

Edward Hopper

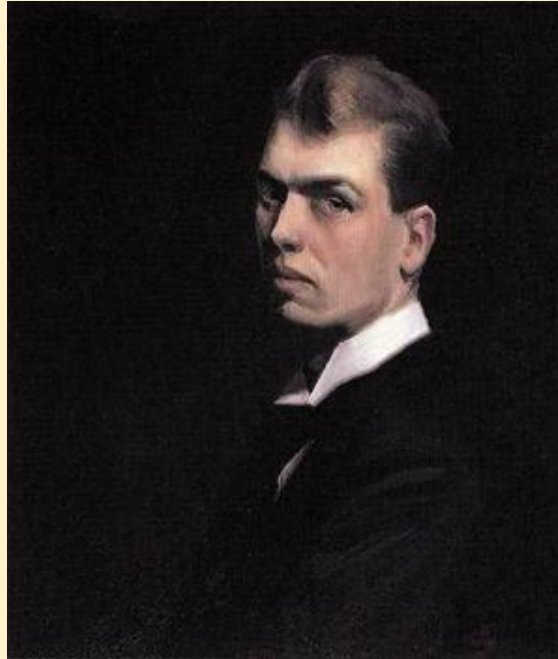
American Artist

Grade 4-5
Figure Drawing
Due; May 15 via email.

Edward Hopper (July 22, 1882 – May 15, 1967) was an American realist painter and printmaker. While he is best known for his oil paintings, he was equally proficient as a watercolorist and printmaker in etching. Both in his urban and rural scenes, his sparse and finely calculated renderings reflected his personal vision of modern American life.

**WATCH VIDEO TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT EDWARD HOPPER**

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=K-CvKEwjxBU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-CvKEwjxBU)



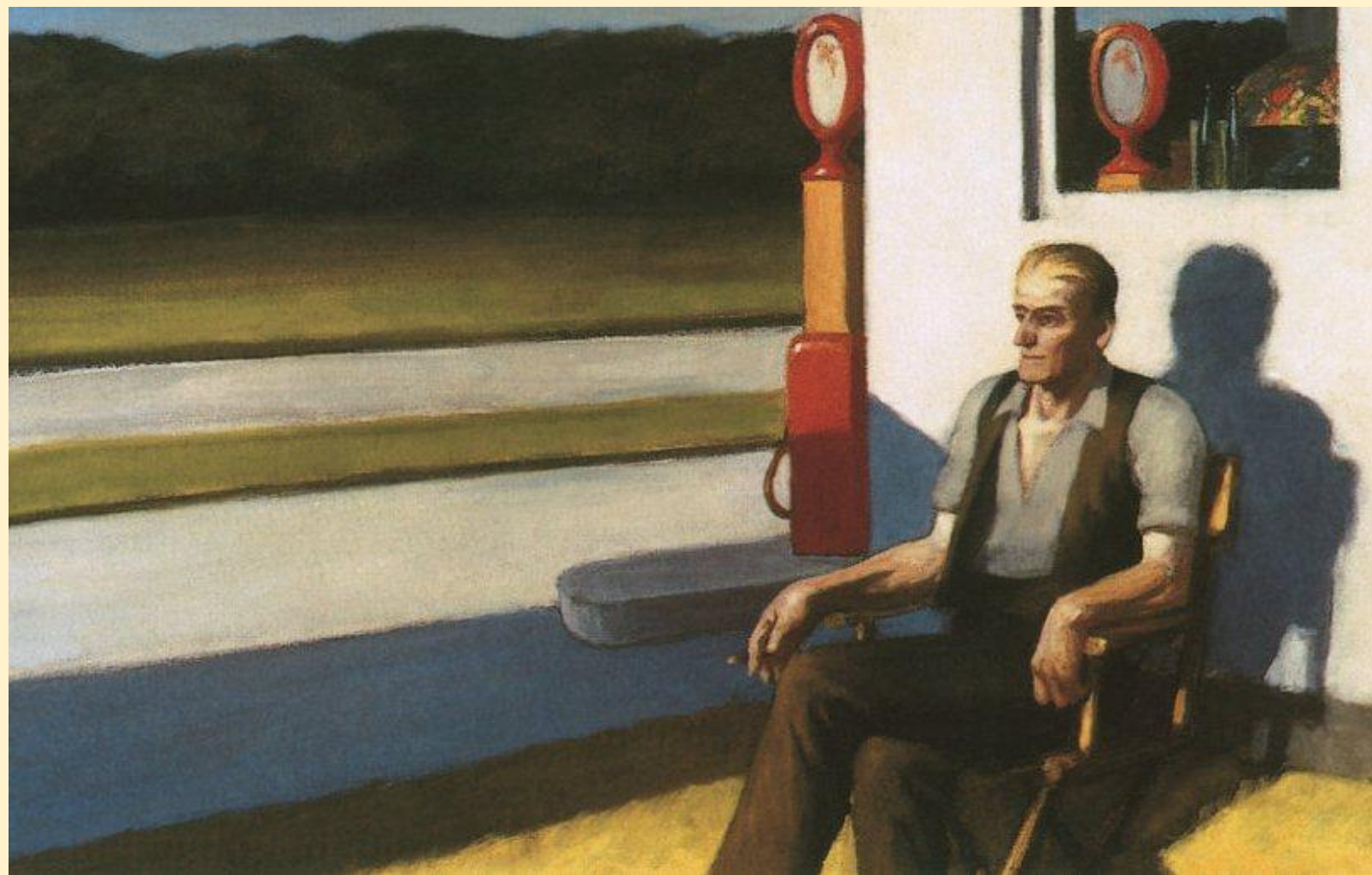
During the summer of 1882 Edward Hopper was born into a well-educated family in Nyack, New York. While his parents supported his artistic pursuits, they encouraged him to pursue the commercial arts for a source of steady income. After studying art in New York and Paris, he split his time between his own painting and drawing and working as a magazine and movie poster illustrator. It wasn't until he was 41 that he achieved financial security selling his own work. Early on these were watercolor portraits of seacoast scenes and, in time, the oil paintings he is best known for.

