

REYNOLDA

Pop-Up Studio: Multimedia Movement Drawing

Learn how to take inspiration from the drawings of Abraham Walkowitz and draw a figure with flowing clothing using different media.



INSPIRATION

Abraham Walkowitz loved to draw modern dancers, specifically Isadora Duncan. Some may argue that Walkowitz was obsessed with drawing Isadora Duncan because over his lifetime it is said that he drew over 5,000 drawings of her. Isadora Duncan was a pioneer in her field and known as the “Mother of Modern Dance.”

Walkowitz was born in Russia in 1878, but he emigrated to New York with his family when he was still young. He was drawn to art from a young age, and in his early adulthood he began to work as a sign painter. He sought formal training in Europe, and he attended the Academie Julian. During his time in Europe, he met Duncan in Auguste Rodin’s studio. From there, his interest in drawing her began. Walkowitz used a variety of media in his drawings. The drawing in Reynolda’s collection, *Isadora Duncan* (1916), uses colored crayon, watercolor, ink and graphite on paper.

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VOCABULARY

Contrast: things of opposite nature (e.g. dark and light, soft and sharp, rough and smooth)

Continuous: forming an unbroken whole; without interruption.

MATERIALS

- Something to color with (crayons, colored pencils, etc.)
- Pencil
- Black Pen
- Paper
- Eraser
- Optional: Watercolor paints, brush, water and paper towel

PROCESS

For video instructions, find this episode on [Reynolda's YouTube page](#).

→ To begin, you'll want a reference image.

◆ Find a photo of Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, or other modern dancers. Two suggested resources:

- Jack Mitchell Photography of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection, in the National Museum of African American History and Culture:
sova.si.edu/details/NMAAHC.A2013.245?s=0&n=10&t=C&q=alvin&i=1
- Martha Graham at the Library of Congress:
loc.gov/collections/martha-graham/about-this-collection/

◆ Option B: Drape yourself in a blanket or other long garment and dance. Get someone to snap a few photos and pick your favorite out of those!

→ Look at your image and draw the pose of your subject in the form of a stick figure using a pencil. Remember to use light strokes because we will just be using this as a guide.

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- Next, give the stick figure some shape. Still using the pencil, outline the head, arms, legs, and torso of the figure. Pay attention to joints where the body bends like the knees, elbows, and shoulders. Again, this is an outline so light pencil strokes are key.
- Once you have your figure roughly outlined, add the dress or garment with pencil. No need to get too detailed with it, simply draw the boldest contour lines to give the dress some shape. This step is still in pencil.
- Then, retrace your figure with a pen. When tracing the dress use a continuous line and do not lift your pen. Take your time when tracing the fingers and toes to maintain clarity within the design.
- Once you've finished tracing, use any coloring utensil—like crayon, colored pencil, marker— to color in your background. Select a bright color of your choosing, and a contrasting color and a different medium for the dress.
- Once you have colored the background and dress, you can color the skin and hair! You can use a medium of your preference for this step.

CONTINUE THIS ACTIVITY

There are many ways in which you can continue this activity.

- Abraham Walkowitz did thousands of these drawings of Isadora Duncan. To emulate this dedication, you can do many drawings of different things in a similar style!
- You can also branch out and draw different subjects in motion. For example, if you drew a dancer for your first drawing, try drawing an animal.
- After making your drawing, make the pose of the dancer. Imagine what the next movement might be and dance it. Add another and another. Create a small movement phrase inspired by your drawing