

Drawing

THINKING AHEAD

What is a medium?

What is the technique known as metalpoint?

What are the characteristics of wet media?

How can drawing be an innovative medium?

Drawing

- To make a likeness with lines on a surface; sketch.
- Materials or Media (plural of medium):
 - Dry Media-dry pigment mixed with binders
 - Liquid Media-pigments suspended in liquid binders

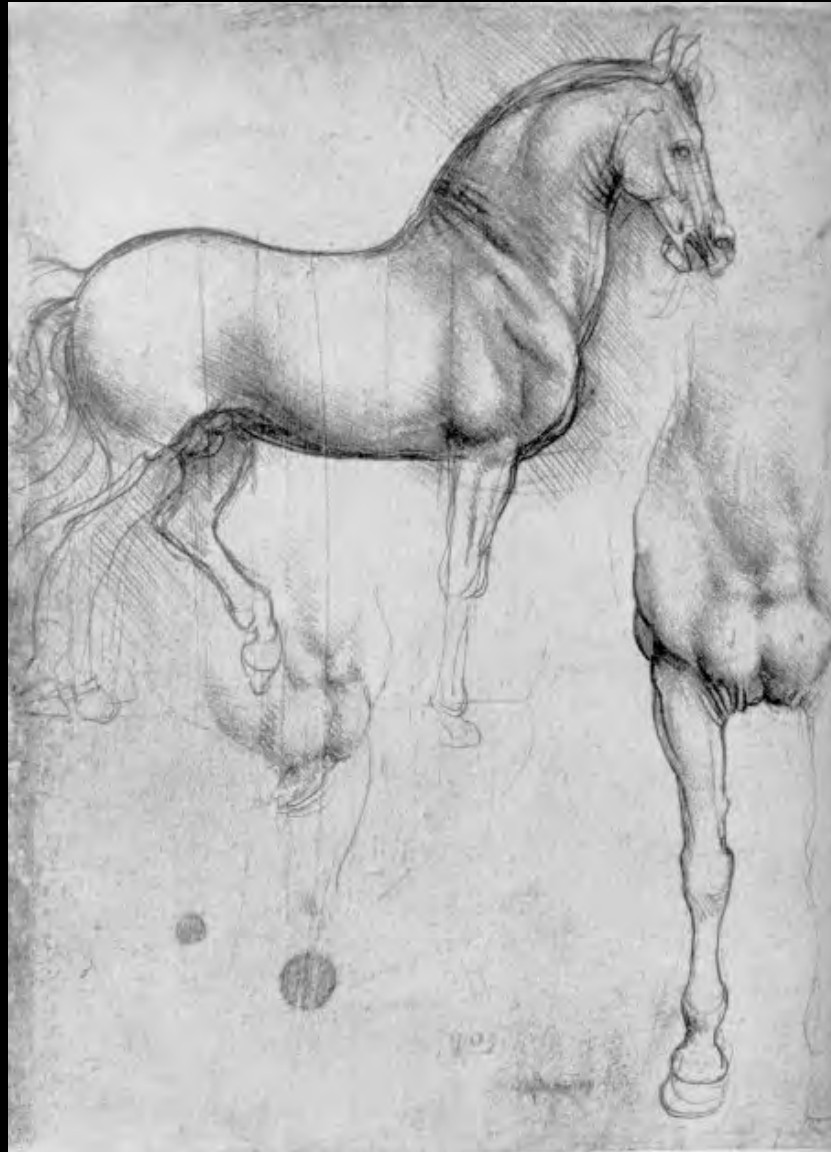
Dry Media

- Metalpoint (silverpoint)
- Chalk
- Charcoal
- Graphite (pencil)
- Pastel

Metalpoint

- Most common media in late 15th and early 16th century Italy
- Chiefly concerned with **delineation**: a descriptive representation of an object
- **Stylus** made of metal (usually silver, aka silverpoint)
- A sheet of paper was prepared with a mix of lead white (powdered bones) and gum water
- When the styles struck the mixture on the paper a chemical reaction occurred (like a tarnish) and a line formed
- It is difficult to widen strokes with metal point and to achieve high contrast so hatching and heightening (adding a white pigment near line work) was utilized

Leonardo da Vinci
Silverpoint Study of a Horse





Leonardo da Vinci. *Study of a woman's head or of the angel of the Vergine delle Rocce*. 1473.
Silverpoint with white highlights on prepared paper. 7-1/8 × 6-1/4 in.
Alinari / Art Resource, NY. [Fig. 9-6]

