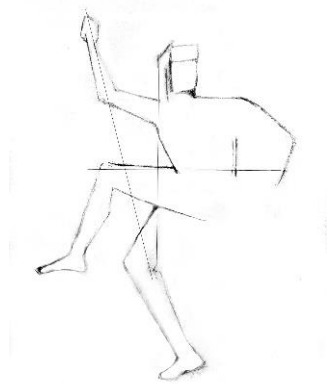


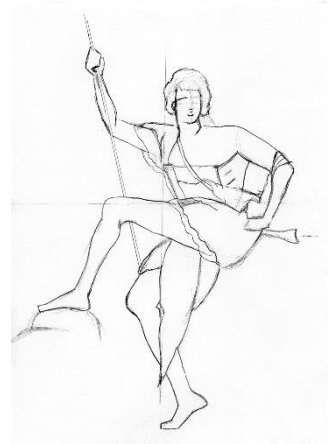
draw from the COLLECTION ... at home!

Anatomy Fundamentals: The Human Figure

Drawing the human body can be broken down into a simple process of defining the angles of limbs, using blocking shapes that make up the figure and then rounding shapes by studying the effects of light and shadow.



Step 1: using pencil, start by drawing a horizontal and vertical line through the center of the paper. Use these guide lines for **composition** and for centering the figure.



Step 2: drawing lightly, block in the **geometric** shapes and angles of Adonis' figure. Build these shapes on and around your guide lines.



Step 3: refine the **geometric shapes** by softening straight lines and hard angles. Focus only on outlines and not yet on the details.

Step 3: continue refining, concentrating on checking **proportions**. Compare the scale and size of different components so they mimic Adonis'. Check the **angles** on the shoulders, hips, arms, etc., in relation to one another. **Redraw** the outline of each area to more closely match the man depicted. Erase away any parts of your original shapes that are no longer necessary.



Benjamin West (American, 1738 – 1820), *Adonis with His Dogs*, 1800, oil on canvas. Museum purchase with funds provided by the Honorable Jefferson Patterson. 1982.3



DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Step 4: study the values closely. With a darker pencil (we used a 4B) add **value** to areas of the figure that are shadowed. This produces a more three-dimensional and life-like look.

Helpful hint: start with the lightest tones first and press harder into the paper as you go to add darker tones.



Step 5: refine the shape and value of his clothing. Fabrics with shiny texture can be drawn with a light fold placed closely next to a dark fold. Use crisp, fine lines for more delicate fabrics. Try to vary the weight or thickness of your lines while drawing these areas.

Optional: use colored pencils to add color or draw the rest of the background!

Extra tips:

1. Use a tissue or blending stick to smooth areas of value.
2. Draw very lightly until you are committed to those marks.
3. Try a mechanical pencil for fine details.
4. Use your pencil eraser to draw white lines and a 6B or 8B pencil for extra dark lines.
5. Work area by area and concentrate your focus on just one section at a time (arms, head, chest, etc.)
6. Place a clean half-sheet of paper on areas you've previously shaded. This reduces the chances of smearing your work.



Questions? Email edu@daytonart.org