

GESTURE DRAWING

A Gesture drawing is a work of art defined by rapid execution. Typical situations involve a short amount of time, often a little as 30 seconds, or as long as 2 minutes. Gesture drawing is often performed as a warm-up. The artist may be observing people or animals going about normal activities with no special effort to pause for the artist. For example, drawing from people on the street, performers, athletes, or drawing animals at the zoo. More generally, a gesture drawing may be any drawing which attempts to capture action or movement. There is a calisthenic logic: just as an athlete warms up before exercising or participating in sports, artists use gesture drawing to prepare themselves mentally and physically for a more refined drawing. The fast pace help an artist “loosen up” to avoid a stiff drawing style.



ABOUT THIS ARTIST

Ferdinand Victor Eugène Delacroix (26 April 1798 – 13 August 1863) was a French Romantic artist regarded from the outset of his career as the leader of the French Romantic school. Delacroix's use of expressive brush strokes and his study of the optical effects profoundly shaped the work of the Impressionists, while his passion for the exotic inspired the artists of the Symbolist movement. A fine lithographer, Delacroix illustrated various works of William Shakespeare, the Scottish writer Walter Scott and the German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.



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A sampling of gesture drawing by other artists. The time period of these drawings date from the present to the Impressionists.