**PLEASE
WATCH
VIDEO TO
LEARN MORE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsP2aPD9Q1c>



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Socially and politically conservative, Hopper was defiantly individualistic. He lived a reclusive lifestyle and found comfort in quiet routines and solitude. He was an introvert who incorporated long hours of seclusion into his creative process. When he wasn't traveling the back roads of rural Cape Cod and walking the street of New York City looking for subjects to paint, he buried himself in reading. One of his favorite writers was Ralph Waldo Emerson, an essayist who celebrated "the infinitude of the private man" and warned against the tyranny of the masses. Hopper suffered from bouts of melancholy when he struggled to find subjects to paint.



Hopper's art reflected his introspective personality. He felt that great art was the outward expression of the artist's inner life and worldview. In explaining his creative process, Hopper describes how he used life sketches to establish a visual understanding and then relied on his subconscious to refine the final composition of his paintings.

The picture was planned very carefully in my mind before starting it, but except for a few small black and white sketches made from the fact, I had no other concrete data, but relied on refreshing my memory by looking often at the subject. ... The color, design, and form have all been subjected, consciously or otherwise to considerable simplification. So much of every art is an expression of the subconscious, that it seems to me most all of the important qualities are put there unconsciously, and little of importance by the conscious intellect. Edward Hopper



While some see welcome solitude and others see lonely isolation. Hopper's art reflected a distinct perspective and style. Hopper's far-ranging subjects are oftentimes unified by a deft treatment of light. In these paintings, sunlight and artificial light serve as practical compositional elements, psychological metaphors, and even as subjects.



**Reflect on
All of Hopper's
paintings here.**

**What is the
main subject ?**

**How does he
paint them ?**

**Do they reflect
solitude,
isolation,
loneliness,
Peace,
Reflection ?**

**How do the
paintings make
you feel ?**







**Do You See A Theme
in his work ?**

**Why does he choose
to paint this theme
many times ?**

**What are each of the
people doing in each
painting to reflect
that theme ?**

**How does he use
paint to further the
idea ?**

**Does he achieve his
goal ?**



Why is she looking out the window ?

