

Cycle 2, Week 15- Degas' Dancers

Materials:

- Drawing paper
- Pencils with erasers
- Pipe cleaners & beads (to pre-make "artist's manikins")
- Tape
- Colored pencils
- Whiteboard and dry-erase marker or large paper and marker

1. Give an introduction to the artist Edgar Degas. Do the people seem stiff and still? What kinds of movements are they doing? The camera was invented around this time- in what way do his paintings seem more like snapshots than posed pictures? (5 minutes)
2. Explain that the students will be figure drawing today, and show them the manikins.
3. Draw an example on the board. When we draw the human body we draw the skeleton and joints first. Once the proportions and movements are correct, we add muscles, skin, and clothing.
4. Tape the manikins to the table, posing them in an interesting way. Students study the lines and dots, then draw the stick figure on their paper. Go around and help the students draw what they see.
5. Have parents or students rearrange the manikins in a new position. Students study and draw this person in the same scene as the previous.
5. Repeat as many times as you choose, but be sure to leave time for the students to add width to the bodies, and clothing on top.
6. If time, allow students to color in with colored pencils.