KOLAM LESSONS 1, 2, 3

Kolams have been my friend all along, through happy and not-so-happy times - they have always been a constant source of support. During this time where everyone seems to need a little extra support, I wanted to share a kolam practice series, starting from the basics and going as far as we can. We can do it together and I would love that even more.

Let us start with three small simple kolams.

Exercise #1: Draw a dot and the shortest line around it, which is a circle. Practice it until you are comfortable with it. Make sure to overlap the lines when you are completing the circle so that the circle is closed.

Exercise #2: Draw two dots next to each other with about a centimeter between them. Now draw the shortest line that can enclose both the dots. It is not two circles but an "8" shape.

Exercise #3: Now make three dots that are evenly spaced and in a straight line. Draw the shortest line to enclose the three dots.

You can try drawing the lines in one shot by not lifting your pencil or by breaking it into simple short strokes. Try drawing them till you are comfortable with them. Then you can try increasing the number of dots and keep going. Have fun!

KOLAM LESSON 4

Hope you had fun trying out the previous exercises and exploring other possibilities. Now let us move to the next step by including an angle.

Exercise #4: Draw two dots next to each other with about a centimeter between them. Then draw a third dot such that it is at right angle to the lower dot creating an L shape. Now draw the shortest line that goes around all the three dots.

You can try drawing the lines in one shot by not lifting your pencil or by breaking it into simple short strokes. Try drawing them till you are comfortable with them. Then you can try increasing the number of dots and keep going. Have fun!
KOLAM LESSON 5

Let us now use four dots and see some of the possibilities:

Exercise #5: Draw three dots next to each other with about a centimeter between them. Then draw a fourth dot above the first dot such that it is at right angle. Now draw the shortest line that goes around all the four dots. It is similar to the L shape in exercise 4, but longer. Next, change the position of the fourth dot by moving it above the second dot and draw the line again. Now try placing the fourth dot in the various positions and the closed line around them as shown in the image.

Try drawing them a number of times till you feel comfortable with the dots and the lines.