Chalk and Charcoal

- Chalk is a soft, white, porous form of limestone composed of the mineral calcium carbonate, found naturally and can be used directly from the source, in powdered form, or compressed
- Charcoal is burnt wood, usually hard woods, and can be used directly, powdered, or compressed.
- These are considered expressive media due to their ability to enhance **volumetrically** because they are a soft media
- Because they are so soft and are easily wiped, a fixative or a toothed paper must be used to utilize the media to its fullest capacity

The Needles is a row of distinctive stacks of chalk that rise out of the sea off the western extremity of the Isle of Wight, England, close to Alum Bay.



From wood to charcoal





Leonardo da Vinci. *Madonna and Child with St. Anne and Infant St. John the Baptist.*
c. 1505–07.

Charcoal (and wash?) heightened with white chalk on paper, mounted on canvas.

55-3/4 × 41-1/4 in.

© National Gallery, London / Art Resource, NY. [Fig. 9-4]



Raphael. Study for *The Alba Madonna* (recto). c. 1511.
red chalk. 16-5/8 × 10-3/4 in.
Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY. [Fig. 9-7]



Georgia O'Keeffe. *Banana Flower*. 1933.

Charcoal and black chalk on paper. 21-3/4 × 14-3/4 in.

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Käthe Kollwitz. *Self-Portrait, Drawing*. 1933.

Charcoal on brown laid Ingres paper. 18-3/4 × 25 in.

Roselwald Collection, © 1999 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. 1943.3.5217. © 2012 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn. [Fig. 9-11]

Graphite

- Graphite is a polymorph of the element carbon and diamonds are another polymorph.
- Comparisons: Diamond is hardest mineral known to man, Graphite is one of the softest. Diamond is an excellent electrical insulator, Graphite is a good conductor of electricity. Diamond is the ultimate abrasive, Graphite is a very good lubricant.
- Graphite is the stable form of carbon. Graphite has a sheet like structure where the atoms all lie in a plane and are only weakly bonded to the graphite sheets above and below.
- Pencils have cores made from powdered graphite (not lead) fired with clay, varying in hardness. The type of graphite used in pencils is relatively soft and malleable, a little like lead, and was mistakenly thought to be a form of lead when first discovered. The misnomer stuck, and many people think that pencils once had lead cores, though they never did. Graphite leaves a small, smooth particle on the paper that has a slight sheen.

Graphite & Conté

- The less graphite the harder the pencil (light), more graphite the softer (darker) the pencil.
- Conté Crayon was invented during the Napoleonic wars. It uses clay mixed with graphite. This process was added to contemporary pencil making.
- Graphite erases easily and added pressure adds variation to line quality making it an inexpensive and easy drawing tool.





Georges Seurat. *Café Concert*. c. 1887–88.
Conté crayon with white heightening on Ingres paper. 12 × 9-1/4 in.
Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. Gift of Mrs. Murray S.
Danforth. Photo: Erik Gould. [Fig. 9-12]



Vija Celmins. *Untitled (Ocean)*. 1970.

Graphite on acrylic ground on paper. 14-1/8 × 18-7/8 in.

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, U.S.A. Mrs. Florene M. Schoenborn Fund. Courtesy of Vija Celmins and McKee Gallery. [Fig. 9-13]

Pastel

- The lightness of the media is how we associate the term pastel to pale, light colors
- Technically, Pastel is powdered pigment, rolled into round or square sticks and contained by methylcellulose, a non-greasy binder. It can either be blended with finger and stump, or left with visible strokes and lines.
- Pastels can be soft, medium, or hard depending on amount of binder (more binder, the harder, and less intense color)
- Generally, the ground is toned paper, but sanded boards and canvas are also popular. If the ground is covered completely with Pastel, the work is considered a Pastel Painting; a Pastel Sketch shows much of the ground.
- When protected by fixative and glass, Pastel is the most permanent of all media, for it never cracks, darkens or yellows.
- Historically, its origin can be traced back to the Sixteenth Century



Edgar Degas. *After the Bath, Woman Drying Herself*. c. 1889–90.

Pastel on paper. 26-5/8 × 22-3/4 in.

