

eva

ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

5

Edgar Degas

Gesture Drawing

Verbal Directions

LESSON OVERVIEW

Edgar Degas (1834 – 1917) was a French Impressionist artist famous for his pastel drawings and oil paintings. Students will learn about sketching from life and techniques to draw people. They will then practice drawing drawing athletes and each other in action.

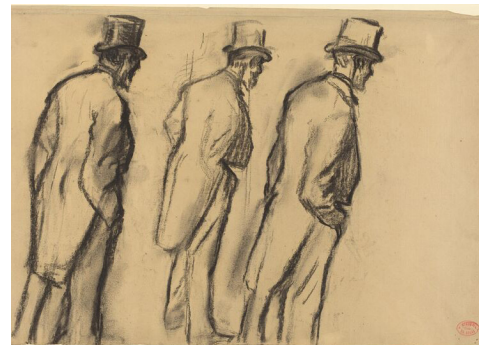
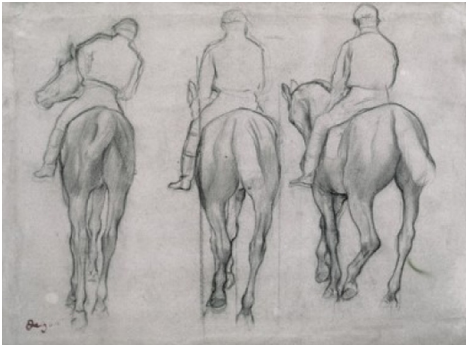
INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the artist Edgar Degas and his work.
- Learn about gesture drawing.
- Practice drawing figures in action.
- Experiment with Charcoal.

SUPPLIES

- Images and samples of Edgar Degas sketches .
- Drawing Paper.
- Wooden Manikins.
- Pencils.
- Charcoal pencils.
- Reference images of athletes in action.

EDGAR DEGAS



Edgar Degas (1834 – 1917) was a French Impressionist artist famous for his pastel drawings and oil paintings. His father wanted him to become a lawyer but he did not like this and went to study at the École des Beaux-Arts, an important art-school in Paris in 1855. Edgar Degas and a group of other painters started to organise their own art exhibition. Their exhibitions were called “Impressionist Exhibitions”. Even though he was one of the artists who started Impressionism, he rejected the term, and preferred to be called a realist. Degas is best known for painting ballet dancers. He was fascinated by them, and wanted to capture their grace and power. He often painted them backstage, getting ready for a performance. Degas also produced bronze sculptures, prints and drawings. [Learn More](#)



LESSON PLAN

1. Take a closer look at the drawings by Edgar Degas. Discuss how Degas often sketched life and people around him. Talk about the reasons why an artist might use a sketchbook (improve drawing skills, journal, record creative ideas...). Ask students:

- What do you notice about Degas' drawings?
- How does Degas show movement?
- Who is Degas portraying (cafe, dance and the theater)?
- How does his point of view different from yours? What does your everyday look like? What inspires you to draw or what kinds of things do you like to sketch?
- What is anatomy and why is it important when we draw people?

2. Demonstrate and practice gesture drawing. A gesture drawing a quick drawing that shows energy. Degas' sketches were done very quickly. On a piece of paper with pencil invite students to try it out. Emphasize the importance of a quick impression and not a detailed study.

- How does it feel to try and draw someone that you see across the room before they move?

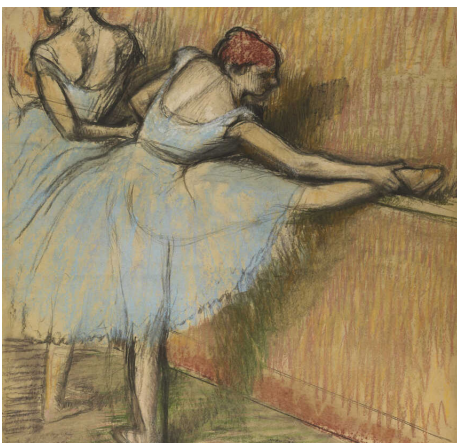
3. Explain to students that they are going to practice and learn some techniques to better draw people. A mannequin is a great tool for the artist - it shows the basic shapes or parts of a figure and helps an artist see how to draw a person in different poses or with movement.

(Options 1 create a sketchbook to practice drawing. Option 2 Sketch on separate sheets of paper and display side by side on a background)

4. Sketch the mannequin standing straight to practice the shapes and understand the proportions. Then start moving the mannequin to try drawing different actions. Encourage students to continue showing the basic shapes of the mannequin. No stick figures - use simple shapes to show different body mass, bones or joints. Emphasize that understanding where the body articulates, helps to draw a pose and repeat that this is a sketch. A sketch helps us practice.

5. With additional time talk more about techniques with the the charcoal pencil material.

EVA+: Practice sketching each other or more figures in action.





KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:

Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (3rd Grade).

VA:Cr2.1.Ka

Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to artmaking.

VA:Cr3.1.Ka

Explain the process of making art while creating.

VA:Pr5.1.Ka

Explain the purpose of a portfolio or collection.

VA:Cn10.1.Ka

Create art that tells a story about a life experience.

STUDIO HABITS OF THE MIND:



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- www.metmuseum.org/blogs/now-at-the-met/2016/mannequins-as-tool-of-the-artist-workshop
- <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-edgar-degas>
- https://kids.kiddle.co/Edgar_Degas
- <https://www.nga.gov/collection/artist-info.1219.html>

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