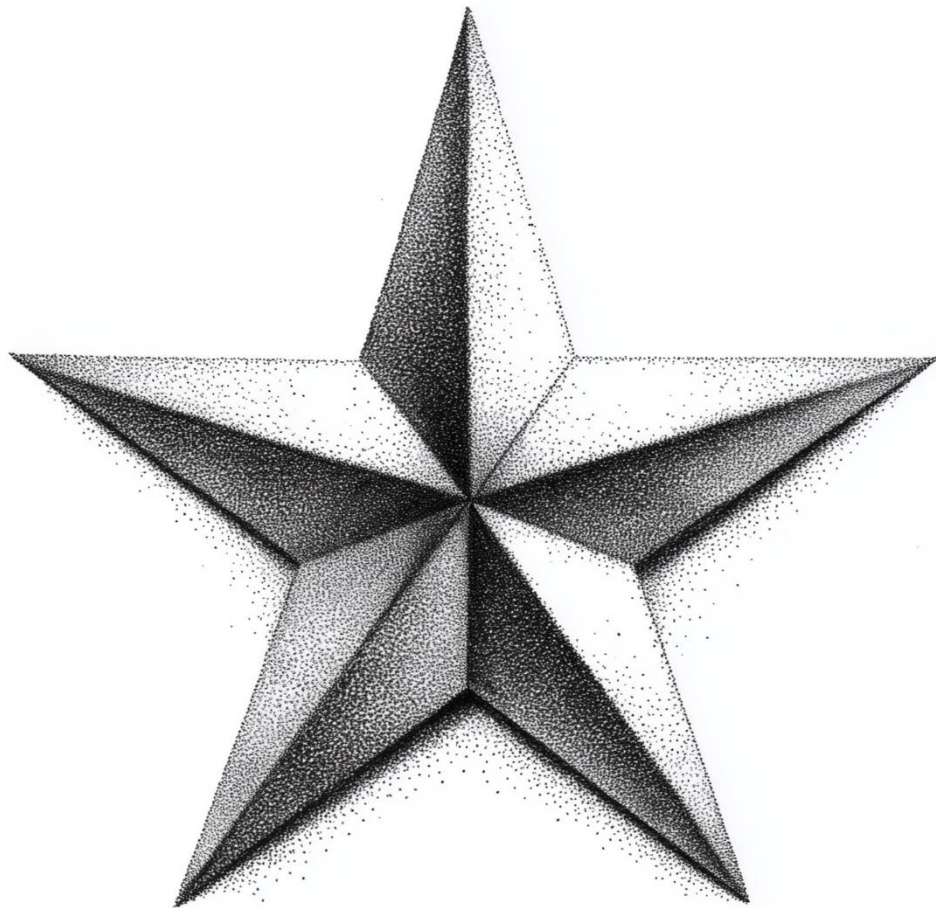


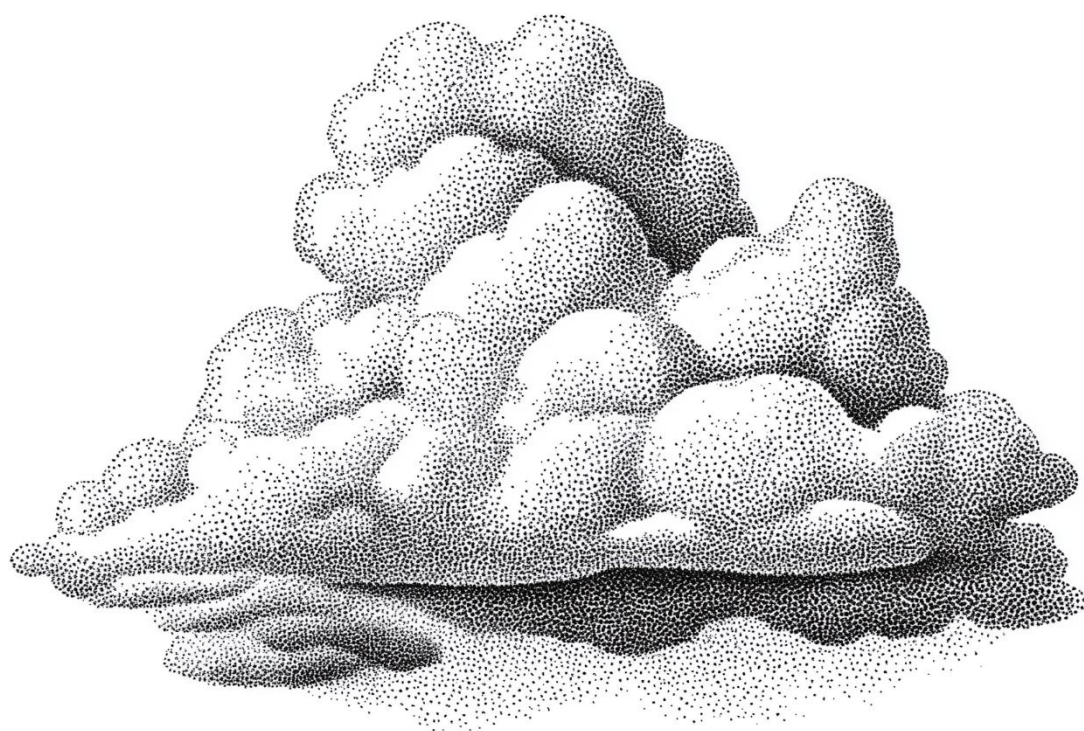


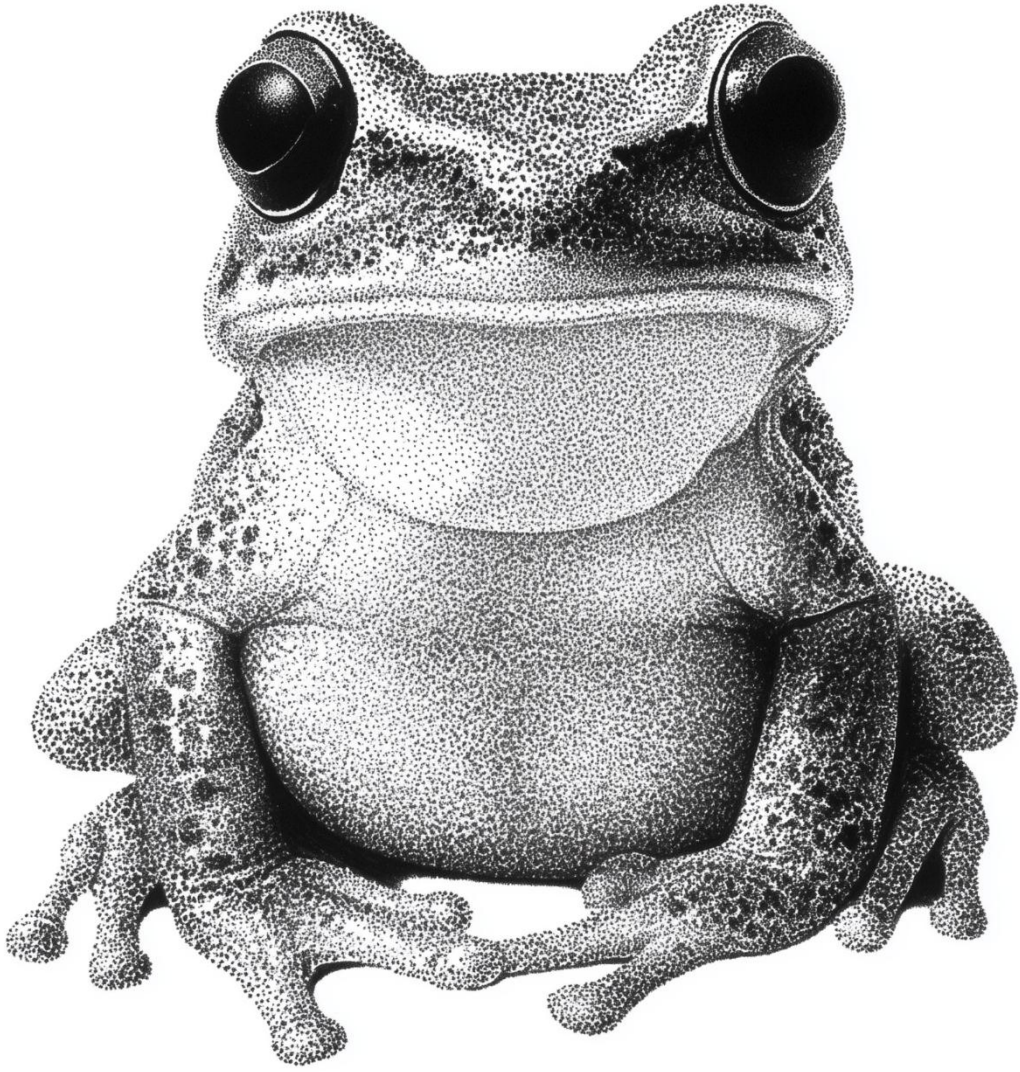


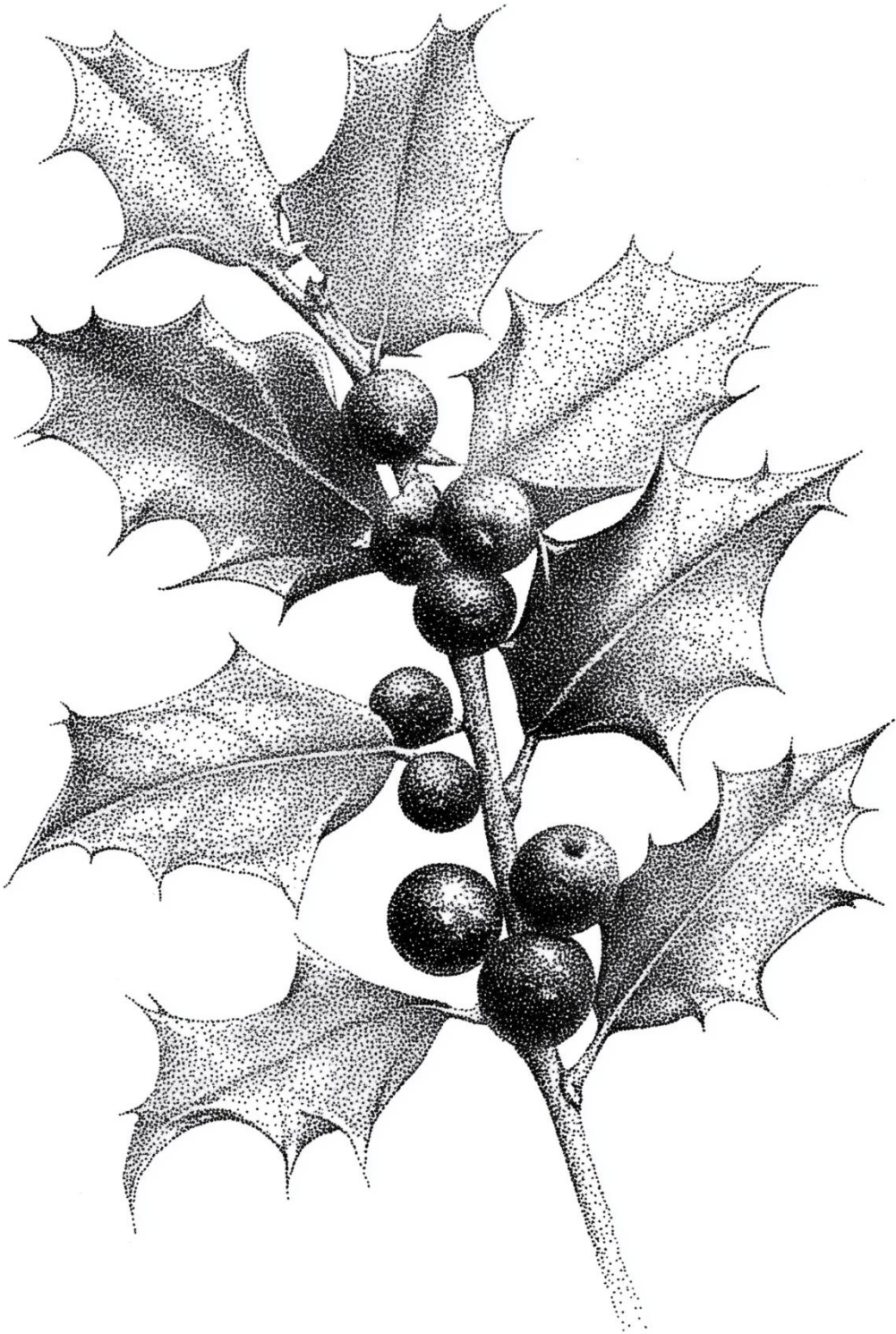






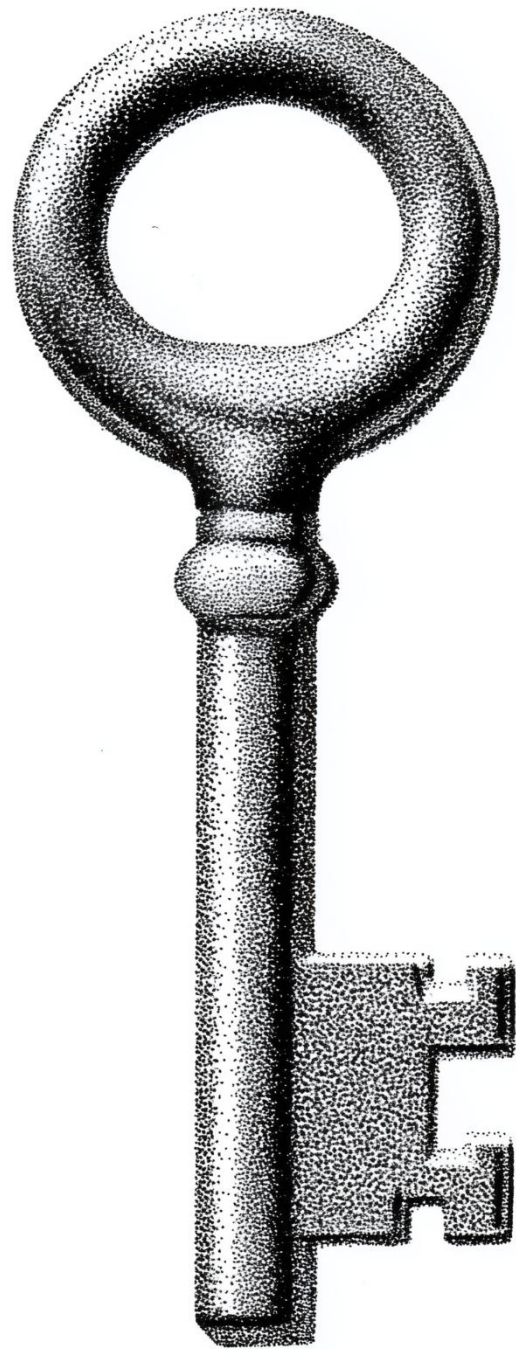




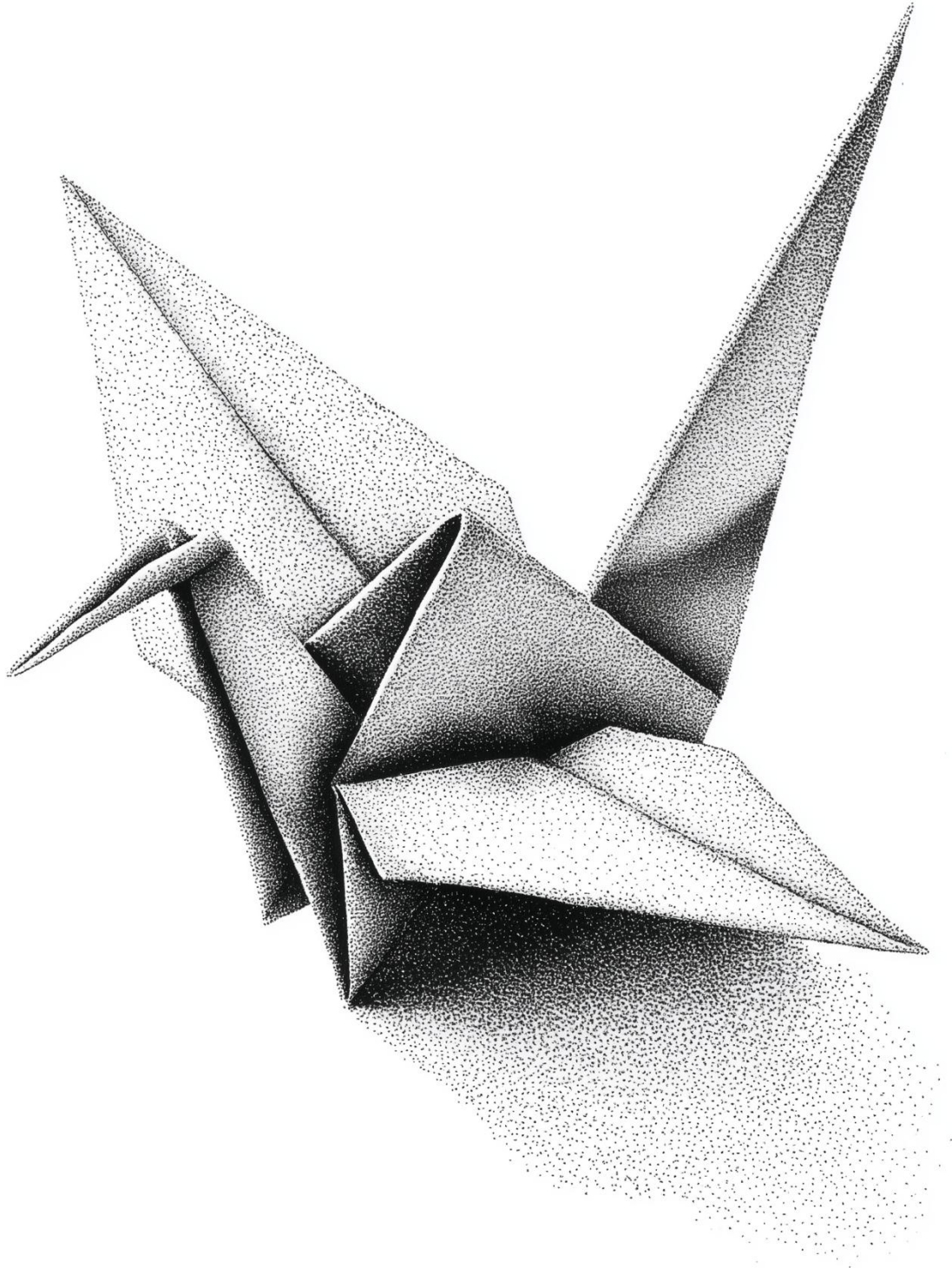


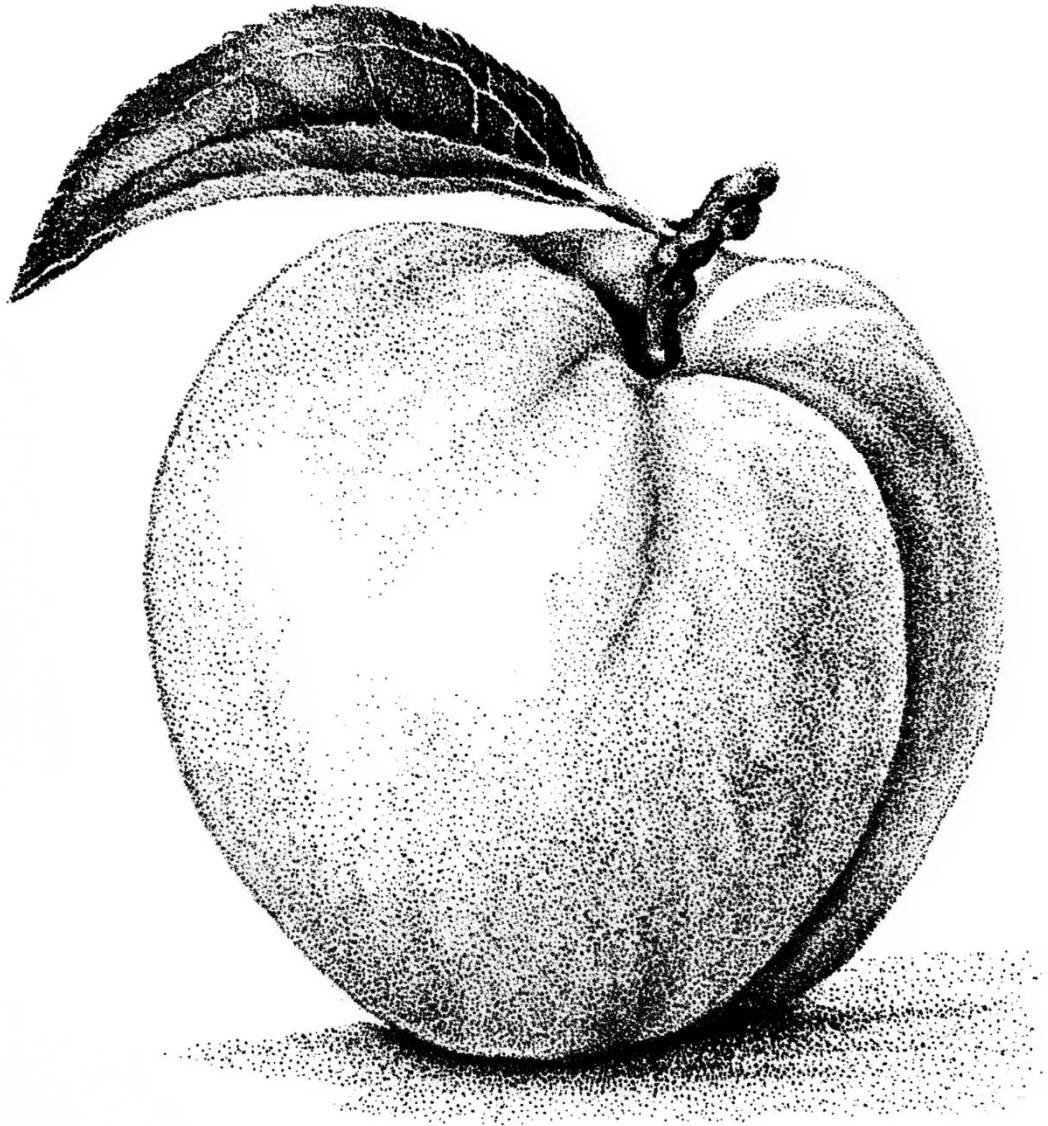






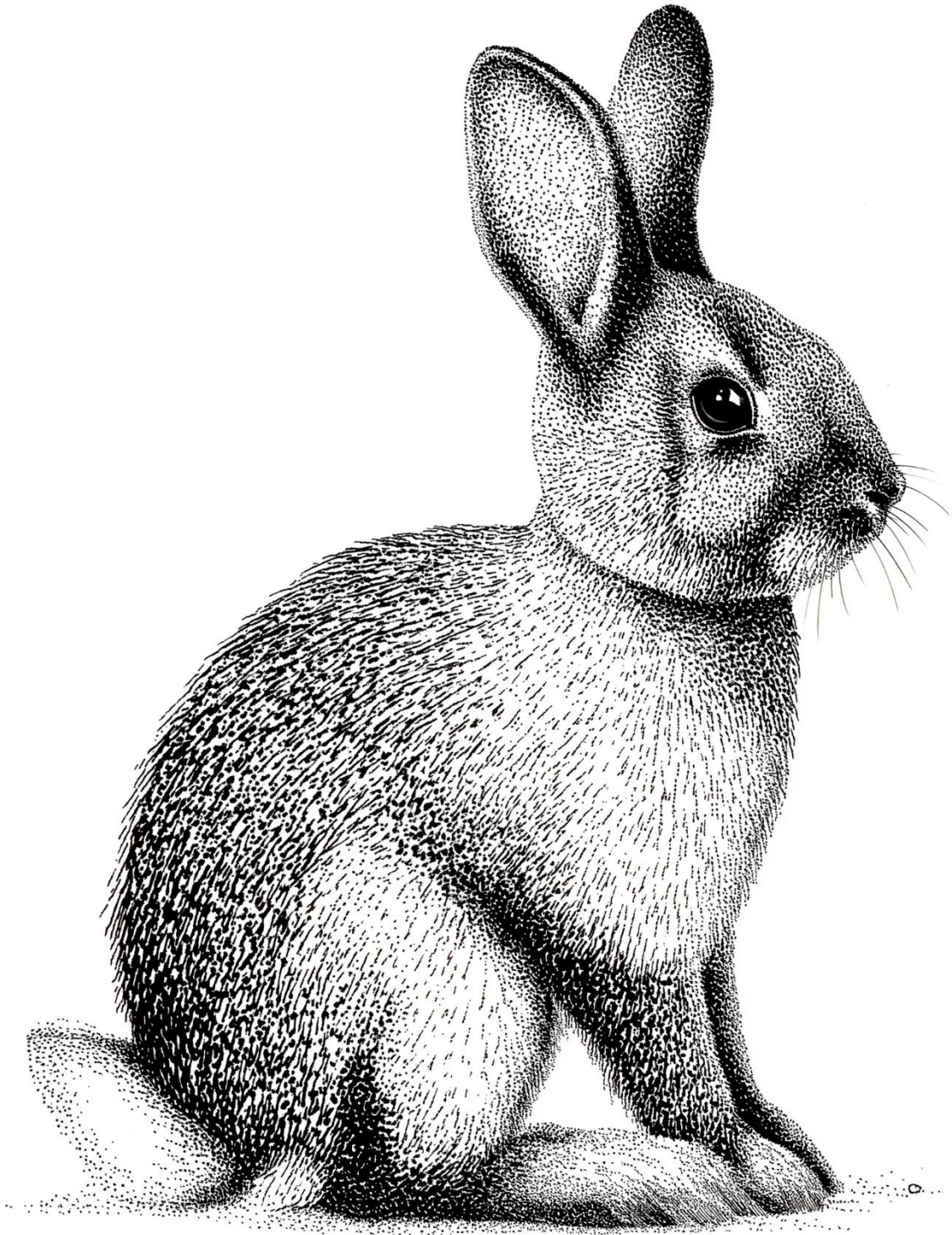




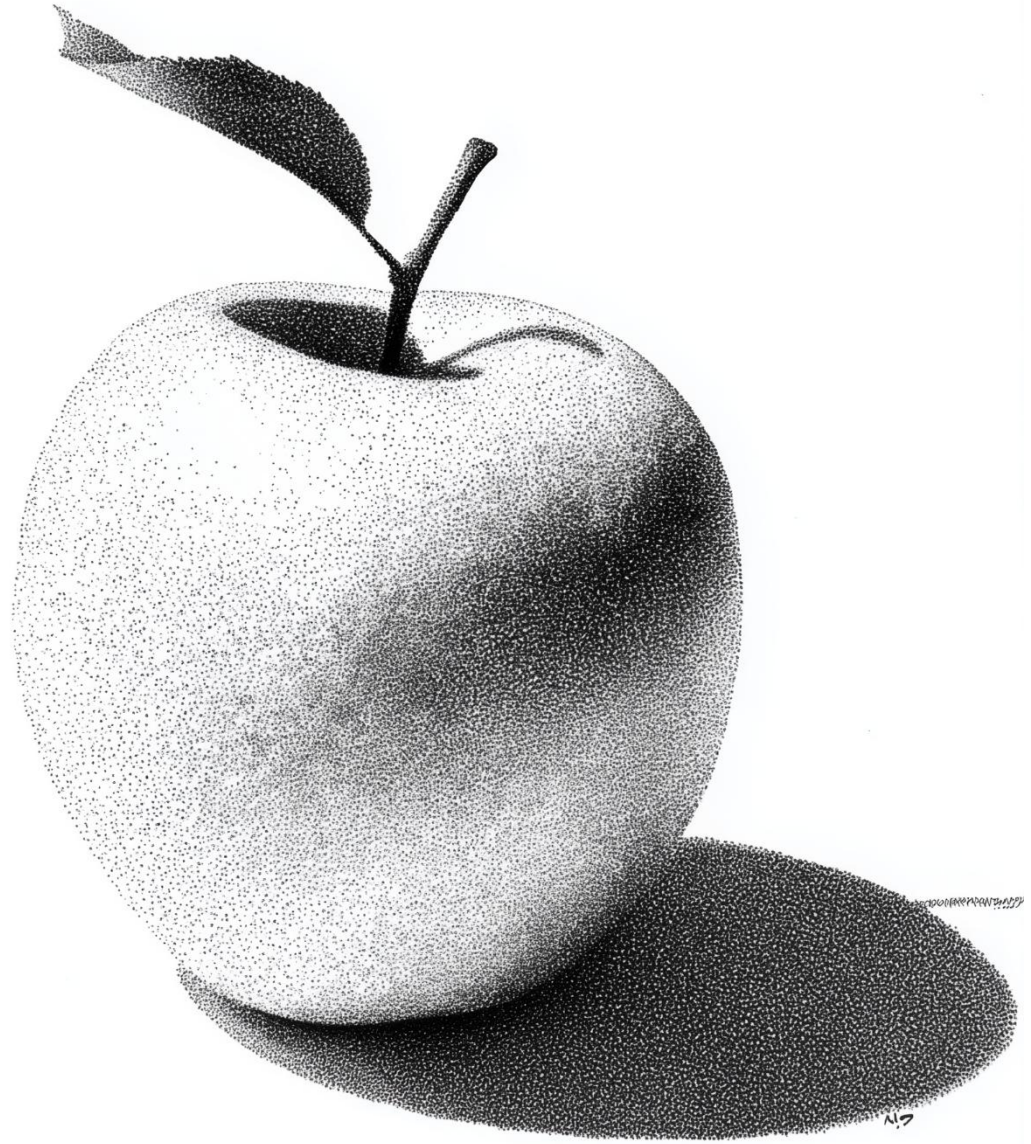