The Samuel Courtauld Trust, Courtauld Institute Galleries, London. [Fig. 9-14]



Mary Cassatt. *Young Mother, Daughter, and Son*. 1913.

Pastel on paper. 43-1/4 x 33-1/4 in.

Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, Marion Stratton Gould Fund.

[Fig. 9-15]

Pen and Ink

- refers to a technique of drawing or writing, in which colored (this includes black) ink is applied to paper using a pen or other stylus.
- It may be used as a medium for sketches, or for finished works of art.
- Pen and ink also lends itself to fine writing and calligraphy.
- In art, pen and ink was originally used for quick sketches, often with a high degree of abstraction. Later artists developed the pen and ink drawing into a finished art form, and many interior illustrations in books and magazines.





Jean Dubuffet. *Corps de Dame*. June–December 1950.
Pen, reed pen, and ink. 10-5/8 × 8-3/8 in.

Digital Image © The Museum of Modern Art/Licensed by SCALA / Art Resource, NY. © 2012 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris. The Joan and Lester Avnet Collection. (54.1978). The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, U.S.A. [Fig. 9-18]



Marjane Satrapi. page from the "Kim Wilde" chapter of the graphic novel *Persepolis*. 2001.

Ink on paper. 16-9/16 × 11-11/16 in.

© Marjane Satrapi/L'Association, photograph Westimage. [Fig. 9-24]

Wash and Brush

- Wash: When ink is diluted with water and applied with a brush in large flat areas, usually to create tonal ranges in a drawing
- Brush: using a brush with ink allows for immediacy and spontaneity
- Brushwork is a technique with an Eastern tradition based in the art of calligraphy



Elisabetta Sirani. *The Holy Family with a Kneeling Monastic Saint*. c. 1660.
Pen and brown ink, black chalk, on paper. 10-3/8 × 7-3/8 in.
Christie's Images. [Fig. 9-17]



Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. *The Adoration of the Magi*. c. 1740s.
Pen and brown wash over graphite sketch. 11-3/5 × 8-1/5 in.
Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for visual Arts at Stanford University, 1950.392.
Mortimer C. Leventritt Fund. [Fig. 9-19]

Innovative Drawing

- The idea of drawing in art has always been exploratory and proceeds to this day in the same vein
- Utilizing any material other than traditional media we discussed earlier in the chapter is considered innovative drawing media
- Paper collage
- Computer
- Land drawing are some examples



Henri Matisse. *Venus*. 1952.

Paper collage on canvas. 39-7/8 × 30-1/8 in.

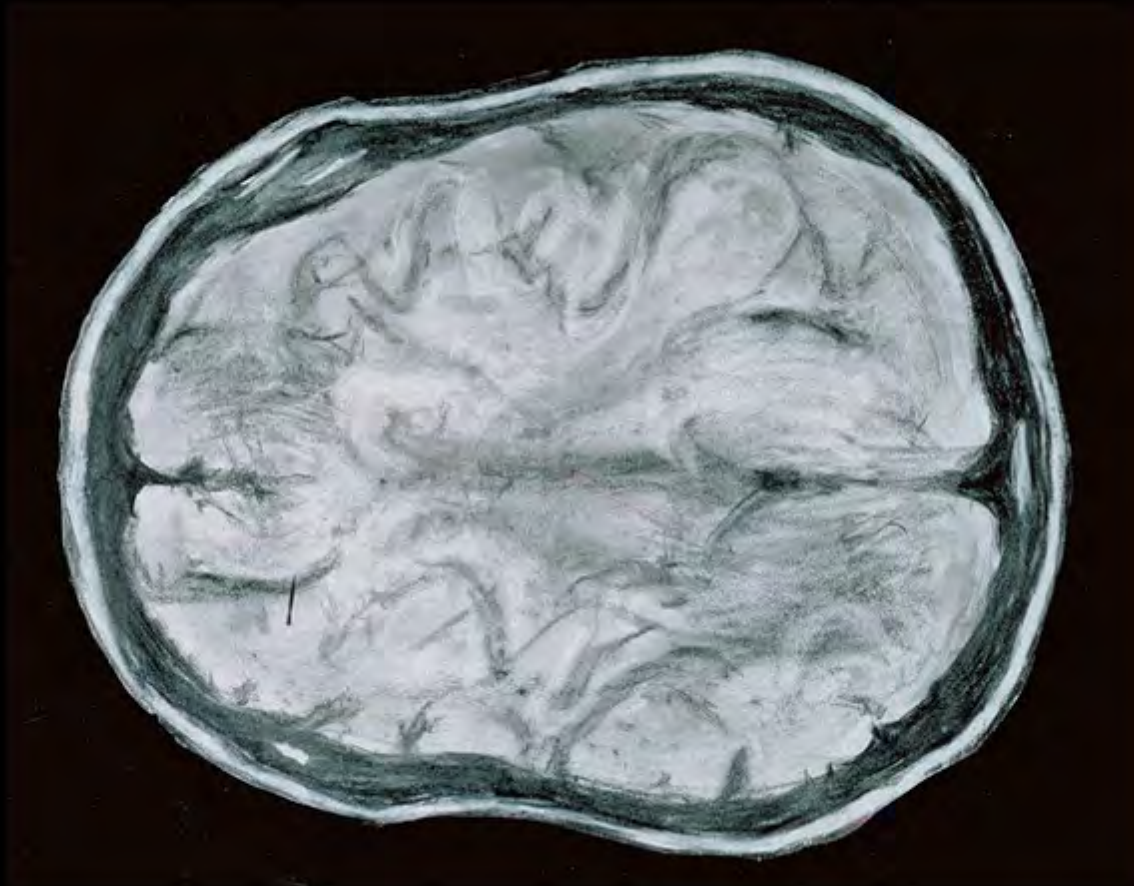
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund. Photo: © 2010 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. © 2012 Succession Henry Matisse/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. [Fig. 9-21]



