

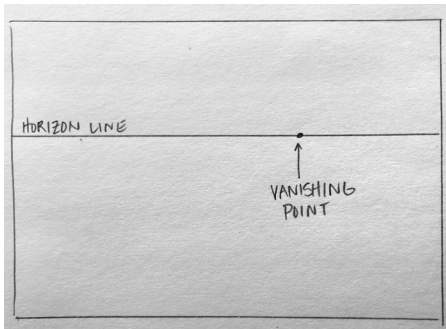
# Drawing the Collection Lesson 3 – The Illusion of Space: Perspective Basics

Drawing a realistic scene requires learning how to communicate a sense of space or depth. We must trick the viewer's eye into believing that a two-dimensional paper is a window into a three-dimensional space.

Now, there's no need to make our drawings look overly precise or geometric, but we do want them to look realistic. Understanding the rules of perspective gives us greater freedom to create the illusion of space on paper. Let's look at this piece from the museum's permanent collection to do a practice sketch.

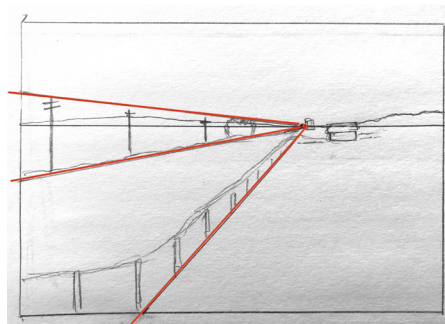


Ralston Thompson (1904-1975) American | VIEW TO THE WEST | ink and watercolor on paper | 13 x 19" | undated | Gift of Mrs. Ralston Thompson



## Step One

One-point perspective is the simplest method of drawing perspective. It uses only a single vanishing point on the horizon line. A vanishing point is where two or more parallel lines converge into each other at "infinity."



## Step Two

Adding lines coming toward the viewer from the vanishing point will represent the top of the ditch and the fence line. You can also draw a line indicating the top edge of any repeating objects, such as trees, buildings or, in this case, some telephone poles. Add vertical lines that diminish in size and distance from one another as they recede in space.



## Step Three

Using the perspective lines as a guide, draw the other shapes and details that you see and finish your sketch by laying in some basic values.

Remember, understanding perspective drawing is an important part of your ability to draw and using it as a tool can help you establish a greater sense of space and depth in your drawings.

**We'd love to see your sketches! Tag us @smoa\_ohio and use #momentsforjoy.**



**SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM OF ART**

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