

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Drawing A Horse's Head **INSTRUCTIONS**



INSPIRATION ARTIST:

Rosa Bonheur (1822 –1899, France)

Rosa Bonheur became a commercially successful painter at a time and place when few women were successful at pursuing a career in the arts. Europeans of the nineteenth century considered art to be a lady's pastime pursued at home, but due to her father's training and influences, Bonheur approached her artwork as her profession.

Rosa grew up in a family whose ideas greatly influenced her life- from her mother she learned her love and admiration for animals, and from her father she learned to draw and to believe in co-education and women's equality.

Throughout her life Bonheur would seek out places to study animals to capture them as realistically as possible in her artwork. Her understanding of and love for animals was projected through her luminous and realistic depictions.

Bonheur's animal paintings and prints became famous throughout Europe and America, and she became a celebrity in her time, meeting with famous people and enjoying great financial success. She is also known for her fiery independent character and unique ideas (during that time period) of dressing in men's clothing, not riding her horse side-saddle, and having an otter live with her in her country home. Rosa Bonheur, a 19th-century woman who achieved a successful career, continues to serve as a role model for future generations of women artists!



The Horse Fair, 1852-55, Oil on Canvas



Sheep by the Sea, 1865, Oil on Canvas



A White Horse, 1866, Oil on Canvas

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- Pencil and Eraser
- Pen, Marker, or Sharpie (Black, Brown, Gray or any dark color you have available)
- White or light-colored rectangle paper (1 piece)
- Colored Pencils, Crayons, or Markers

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Participants will draw a horse's head in the realistic style of 19th Century artist Rosa Bonheur.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever looked closely at a horse's head and drawn it? Are you able to see the shapes that give it structure and depth?
2. Have you done any "realistic" drawing before? Does it have to look like a photograph at the end?
3. (No- just do your best!)
4. How can the way we look at a horse, or any other animal or object, help us draw it?
5. (Hint- break it down into shapes.)

HORSE EXAMPLE PHOTOS:



ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

Looking - Take a moment to look closely at Rosa Bonheur's artworks and notice the way the figures and scenes are drawn in a painterly and realistic style, not like photographs, but with easily recognizable subjects. Next, take a moment to look at the horse example photos above. Try to look at the horse in a different way: What large shapes do you see? Squint your eyes and try to see big shapes and lines instead of a detailed horse face.

Step 2:

Drawing - Begin the visual art process by placing your paper horizontally in front of you. During this phase of drawing use your pencil to create very light lines because you will be erasing many of the lines later in the project. Using your pencil, draw a large circle in the top center area of your white paper (FIG. 1). Next use your pencil to draw a bucket shape, angled toward the corner of your paper on the right side of your circle (FIG. 2). Now draw two curving lines: one from the left side of the circle to the edge of the page and one from the bottom of the circle to the bottom of the page (FIG. 3).

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Step 3:

Draw a large leaf-like shape at the top right of your circle, with a smaller leaf-like shape just to the right of the first shape (FIG. 4). These will be the ears. Toward the right inner part of the circle draw a sideways letter “V” with a curved line attaching the two lines (FIG. 5). This will be the horse’s eye. Next draw a number “6” toward the bottom of the bucket shape (FIG. 6). This will be the horse’s nostril.

Step 4:

Now that you have all the basic shapes drawn into place, you will begin to add contoured (curving) lines along the edges of your horse to make it look smoother, more natural, and more realistic (FIG. 7). Add details to your drawing: the horse’s mane (can be straight, curly, or curly), an eyelid, additional lines in the ear etc.

Step 5:

Once you have finished drawing all your contoured lines, use your eraser to carefully erase any lines that are no longer needed to be a part of your drawing. For example, you can erase parts of your original circle shape because we wouldn’t see those on a horse’s face, but we needed them to do the drawing (FIG. 8).

Step 6:

Use your pen/marker to draw over and darken the penciled outlines (FIG. 9). Add thickness to some of your lines or areas within your lines to help give a sense of realism to your drawing.

Step 7:

Adding Color- After darkening the pencil lines with your pen, use colored pencils, crayons, or markers (whatever coloring tools you have on hand) to fill in the drawing with large areas of color (FIG. 10). Use areas of darker and lighter colors to represent highlights and shadows on your horse’s head. Consider adding a color to the background that will provide contrast to your horse. Enjoy adding depth and character to your artwork! When you are finished use your pen to sign your artwork.

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. How did you like drawing a realistic work of art?
2. How did you feel about “trusting” that shapes and lines would result in a realistic drawing?
3. What other animals can you draw using this process?

EXAMPLES:

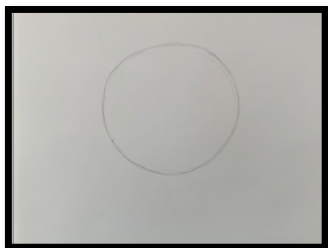


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

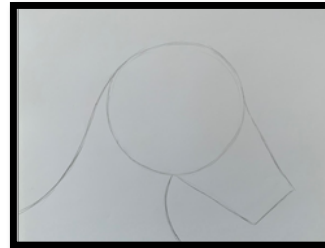


FIG. 3

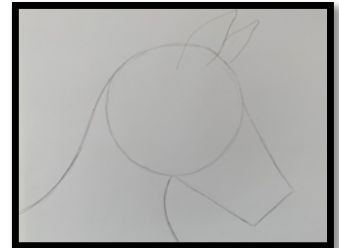


FIG. 4

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FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7



FIG. 8



FIG. 9



FIG. 10

EXTRA FUN:

1. Draw other animals using this process- maybe even your pet!
2. Draw all your favorite animals and display them in your own art show.

SOURCES:

<https://nmwa.org/art/artists/rosa-bonheur/>

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist/bonheur-rosa/life-and-legacy/> [http://](http://www.arthistoryarchive.com/arthistory/realism/Rosa-Bonheur.html)

www.arthistoryarchive.com/arthistory/realism/Rosa-Bonheur.html