

Gesture Drawing Exercises- “Just Draw!” by Dr. Manny

www.artshedbrisbane.com.au

Benefits of gesture drawing exercises:

1. Most important step to improve drawing, train to loosen up and to flow
2. If you learn to draw fluid and loose, you can always develop tighter more developed drawings. If you always draw tight, it is hard to loosen up.
3. Strengthen the link between what you see and feel and how your body moves in response to that.
4. Relaxes you – (if it stresses you out, it means you need to let go, and jump in without judgment- make it fun)
5. Frees up your line
6. Trains you to look at the model more than your drawing.
7. Teaches you to look for and to draw the energy and movement.
8. Stops you from getting too tight.
9. Gets to the zen of a pose.
10. Bridge between your feelings and your line.

PROCESS FOR SUCCESSFUL GESTURAL DRAWINGS:

- USE Inexpensive paper, and a loose, dark slippery graphite stick, or charcoal
- Short dynamic pose, lots of movement and energy, standing comfortable with free movement- do not rest drawing hand on paper, move your upper body and drawing hand and arm fluidly and loosely
- Look at the model, not your paper- pause, feel the energy in your own body, imaging you are holding the pose yourself , feel it.
- Only when you have a sense of the pose in your imagination then start to draw the motion of the pose, not the appearance, lay the marks down in tune with what you feel, more than what you see (while focusing on close looking- looking at the model more than the paper!). It’s a drawing of the motion you see, **not the details!**
- Because the movement is continuous, make your mark a continuous one, keep it moving constantly, keep it fluid, energy of the line matching energy of the pose.

PRACTICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! THERE WILL BE A PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AT THE END OF 3RD QUARTER assessing your skill level with Gesture Drawing.

- Practice looking for the energy of movement in things around you. You don’t have to just practice this with the human figure. Try a paper bag, or other in animate objects of interest.
- Practice gesture drawing exercises are key to enliven your mark making!

