

## Fine 100

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### RAPID CONTOUR/GESTURE DRAWING

Gesture: - noun- 1.) significant movement of a limb or the body, 2.) use of such movements, especially as a rhetorical device. - verb- action to evoke a response or convey intention.

Rapid Contour or Gesture Drawing: a subjective approach to representing the relationship of form and space. All objects, whether animate or inanimate, have an overt or implied gesture. The purpose of a gesture drawing is to convey a sense of the unity of movement within a form. To achieve this the artist must be empathetic to the model. Gesture drawing is the root of all figure drawing styles - it is the means by which an artist imparts a feeling of mobility and "life" to images of the human figure. In gesture drawing do not draw what the model looks like: draw what s/he is doing. Gesture drawing is an experience; do not be preoccupied with the final product, as it could take you 25 or 50 drawings to get a really successful one. Gesture drawing is not a style; it is an approach or an attitude.

#### Method of Gesture/Rapid Contour Drawing

If we turn a corner at the end of a hallway and are surprised by a figure approaching from the opposite direction, our eyes, in a split second, scan the general attitude of this person to determine if their gestures are aggressive or threatening, passive or friendly, frightened or confident, etc. Gesture drawing *attempts to map* these instantaneous eye movements as it comprehends the characteristics of a subject - its shape, proportion, the relationships between its composite forms, its position in space, etc.

As you do a gesture drawing you should think in terms of verbs: what is the figure or form doing in space? Be empathetic - particularly if you are drawing the figure, you should be able to feel in your own body the dynamics of the figure's pose. If you are having difficulty empathizing with the model, strike the same pose momentarily yourself to determine what it feels like.

As you draw, let your media swing freely around the paper as you respond to the movements of the model. Try to convey a sense of action and movement. As poses in class are timed and it is impossible to control the movements of people when you are drawing in an impromptu situation, it is imperative that you draw quickly and spontaneously.

Scan the figure/form in its entirety before beginning to draw, remaining aware that your hand will duplicate the motion of the eye as it comprehends gesture.

**Draw using a continuous line, without taking your media off the paper.**

**Use large arm movements - draw from the shoulder, not the wrist.**

**Draw through forms, avoiding a reliance on outlines.**