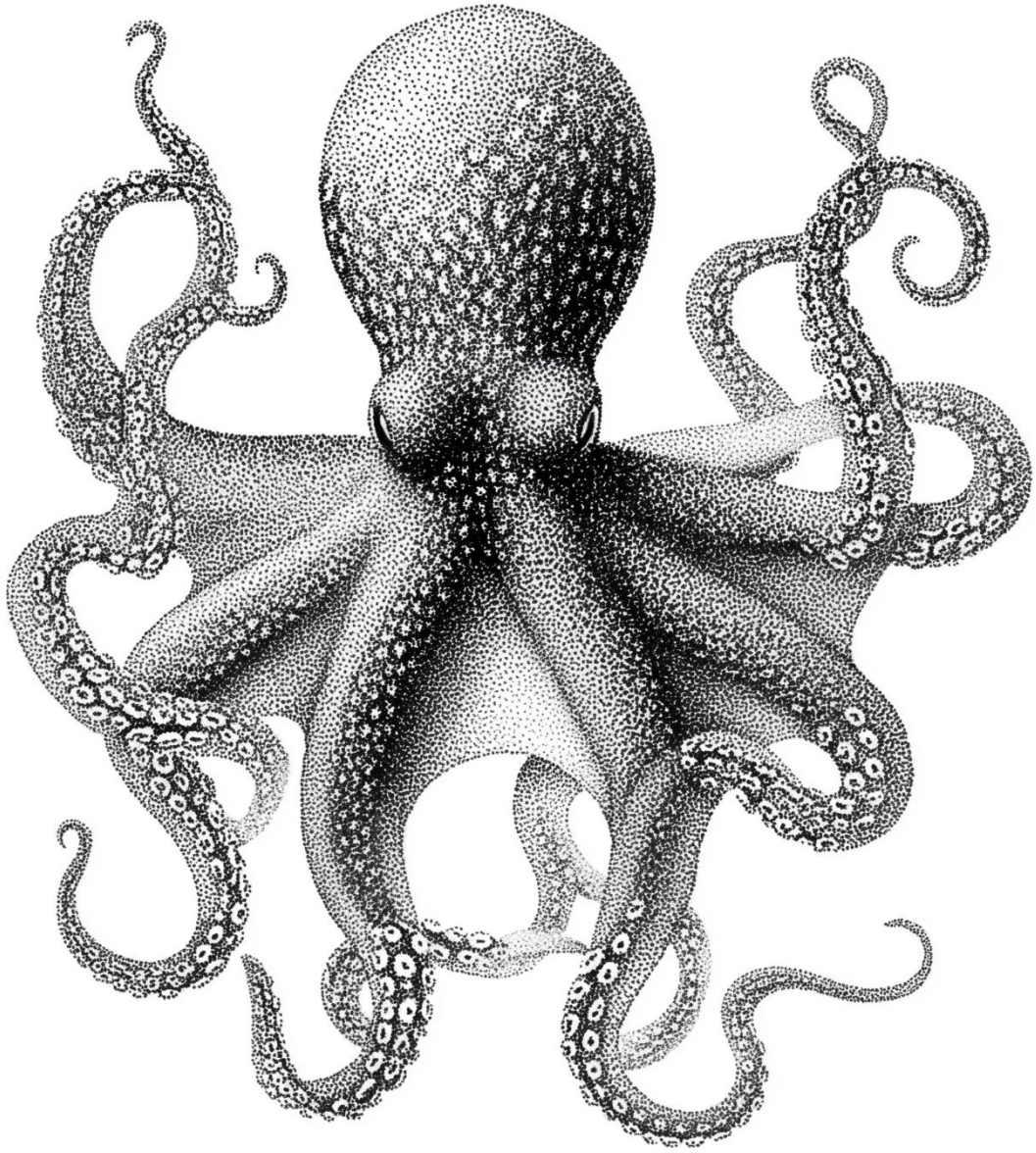


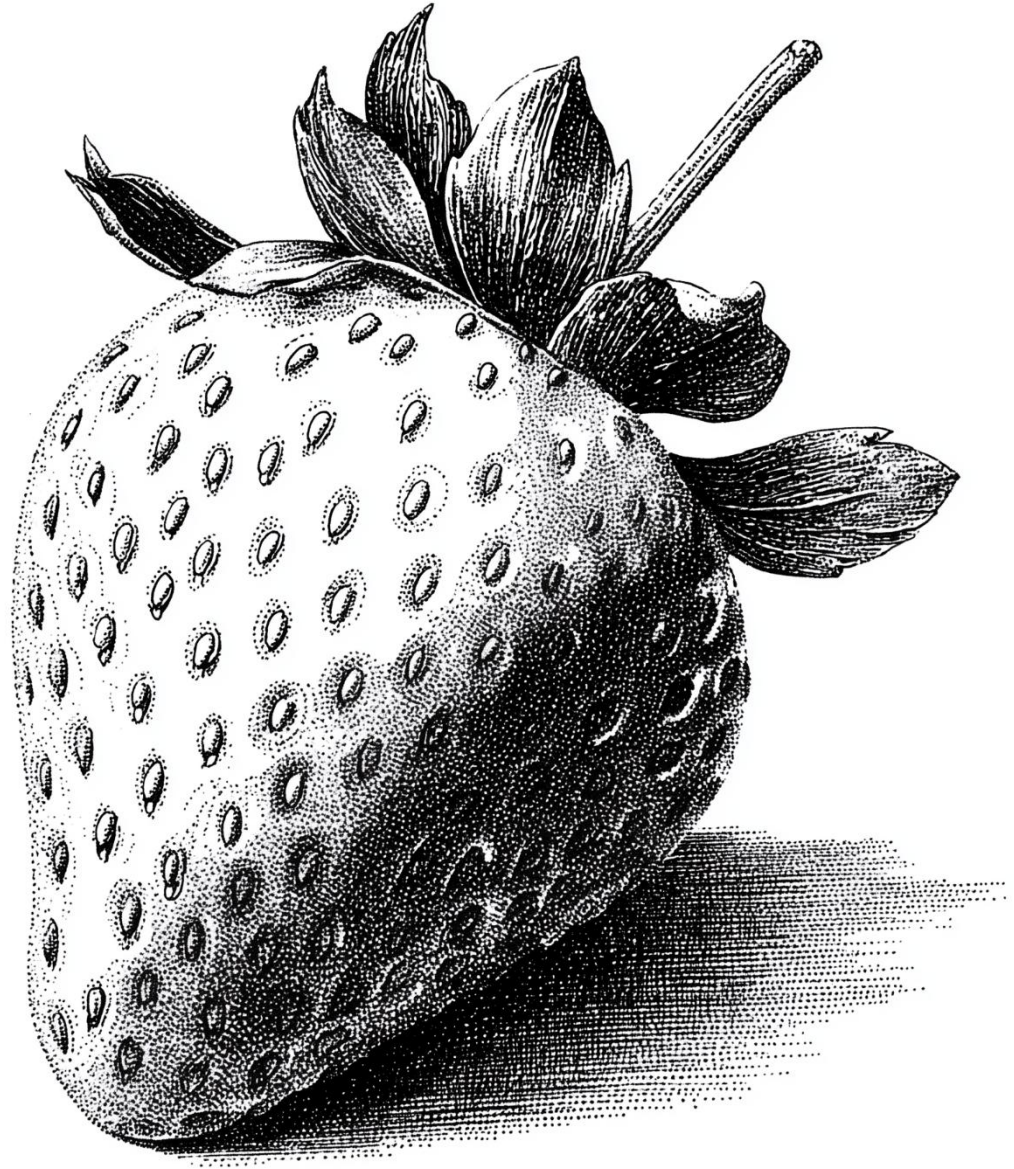










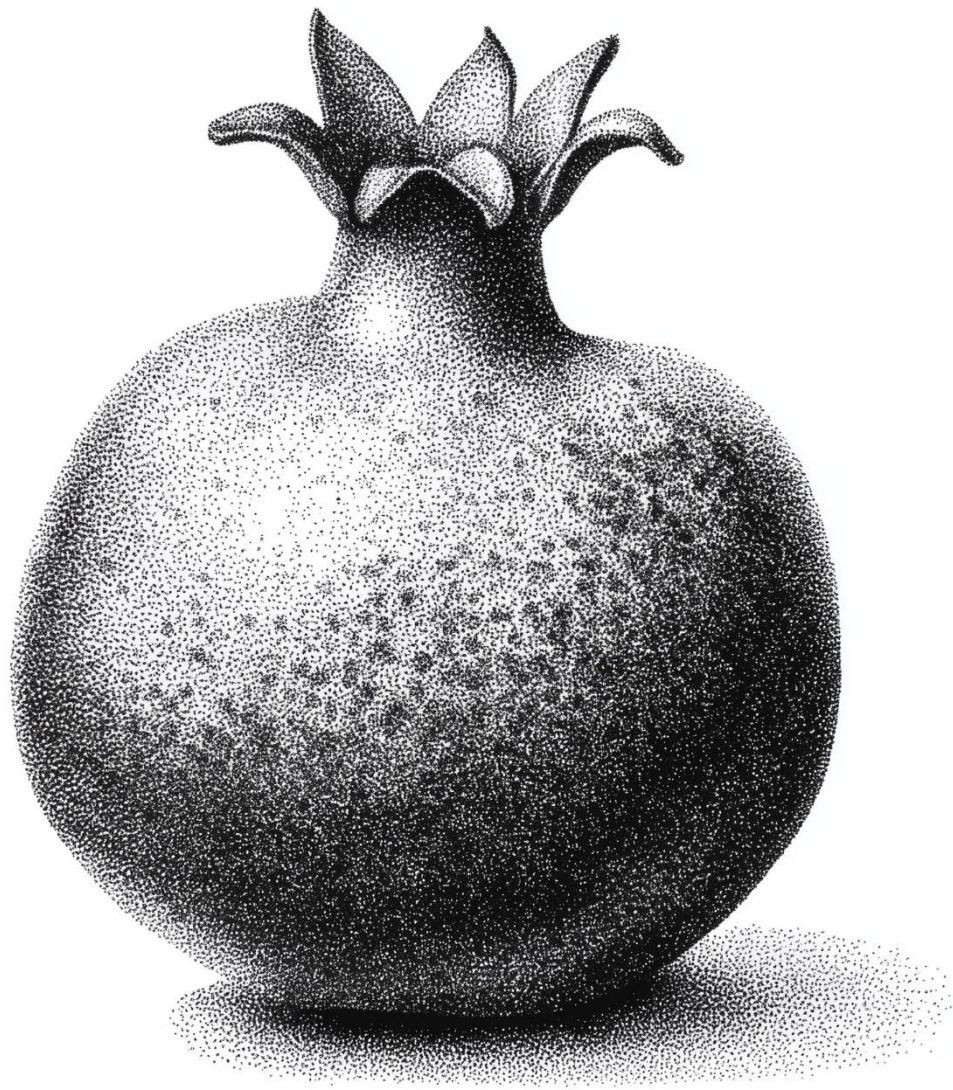


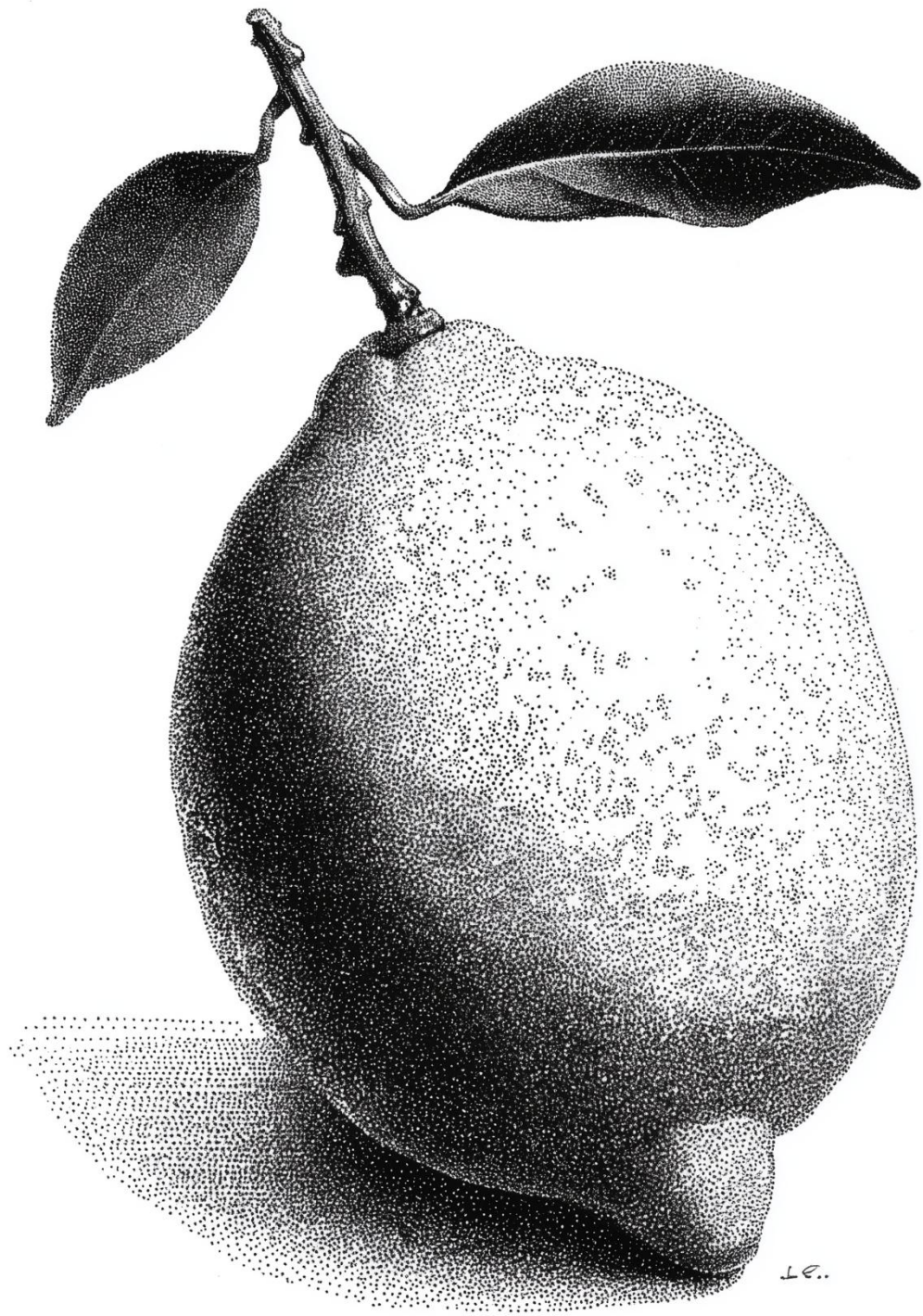


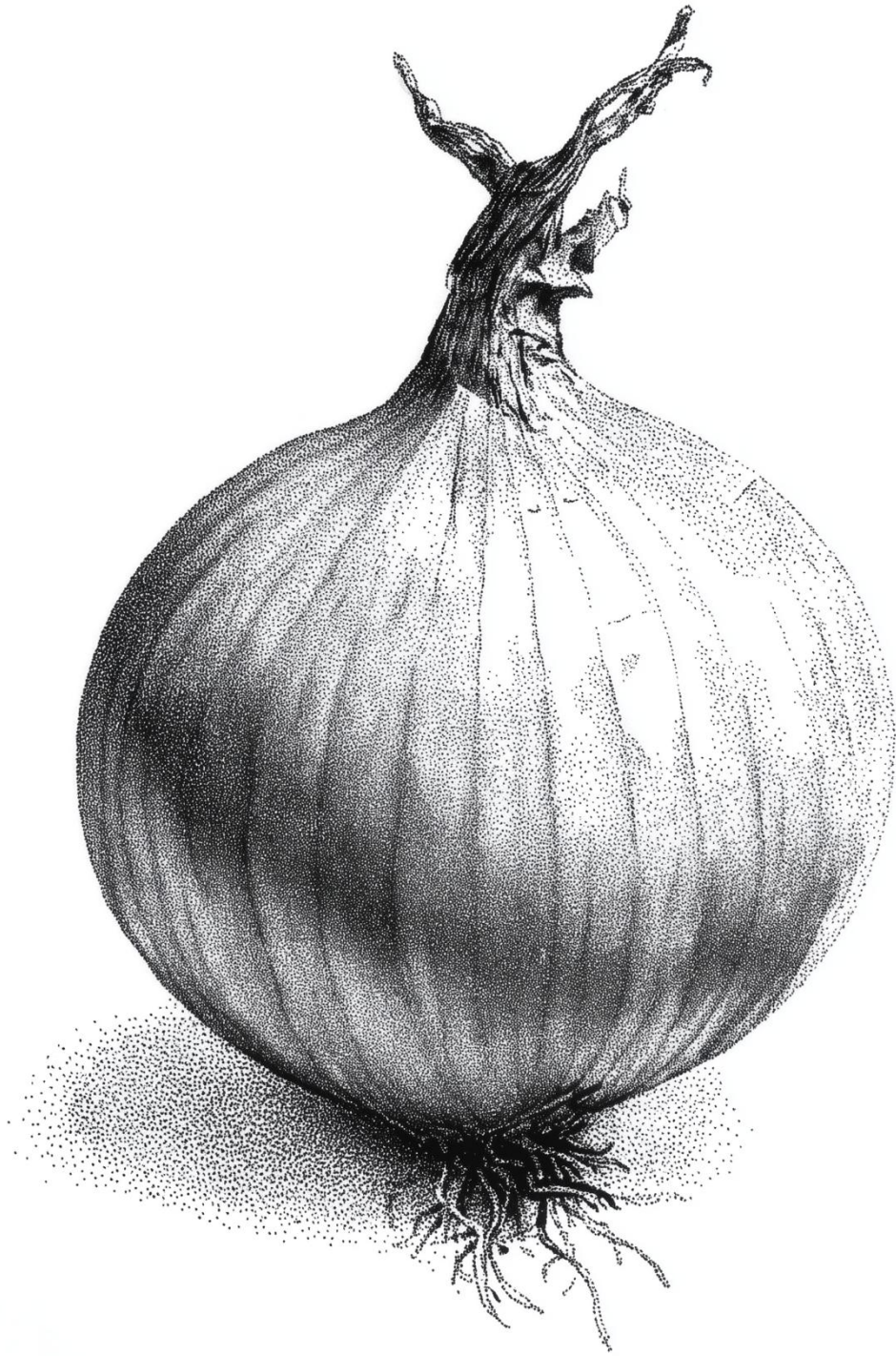


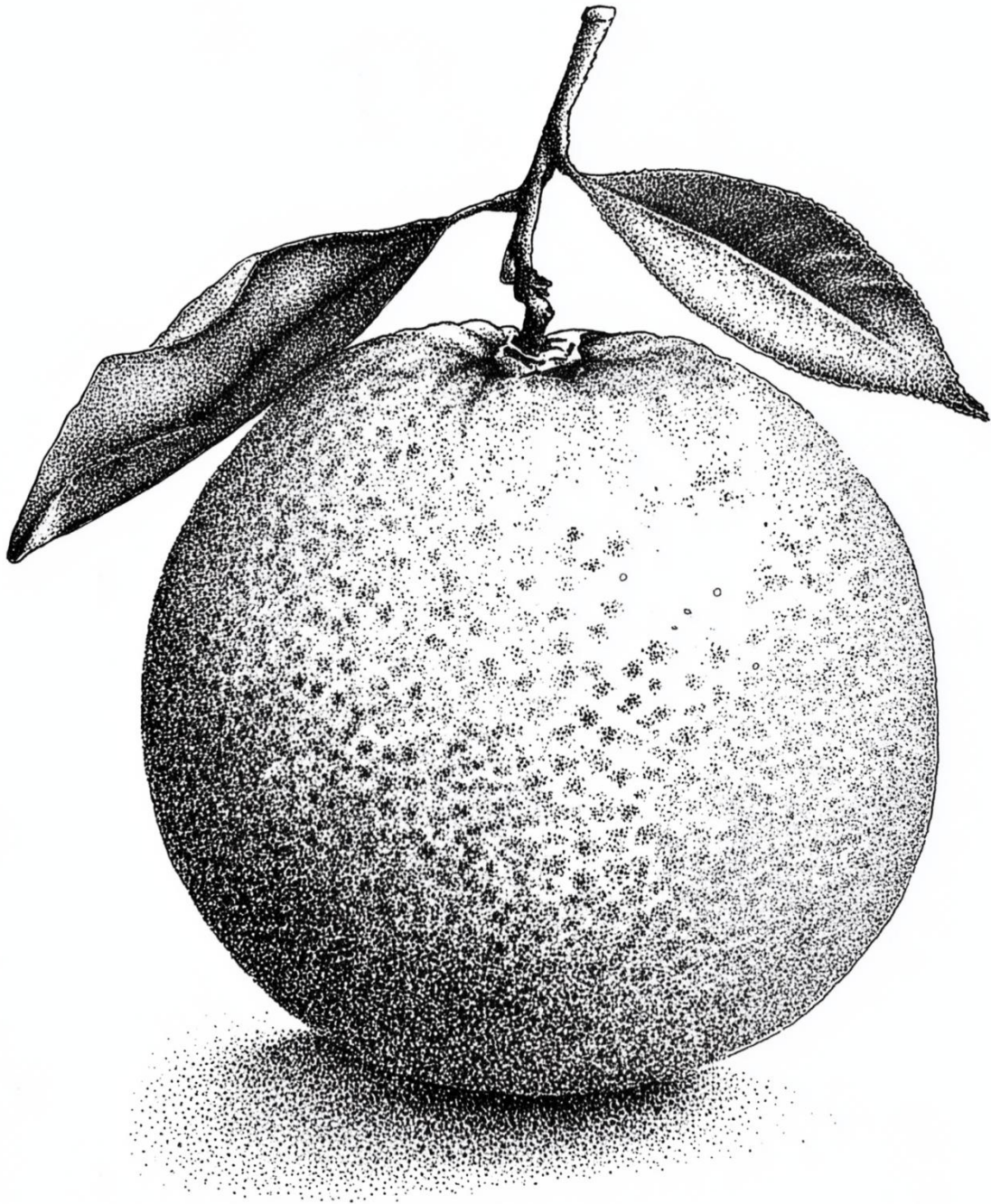


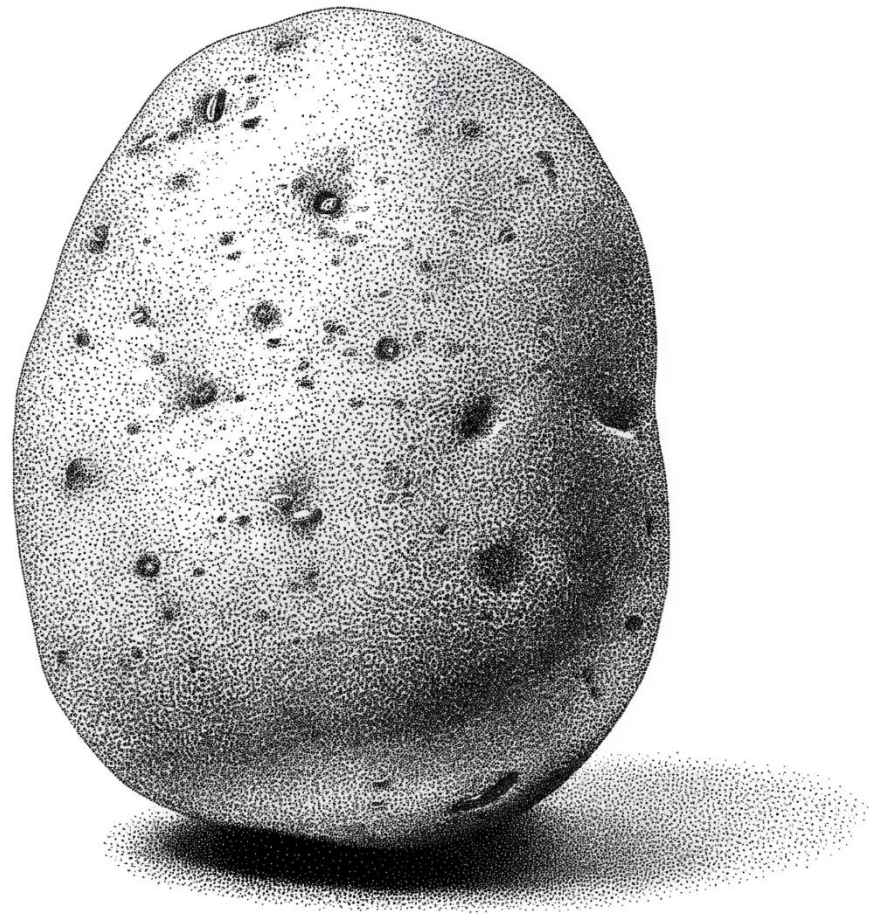


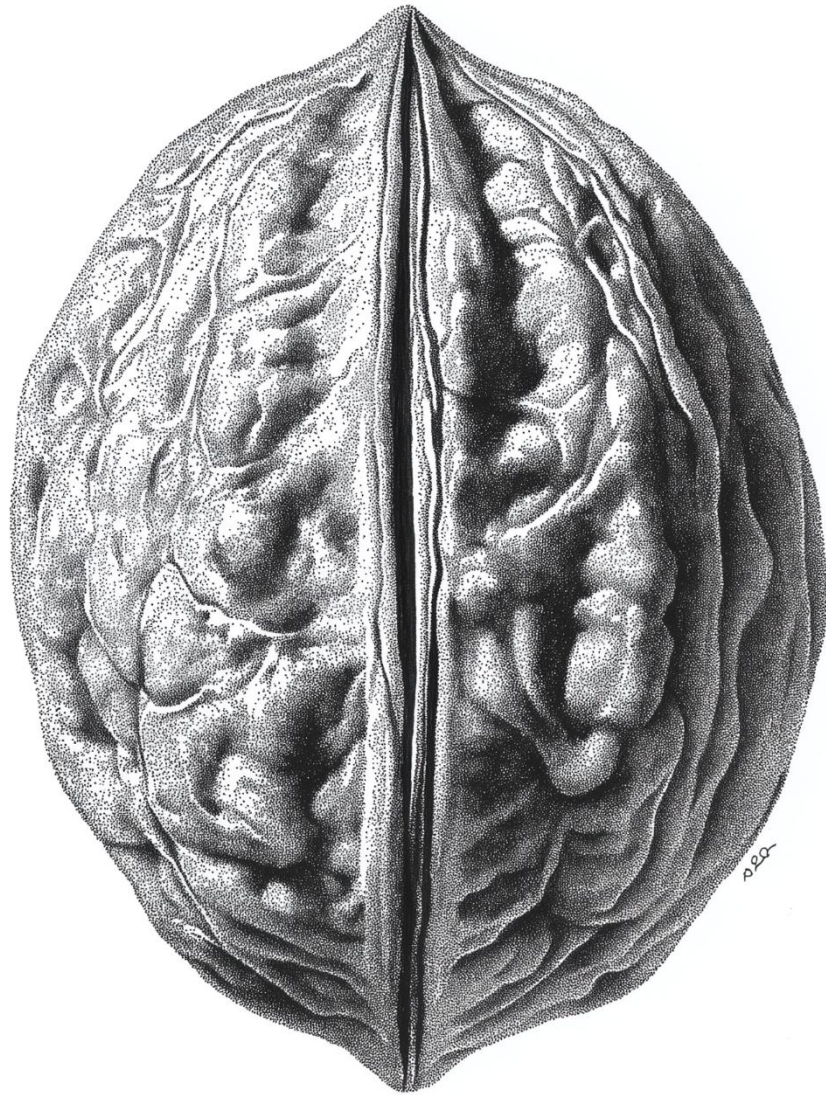






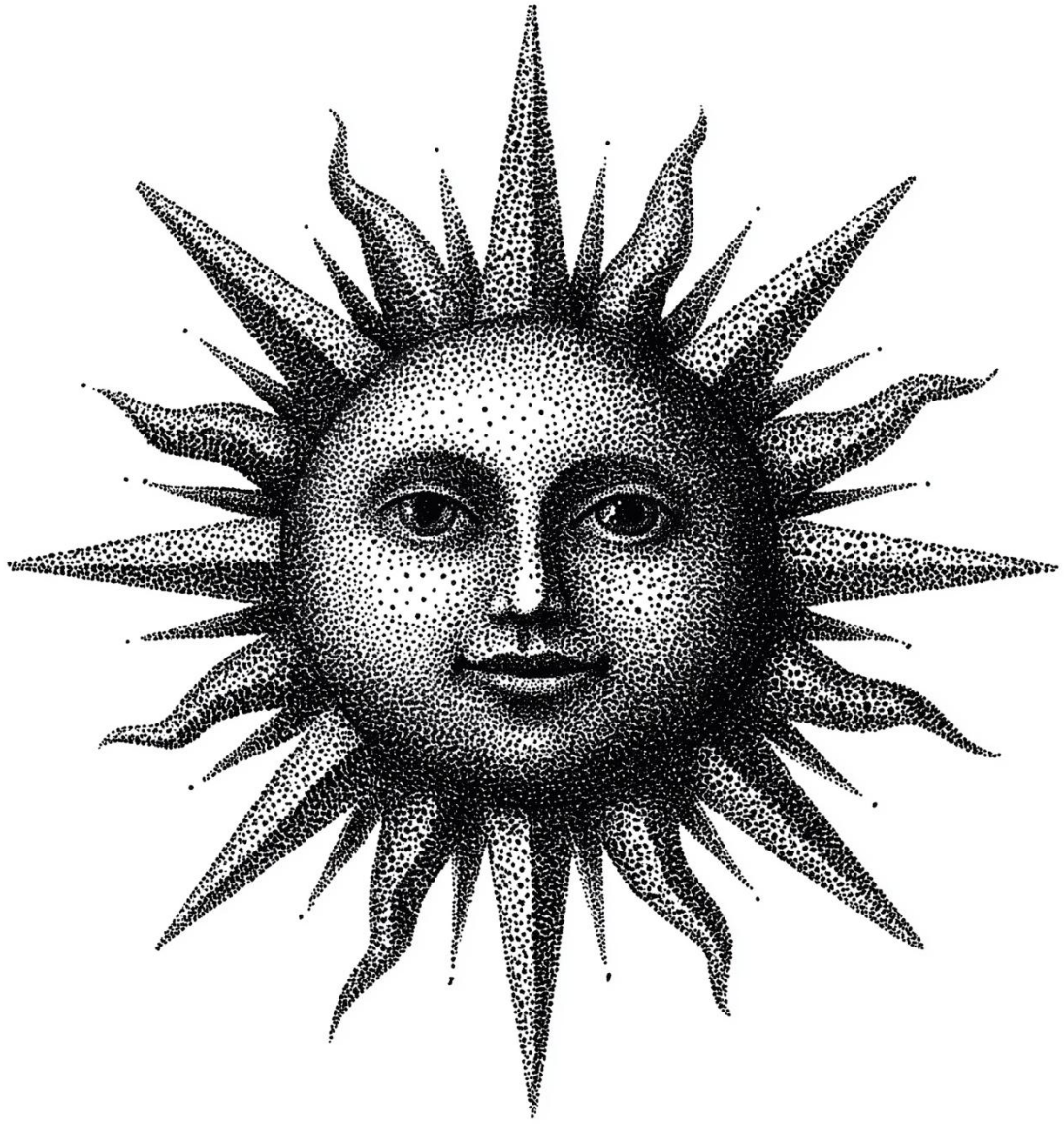