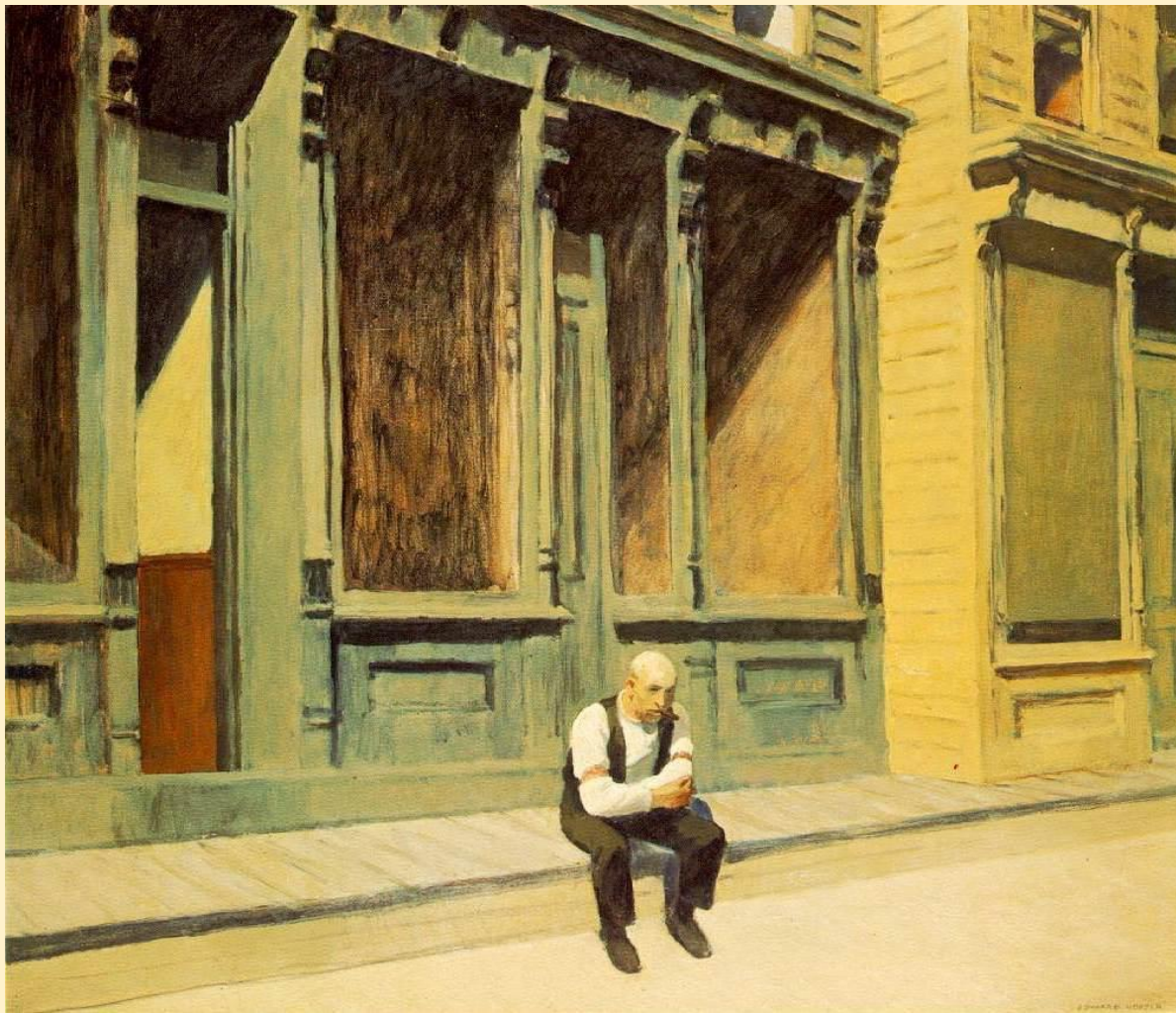
Is there something there or is she just daydreaming?

How does Hopper use light in his painting to focus on his main subject ?

How does he pose his subjects to reflect his theme?

