



LESSON 13 LEVEL C FIGURES IN ACTION

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

forming a 3-D figure from aluminum foil, (optional: gesture drawing)

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

several pieces of *heavy duty* aluminum foil 27 x 30 cm (10" x 12"); newsprint or drawing paper; colored felt pens

TIPS: Study magazine, book or newspaper pictures of figures in action. Notice that the active figures show the torso, arms, and legs as diagonals, suggesting movement. Vertical and horizontal figures appear motionless.

As you begin to crush the sheet of aluminum foil into a 3-dimensional figure, be sure to work gently. Squeezing the foil too tightly will make the form stiff and inflexible.

WORDS TO LEARN:

gesture line: a quickly drawn line used to show motion (or emotion).

FOIL FIGURES

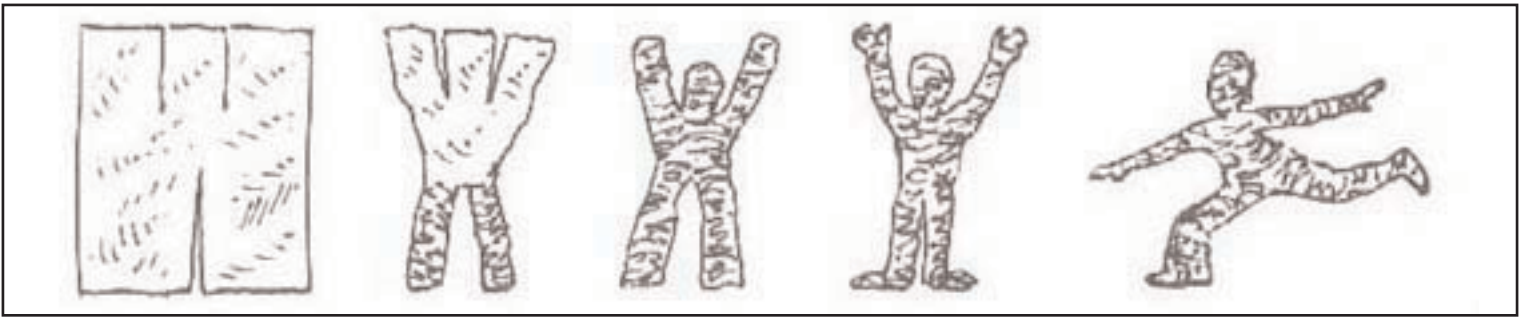


Leopold Maurice Proclamation of the Republic (model) 1870
Musée de Petite Palais
photograph © Kathleen Cohen

GETTING STARTED: If you have tried before to draw figures in action, you may have thought your work looked awkward and unrealistic. Maybe you worried too much about the details. If you concentrate on making the figures look active. . .on the *gesture* (the action)of each figure. . .you would get more satisfying results. Aluminum foil figures will help you create the gestures of action.

1. Tear a 25.5 cm (10 inch) piece from a roll of 30 cm (12 inch) wide heavy-duty kitchen foil. If it is a little crooked, that's all right.
2. Hold the foil vertically. Carefully tear 10 cm (4 inch) rips down from the top, about 10 cm (4 inches) from each side. (See diagram.) Turn the foil upside down and tear a 15 cm (6 inch) rip midway.

