

Art A Day CHALLENGE: DRAWMATIC Lines and MOOOOOvement

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

Stuff you'll need: Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea!



Words you need to know

Line weight: How thin or thick lines are.

Gesture: lines that express and capture movement

LOOK at this sculpture that shows a wild panther attacking a stag! This artwork was made by Antoine-Louis Barye who did a lot of sculptures of animals. He was a professor of drawing for zoology at the Museum of Natural History. He would visit the botanical garden in France where he sketched wild animals (dead and alive)! It seemed like every chance he got, he was sketching animals interacting with each other.

Notice the variation, or changes, in **line weight** in the sketches below and how different he made each of the lines (some darker, some sketchy, some heavy, some light). The artist was able to capture the movement of the animals through **gestural lines** in the sketches. We can also see

movement and **gesture** in the sculpture: look at the muscles on the panther's front legs, the position of his back legs and his front paw wrapped around the stag's nose. Notice the stag's bent neck because of the weight of the panther thrown on him. The panther's ears are back and the stag's mouth is open and eyes are closed.

Antoine-Louis Barye

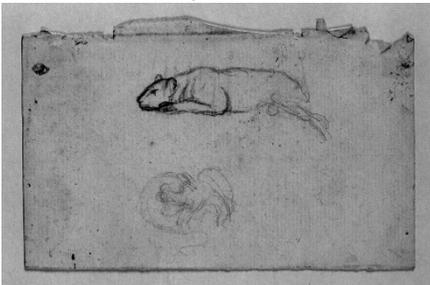
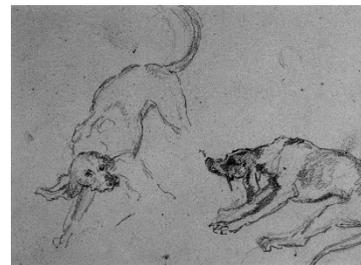
French, 1796-1875

Panther Seizing a Stag

Bronze

MAKE: Capture the movement and weight of animals through drawing, painting, sculpture, or with words in a poem. Pay attention to where the weight is shifted when the animal stands and sits or lays down. Observe animals in virtual sanctuaries, in the wild (via webcam), or your own animal families-dogs and cats are just

as much fun to watch and they are right in front of you. Can you find examples of animals interacting? They don't have to be fighting in a dramatic scene like Barye created. Maybe they are having breakfast together or snuggling. Try to sketch without pausing videos: this really helps you to catch movements, **gesture**, and the **weight through lines**. Don't worry about erasing mistakes-your mistakes might actually be capturing the animals' quick movements without you even realizing it! Links to (nonzoo) animal webcams: <https://www.animalsoffarmsanctuary.com/post/146906892806/take-a-360-virtual-tour-of-farm-sanctuary> ; <https://explore.org/livecams/african-wildlife/african-watering-hole-animal-camera> ; <https://explore.org/livecams/african-wildlife/african-wildlife-meditation>



Antoine-Louis Barye

Sketch of a Tiger Rolling on Its Back, 1860

Writing Extension: What happens next in the Panther Seizing the Stag? Does the Stag get away? Does the panther win the battle? Tell what happens next. Don't be afraid to allow this event to be a symbol or an allegory for something that happens in your own life (struggles, overcoming an obstacle, or even a battle).

Antoine-Louis Barye

Sketch After Oudry, 19th Century

TAG US!