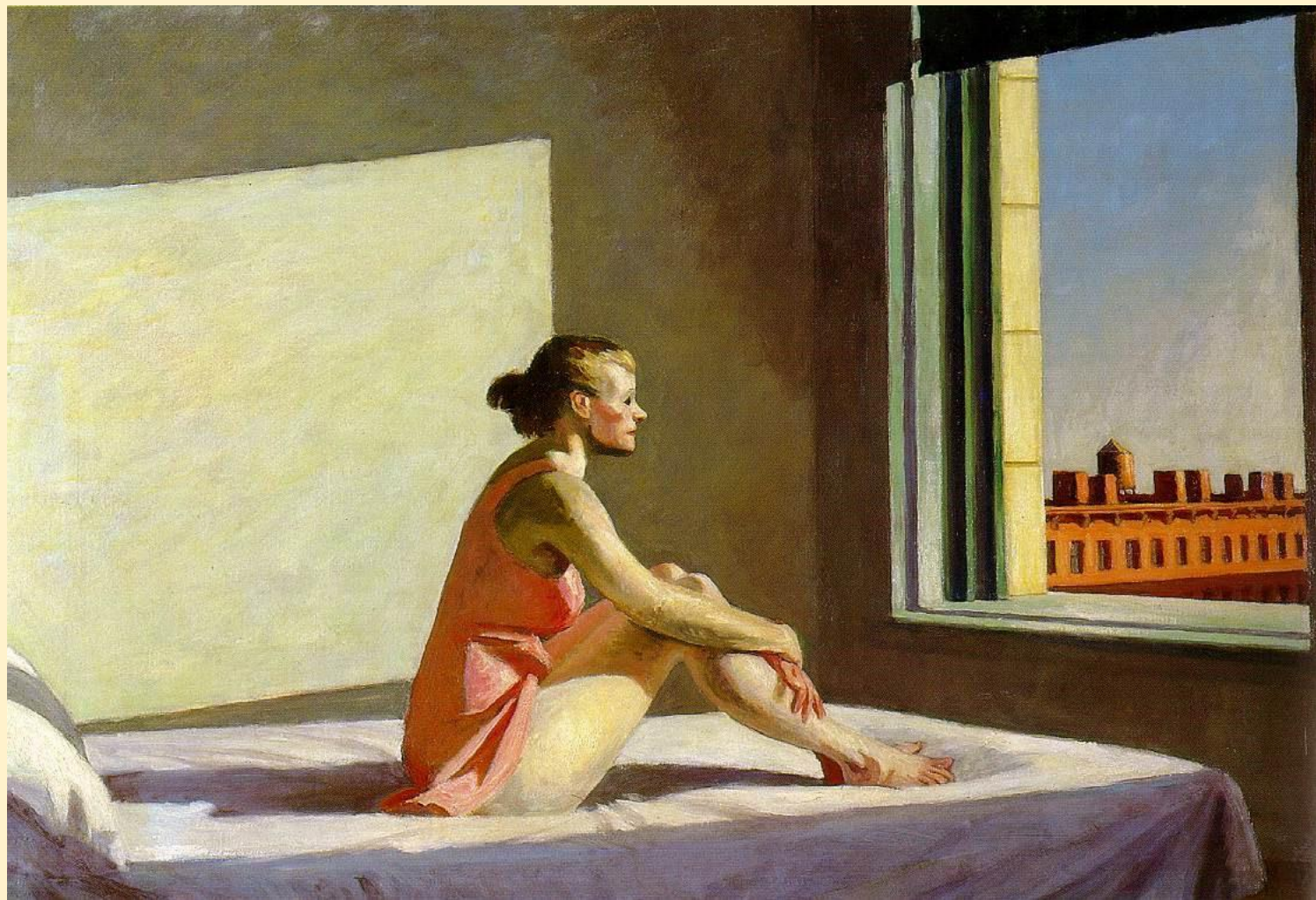
Are there color themes repeated as well ?



