

DRAWING A CROWD Strange People in an Elevator

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: using overlapping shapes to indicate depth

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: drawing paper 23 x 30.5 cm. (9" x 12"); crayons, pencils, oil pastels, or markers.

TIPS: Use some household objects to demonstrate that when things are grouped together, only the nearest ones can be seen completely. Only the parts of the objects behind that can be seen would be drawn. A small object held close to the eye can block out much larger objects that are farther away. Try it. Hold a small object close to one eye. Shut the other eye. Look at objects across the room. Does the smaller, but closer, object block your view of a larger object? Now look at paintings or photographs of groups of people. Trace with your finger the complete and partial outlines of individual figures



Pierre-Auguste Renoir <u>Luncheon of the Boating Party</u> 1881 Phillips Collection Washington D.C.

remember feeling crushed in an elevator crowded with many people? You couldn't see much except parts of the people around you. How would you draw a crowd like that? Pretend you are in a building, waiting for the elevator doors to open. Ready? The doors are opening. . .and who is that standing right in front. . .Bozo the Clown!

1. Make believe that your paper is that elevator and draw Bozo the

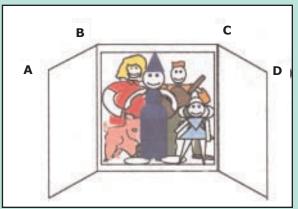
Clown. His big floppy shoes are on the floor. The pompons on his clown hat bump the ceiling. Draw the way he looks, with his funny clown costume. You can wait until later to color him in.

2. Someone else in the elevator wants to get out. It's a very fat lady with curly hair. . .and she's holding a pig on a leash. . .and the pig is wearing a sweater! Draw the lady and her fat pig.

- 3. There's another person trying to squeeze out. He looks like a famous soccer player with a big number on his jersey and spikes on his shoes. Can you draw him, too? What, no room for any more? Then just draw the parts you could see. . .his head and what else?
- 4. In the spaces you have left, show parts of some of the rest of the crowd in the elevator: A rock star with a guitar; a policeman; a girl with a flag. . . you make up some funny people! Fit at least parts of them in your elevator.
- 5. Now use your crayons, pencils, pastels or markers to color in the people you have drawn.

CLEAN UP: Easy clean up! Put your materials away properly. That means caps tight on markers, if you used them.

MORE IDEAS: If you paste your picture in the middle of a piece of paper 2 times as long as your picture, you can fold the sides over your picture like closing elevator doors. (Line AB + Line CD = Line BC) Decorate the doors. Then open them to see your crowd!





Georgio Age 11

TALK ABOUT IT: What is the funniest thing in your picture? What was the hardest part to draw? Count how many people you managed to fit in.

CONNECTIONS: Find pictures of crowds in magazines and storybooks. Look to see how other artists have drawn them.

Try to think of ten places where you would go to see huge crowds of people.

