

Drawing the Collection Lesson 10 – Five-Minute Sketch

Improve your painting or drawing skills by practicing quick sketching. Sketchbooks are great to play, experiment, get messy and *practice!* We're going to take a look at a piece from the Museum's permanent collection – Whistler's *The Smith's Yard* – while going over a few tips for quick sketching.



James Abbott McNeil Whistler | THE SMITH'S YARD | lithograph on paper | 1895

We'd love to see your sketches!
Tag us @smoa_ohio and use
#momentsforjoy.



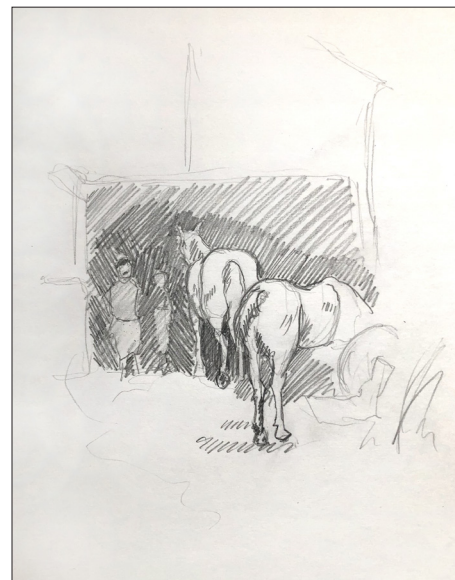
Don't think – just draw.

Try to loosen your hand muscles and make quick pencil marks starting with the first shape you see. It should be nice and loose with lots of "working lines."



Use negative space.

You can refine a shape by adjusting the space around it. In this example, darkening the background with crosshatching helps bring the subject into better focus.



Embrace line work.

After getting the first shapes onto the paper, then you can begin to darken lines that are working and erase some of the lines that aren't. Don't spend too much time doing this though.



Not all drawings will be finished.

When doing quick sketches, it is up to you to include as much, or as little, details as you'd like. Sketches can have a lovely, unfinished look to them. If you're sketching from life, especially animals or children, you have to be quick in order to capture what you're seeing.



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