What the Dots Teach

After viewing these stippling studies, one thing becomes clear: dots are never just dots. They are decisions. Each mark controls the rhythm, weight, and mood of the image. A cluster of dots can create darkness. A soft scatter can suggest light. A clean white space can make a highlight glow.

The images in this gallery show how versatile stippling can be. It can make a smooth surface feel polished, a leaf feel delicate, a shell feel sculptural, a feather feel light, or an animal feel soft and alive. With nothing more than black marks on a white page, stippling can create texture, depth, and quiet realism.

As you continue practicing, return to these images often. Use them not only for inspiration, but for study. Compare the soft gradients with the bold shadows. Notice how different subjects require different dot patterns. Organic forms often need gradual, flowing transitions. Geometric shapes need sharper contrast and cleaner edges. Fur, leaves, petals, shells, and reflective surfaces each demand a different rhythm.

The more you observe, the more confident your hand becomes.

Stippling is not about rushing toward the finished image. It is about learning to see. It teaches patience, control, and trust in small progress. Every dot may seem minor on its own, but together they build something complete.

So choose a subject, slow down, and begin again.

One dot is enough to start.

Your Next Stippling Challenge

Now that you have explored the inspiration gallery, choose three images:

- One simple subject to warm up.
- One detailed subject to challenge your patience.
- One image that you feel personally drawn to.

For each one, create a small study rather than a full finished artwork. Focus on one skill at a time: smooth shading, strong contrast, soft texture, crisp edges, or realistic highlights.

Try this process:

- Study the image for one minute before drawing.
- Mark the lightest and darkest areas.
- Begin with the palest shadows.
- Build the dark areas slowly.
- Stop before the drawing becomes too heavy.
- Leave more white space than you think you need.

Your goal is not to make a perfect copy. Your goal is to understand how the image works.

With practice, your dots will become more controlled, your shadows more natural, and your drawings more expressive. Stippling grows slowly, but that is exactly where its beauty lives.