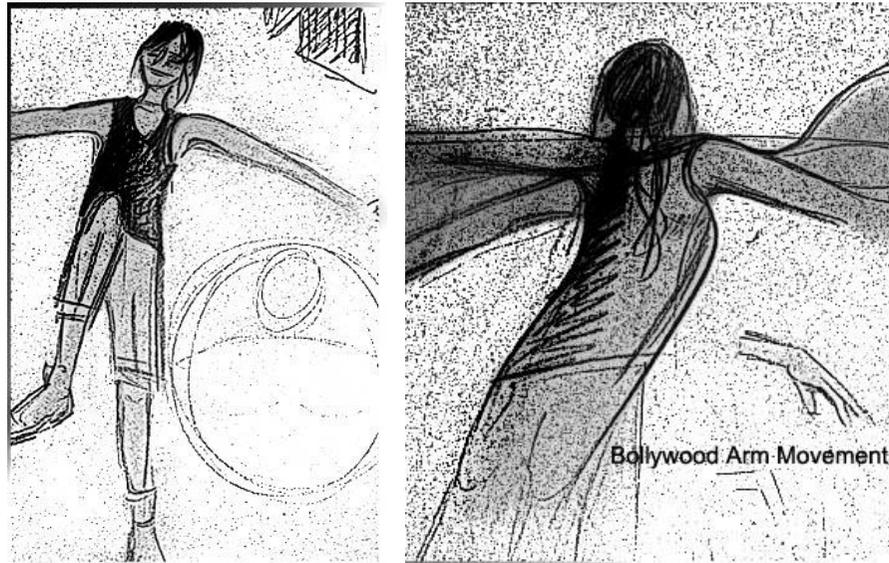


Reference 1. *Gesture Drawing* Just a Sense of the Overall Form

Gesture drawing explores the form and movement of an object in space, as your eye follows its shape. Often it may look quite realistic, but more often gesture drawings will have just a sense of the overall form. Gesture drawing isn't an outline, nor is it an abstract drawing. It might not always look realistic though, because it isn't trying to represent the figure in a photographic way, but to suggest the essential feeling of the subject. (Draw Sketch About.com)



Instructions

If you look at the drawing above it is a scrappy sketch that captures movement. The drawing has been done in the space of 2 minutes and has only captured outlines, movement and movement marks. These movement marks can be called "thinking lines" because they are the quick whisper lines an artist uses to make notes as he or she thinks through various gestures made by the subject as they are happening. They are like guides and place markers.

Gesture drawing gets better as the artist goes along because as the practitioner works at capturing gesture he or she is also becoming focused at "seeing." This

forces the artist to "draw what they see" "not what they think they see" (Edwards 2009)

It is true that an artist who warms up daily in this way will be more attuned to interacting visually subject matter and the artistic environs.

Like the dancer who warms up before she dances; the artist who warms up is much more ready to draw.

There are other benefits ascribed to learning to draw this way in a sustained manner.

1. The artist builds a repertoire of drawing resources and notes in their journal
2. The artist can move around the room while capturing the movement so that he or she is seeing the subject matter from all sides
3. It is not time consuming and so the rapidness of the process means that artists are not wasting time striving for the finished product in a premature fashion. They are immersed in the process of capturing seeing and thus not trying to get to the end product before the ground work of composition has been experimented with.
4. Those artists who wish to express their ideas in animation, illustration or comic book format have the intuitive capacity to express movement and action.
5. The ability to imagine action and layout developed and fine-tuned by gesture drawing can be translated to programs such as Illustrator (© Adobe) and Claymation

Copyright

Jo Murphy

Jan 2013