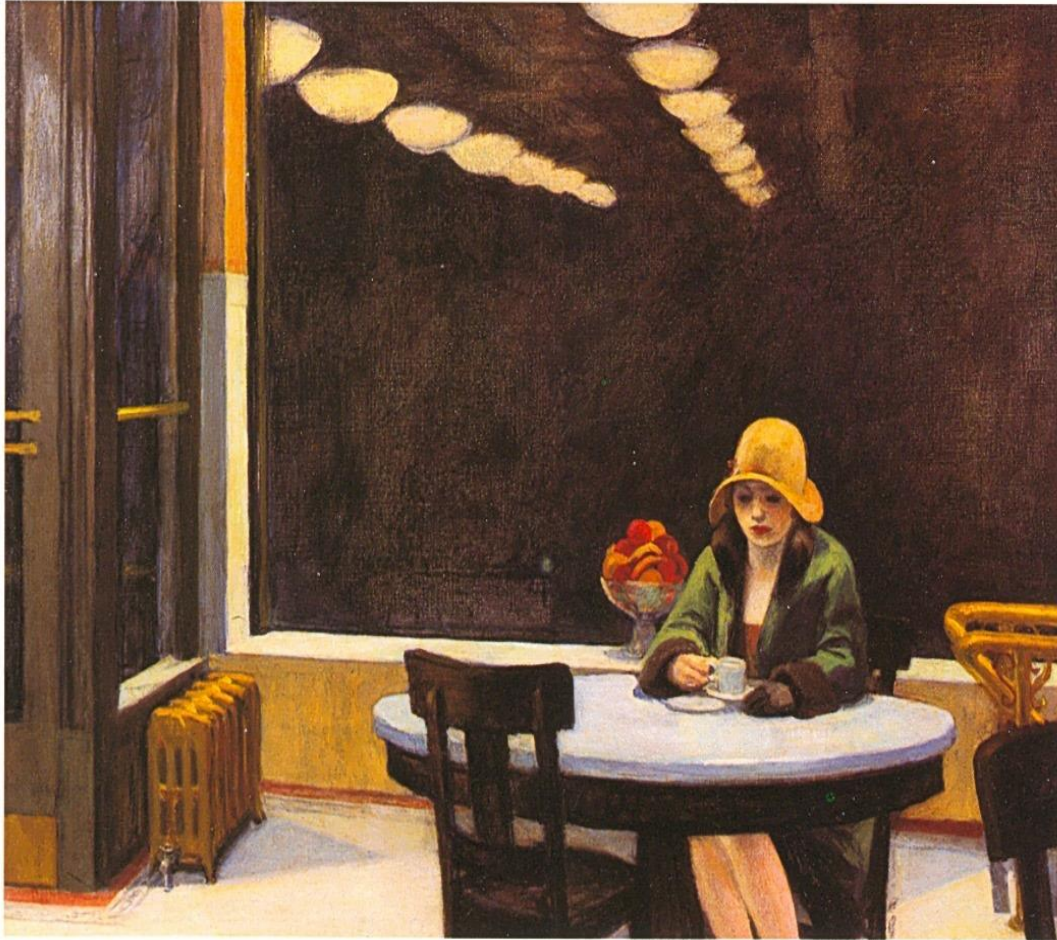


**Make up a story
for each
painting in your
mind.**

**What is
happening,
where are they,
how do they
look like they
feel, what are
they doing ?
Do any of his
subjects look at
the viewer,
which is you, or
are they looking
away ?**







Here sits a lonely woman!

Surrounded by the dark, she seems lost in thought. Her isolation is so oppressive, even the radiator turns from her and crouches in the corner.

Suppose you could talk to her. What would she say?





Try an Edward Hopper Style drawing or painting at home. The next few slides will give you directions to create your own socially distant themed painting or drawing.

During this time when we have been asked to be socially distant, Edward Hopper's paintings seem so appropriate for our time now. Although they were painted long ago, their theme is relevant for today. I have heard some people joking, saying they are living in an Edward Hopper painting.

When you looked at his work and saw the videos, how does his work make you feel? Have you seen family members sitting alone doing some of the things the models in Hopper's paintings are doing? We are alone but all together in solidarity.

In this lesson we will be looking at Hopper and his work and creating a figure drawing of someone in your home.

Use the time to examine the human form and how it is shaped. How could your drawing be realistic like Edward Hopper's style?

What can you do with shading and color to further explore his style?



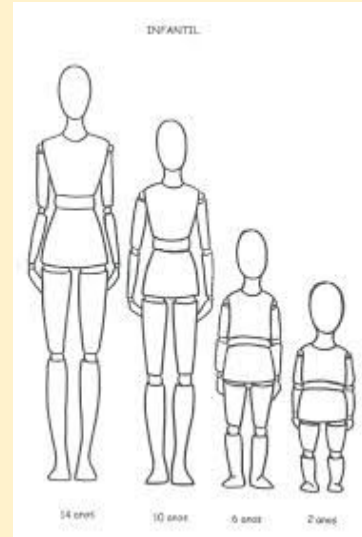
My hope is that by exploring how the human form is put together and different ways of drawing it, we'll all become more comfortable depicting it in our artwork—



I want to encourage you to see—really see—the human body and to practice drawing what you see. To get beyond the stick figures, and try drawing form.

Drawings of each other

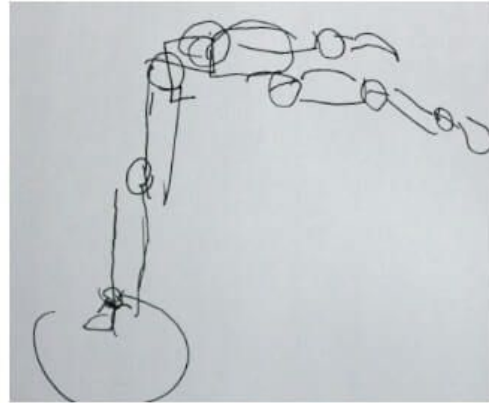
- drawing our own hands and feet
- doing body tracings
- drawing our good buddy the wooden mannequin.



DIRECTIONS:

While we are staying home and using our social distancing to stay healthy, I thought it would be a good time to learn about the Art of Edward Hopper an American artist. I am including some drawing videos in the lesson for you to explore.