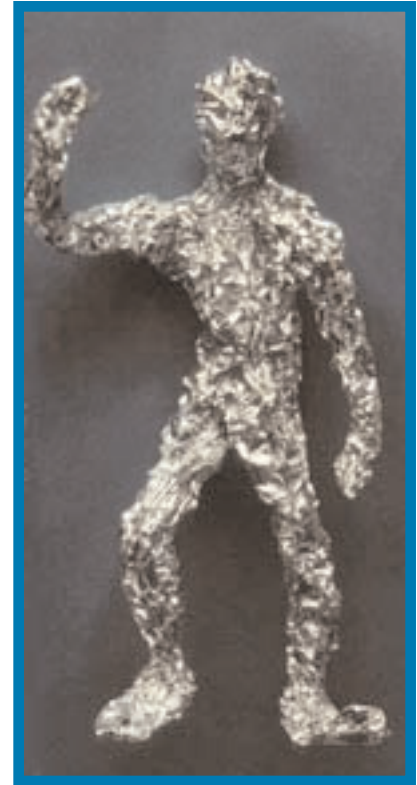




3. Turn the foil right side up again. Roll the sides of the foil gently and *loosely* crumple the two bottom sections to make legs. Crumple the top outer sections to make arms. Crumple the center top to make the head. Gently squeeze the middle to make the torso. "Gently" is the important word here.

4. Bend the hands and feet. Make the figure stand up. You may use a ruler or book across its feet, to help.

5. Now for the action: Gently twist the figure into an action pose. Bend it at the knees, hips and elbows.



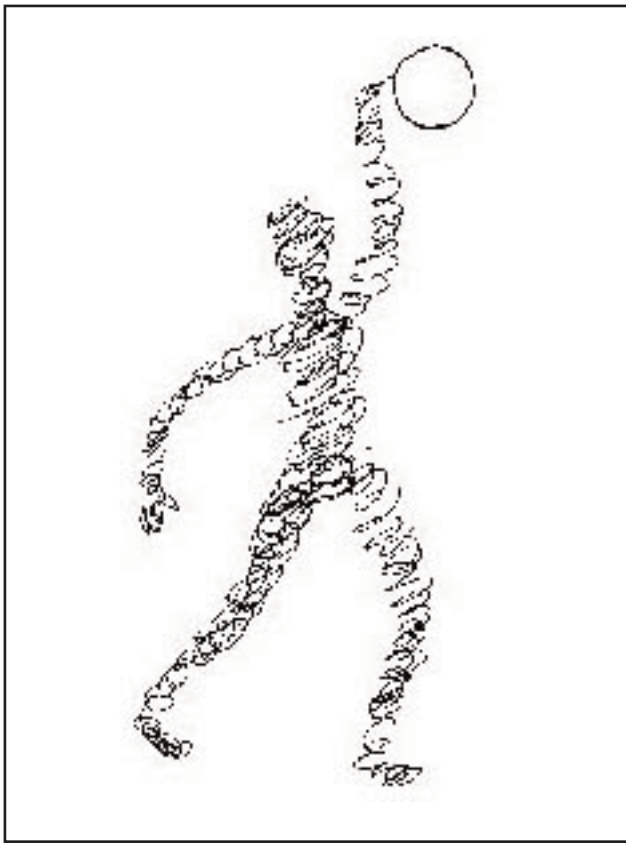
Gregor Age 11

6. Can you have your figure take a football or a baseball action pose? Tennis? Ballet? Skateboard?

7. (Optional) On scratch paper, and with your foil figure as a model, use a crayon or felt pen to make a gesture drawing. Your line will look like a very long, unbroken, tangled wire. Start by scribbling the head and neck. Then move out one shoulder to make an arm. Scribble back to make the other arm. Make a big scribble for the torso and more scribbles for the legs and feet. Try not to break the scribble line until you are completely finished with your gesture drawing.

8. Now you may add accessories: skis, bat, ball, and so forth.

9. Continue to pose and re-pose your figure. Scribble more gesture drawings.



teacher example

CLEAN UP: Guess what? Put all your materials away!

TALK ABOUT IT: What was the hardest part? The most fun? Do you think the gesture drawing loosened you up to to make more successful figure drawings in the future?

MORE IDEAS: Make a set of foil figures in action to illustrate a book report or social studies unit. Wrap masking tape around the figures and dress them in paper uniforms or costumes

CONNECTIONS: Read descriptions of exciting action scenes from books such as the Laura Ingalls Wilders books or the Harry Potter series