Whitfield Lovell. *Whispers from the Walls*. 1999.
Mixed-media installation, varying dimensions.
Courtesy: DC Moore Gallery, New York. Photo: Steve Dennie. [Fig. 9-22]



William Kentridge. drawing from *WEIGHING ...and WANTING* (1 of 4). 1997-98.
Charcoal, pastel on paper. 24-5/8 × 30-3/4 in.
Courtesy Marian Goodman Gallery, New York. © Goodman Gallery 2006. All Rights Reserved. [Fig. 9-23a]



William Kentridge. drawing from *WEIGHING ...and WANTING* (2 of 4). 1997-98.

Charcoal, pastel on paper. 24-5/8 × 30-3/4 in.

Courtesy Marian Goodman Gallery, New York. © Goodman Gallery 2006. All Rights Reserved. [Fig. 9-23b]



William Kentridge. drawing from *WEIGHING ...and WANTING* (3 of 4). 1997-98.

Charcoal, pastel on paper. 47-1/4 x 63 in.

Courtesy Marian Goodman Gallery, New York. © Goodman Gallery 2006. All Rights Reserved. [Fig. 9-23c]



William Kentridge. drawing from *WEIGHING ...and WANTING* (4 of 4). 1997-98.

Charcoal, pastel on paper. 47-1/4 x 63 in.

Courtesy Marian Goodman Gallery, New York. © Goodman Gallery 2006. All Rights Reserved. [Fig. 9-23d]

THINKING BACK

✓ **Study** and **review** on myartslab.com

What is a medium?

A material used to create art is a medium (plural: media). Painting, drawing, sculpture, and tapestry are all examples of media. Various technologies have helped artists to achieve their desired effects and discover new modes of creation and expression. How does Jan Vermeer represent different media in his work *The Allegory of Painting (The Painter and His Model as Clio)*? What are some of the purposes of drawing?

What is the technique known as metalpoint?

Metalpoint was one of the most common drawing techniques in late-fifteenth- and early-sixteenth-century Italy. In this technique, a stylus (point) made of metal is applied to a sheet of prepared paper. When the point touches the prepared ground, a chemical reaction results, producing marks on the paper. What is delineation?

What are the characteristics of wet media?

Wet media consist of a pigment, which is the coloring agent, and a binder, which holds the pigment together. In wet media, such as ink, the pigment is held in a liquid binder. How was ink typically made during the Renaissance? What is a wash? What qualities does a brush afford in drawing?

How can drawing be an innovative medium?

Drawing is, by nature, an exploratory medium, inviting experimentation. Many modern and contemporary artists have pushed traditional boundaries of drawing, using new techniques and materials, working at a large scale, and integrating drawing with film. How did Henri Matisse work in an innovative manner to make *Venus*? How did William Kentridge create *WEIGHING . . . and WANTING*?