DRAWING TECHNIQUES

1. Gesture: gesture can refer to the pose that a figure may take, but it is also term that signifies a type of drawing that is made with speed and spontaneity. A gestural drawing does not set out to describe the subject in a detailed way but uses sweeping strokes and dashes to convey the general essence of the object. These quick studies record the function of action, life, or expression of the object or subject. Gesture drawings often form the foundation (or underdrawing) for later detailed drawings.

2. Contour: contour drawings are similar to gesture drawings, but emphasize a slower, more deliberate approach. This method involves using line to describe the three-dimensional qualities of an object. The contour of an object not only includes the outside edges, but should also give definition to the multiple planes of the object or subject. Contour drawings should also include inside contours such as the edge of a form or plane. Cross contour lines follow around the object and may dip or rise as the coutour chages. Contour drawings usually have varying line qualities (e.g., thick and thin lines to indicate the thickness of the form).

3. Stipple: stipppling is a drawing technique in which dots rather than lines form an image. Groups of small dots placed close together will read as a patch of gray tone from a distance. By altering the size and spacing of the dots, it is possible to create a full tonal (or value) range. Stippling does not have to be mechanical, as the dots can be dashes or short swirling strokes. Stippling is useful as a texture-producing technique, and colored stippling is used for the pointillist technique of color mixing.
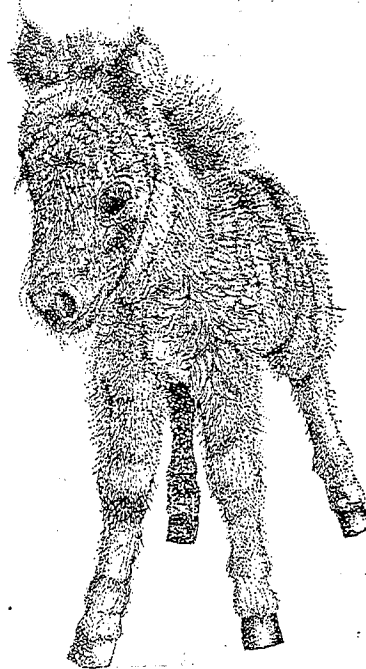
4. Crosshatch: crosshatching is a form of shading carried out using two or more sets of parallel lines, one set crossing the other at an angle. Varying the thickness or spacing of the lines will produce the various tones. The broken nature of crosshatching, when seen at a normal viewing distance, can produce a more vibrant quality than flat areas of tone. Crosshatching does not need to be mechanical, and can include curved, broken or dotted lines.

CONTOUR

GESTURE

STIPPLE

CROSSHATCH