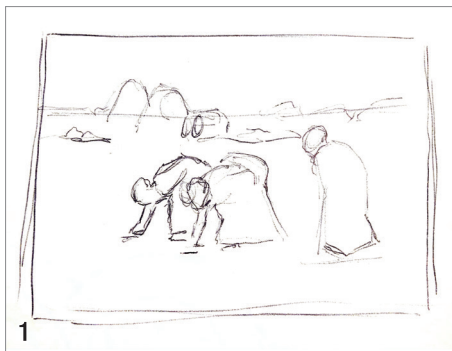


Drawing the Collection Lesson 15 – Five Watercolor Basics

Have you ever wanted to sketch but couldn't find your pencil? Using a ballpoint pen can be a fun and readily available alternative. This lesson will use an etching titled *The Gleaners* by Jean-Francois Millet as a reference. Drawing without an eraser can seem intimidating at first, so try this sketch exercise on some scrap paper, a napkin, or junk mail so you're not too worried about making a mistake.



Any ballpoint pen can be used and it's possible to get a full range of values by using the shading techniques outlined in previous lessons.



1. With very little pressure, sketch the basic shapes in the composition for placement. Mistakes can usually be drawn over a little darker, or will absorb into the rest of the shading in the drawing at a later stage.



Jean-Francois Millet | THE GLEANERS | Etching and drypoint on paper | 8 x 10.5" | 1855



2. Find the areas that are in shadow and add crosshatching to darken the value. Do a little at a time to build up the value, since erasing is not an option.



3. Quick sketches can be left quite rough. Loosely add some shapes into the background for interest. Use crosshatching to darken shadows further and refine the contour lines of the figures in the foreground.

4. Now any details or texture marks can be added, especially in the foreground. Remember to start with light pressure, as you can always build up from there.



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107 Cliff Park Road | Springfield, Ohio 45504 | smoa@springfieldart.net | springfieldart.net | 937.325.4673