Introduction to Gesture Drawing

**Gesture drawing** is a way to quickly capture the basic shapes, angles, and attitude of the human form. By working quickly and loosely, you will be able to get a quick “snapshot” of the body in motion.

  Benoit Therriault

basic Steps:

1. Quickly mark the top and bottom of your subject (where is the top of the head and where are the bottoms of the feet?)
2. Draw the **line of action**: The central line or curve that runs down the centre of the subject (their spine). This line shows the general balance or movement of the subject.
3. Draw quickly and loosely. Use rough lines and basic shapes to draw the body parts.
4. If you have time left, use the side of your drawing tool to add in shadows or start to add more details to the face, hands, and feet.

tips:

* Do not use an eraser! Just keep drawing. Continue drawing overtop of your “mistakes.”
* Work quickly. Don’t focus on drawing the details. Your main goal is to capture the shape and movement of the whole pose.
* Use the tip and the side of your pencil/charcoal to get more line variation.
* Your subject may be moving. Don’t get frustrated. Just keep drawing and try to capture their movement, shapes, and lines.
* Gesture drawings are like “rehearsals.” You are just practicing and recording information. These are not perfect, finished drawings.