

Drawing: Stuffed-Animal Still Life

by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

Cartridge paper, 12"x18"
Charcoal pencils or conte
Stomps or tortillions
Kneaded eraser
Vinyl eraser
Selection of stuffed-animal toys



Preparation

Start with the [Drawing: What Do You Feel?](#) project to provide students with a fun experience in rendering textures. Try also the [Oil Pastel: Dog Caricatures](#) project to provide students with some experience using geometric shapes to build animals.

Procedure

1. Select stuffed-animal toys of different textures and materials. Place 3 of them in a pleasing arrangement, and light it with a lamp to help students see highlights and shadows clearly.
2. Start by sketching lightly and loosely.
 - Lightly sketch the big shapes.
 - Make sure the whole group fits on the page.
 - See and draw the size relationships of the toys.
 - See and draw the shapes between the toys.
 - See and draw the shadows cast by the toys.The teacher can help by holding up the art works for students to see their work from a distance and make adjustments.
3. Next, darken some lines to define each toy. Don't draw too heavily: you may lose the soft look.
4. What are the surfaces? Are they soft, fuzzy, squishy, or hard? What is the toy made of – corduroy, felt, knitted wool, or fun-fur? Consider how using drawing marks, blending and smudging will help illustrate different textures.
5. Now, spend a moment working on the expression on each toy. A cute nose and shiny plastic eyes complete the picture.



The teacher can hold a pre-cut mat to frame a drawing periodically, helping the student see areas that may need adjustments. Ask, 'Is it done yet?' This cue will help students reflect before overworking a drawing.