1. Choose a family member who may be engaged in a quiet activity, sitting in the room, reading, watching tv, playing a game, etc. Sit and sketch them on paper using a pencil.
2. Look for details, placement of arms and legs compared to the body. Size of objects compared to each other. In example, how long are the legs compared to the arms. Where do the hands go, what are they doing ?
3. Draw quickly a few blind contour drawings, light sketches that are quick and get the main shapes down fast on your paper without looking at your paper. Warm up sketches.
4. Next, choose one of the drawings you did in your favorite pose.
5. Ask the model to sit in the pose and draw them more slowly, moving your eye around the outside shape creating a contour drawing. Look back and forth frequently at your model, draw what you see. Draw the inside contours, like the details of the face, clothing, etc.
6. Develop the drawing further by adding a background. Where is your model, what are they doing?
7. To complete your work, shade with pencil, or add color, using any materials you have at home.
8. Turn in completed drawing in pencil or color materials. May 15, 2020 to mmetzger@st-hilary.org



Try some blind contour quick gesture drawings.

1. Look at your subject and not your paper. Keep your pen or pencil on the paper the whole time without lifting it up to move to other areas.
2. Your line should be continuous, tracing around the outside of your objects, the contour.
3. Work your way into the interior shapes, i.e. the nose, mouth, eyes, keep your pencil on the paper the whole time.
4. You will end up with some fun results, but sometimes, you draw much better when you keep your eye on the subject only. Try several of these type of warm up drawings.



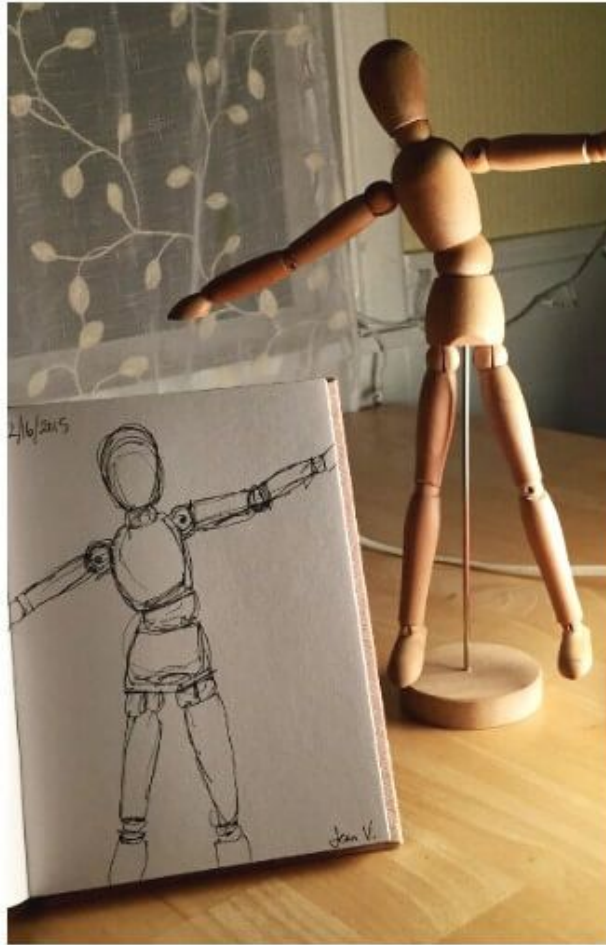
Draw your brother or sister, Mom or Dad, with blind contour drawing techniques, have them draw you, How did you do ? Does it look better when you look at your object more than your paper ? Or do we need a balance to record what we see?



Try drawing your hand with blind contour technique. Keep your eye on your hand while your drawing, remember don't lift up your pencil up while recording what you are seeing on your paper. Warm up with this drawing to be able to draw your model's hands.



Ask a family member to pose for you. Can you draw them using the blind contour technique ? Do quick poses first and draw quickly. Choose one pose and draw it a little longer looking at your paper and the model. How did you do when you looked back and forth ?



**Wood Drawing
Mannequins**
are a great way to learn
size and proportion of the
human form.

Compare the arms and
legs. Where do the hands
end on the leg when the
arm is down. How can
you draw someone like a
mannequin? Break
down the human form
into parts.

Like little sausage shapes
for each area of the arm
and legs. What shape is
the head and torso ?

Watch some of the tutorial videos below for some guidance in drawing the human form and head.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKGC_js35x0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y86OprxJoYc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sasmsPR-VXE>