

OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING

Five principals to remember when creating an Observational Drawing are 1) identify edges, 2) recognize spaces, 3) calculate proportions and angles, 4) judge light from shadow, and 5) the unconscious skill of “pulling it all together”

Slowing down to really observe something is prerequisite for any kind of observational drawing.

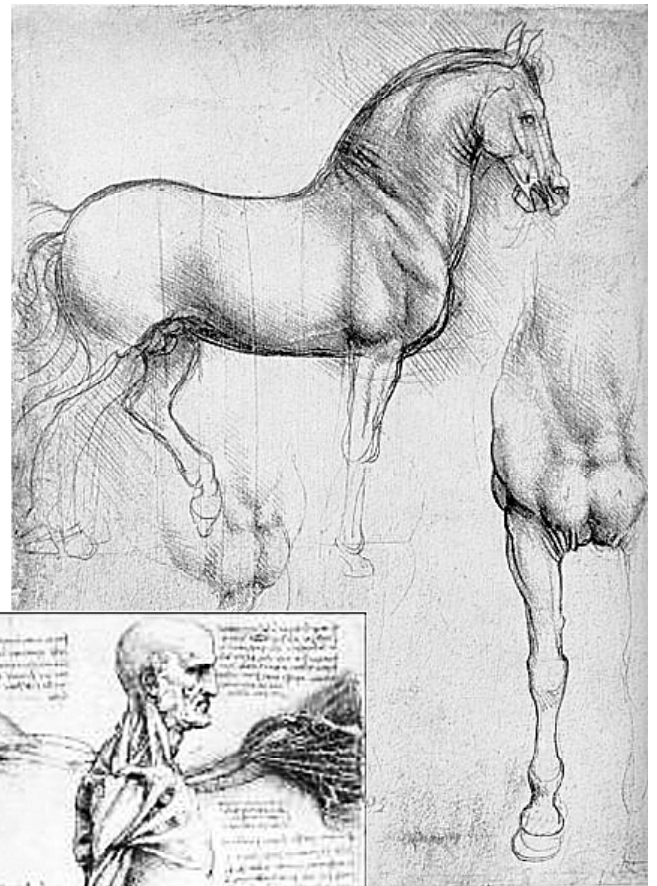
Here are two samples of Leonardo Da Vinci's drawings.

Da Vinci's drawings exhibit an obvious fixation with surface and the visual appeal of said surface. These drawings are full of light, delicate strokes, exhibiting a sensitivity surpassing that of other Old Masters and also contemporary artists.

Da Vinci's anatomical drawings also display a deep understanding of the human body in terms of size, proportion, texture, scientific relevance and also emotional investment.

The observational skills of the artist are evident in the perfect proportions of every physical element, drawn with a physician's as well as an artist's eye.

The shading of each muscle and bone fibre lends depth to the drawing and solidity to the thin, precise lines. The cutaway view of the human form exemplifies the revelatory quality of the drawings: before Da Vinci, anatomical study was predominantly limited to writing and not in diagrammatic form. Through drawing, Da Vinci reveals that art replicates the world before us, reproduces it during a time when there was no other method of reproduction that could capture forms so closely.



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CONTEMPORARY SAMPLES FROM VARIOUS ARTISTS

ARTIST: Barbara Fostka (Ballerina)

