

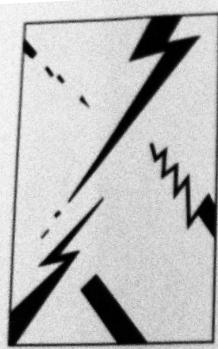


Line

- a point in motion
- a series of adjacent points
- a connection between points
- an implied connection between points

Lines can be dynamic and have connective power.

Line Orientation and Continuity



A Diagonal



B Horizontal



C Vertical



D Continuous curve

Orientation refers to the line's position. Diagonal and curving lines are the most dynamic/energetic.

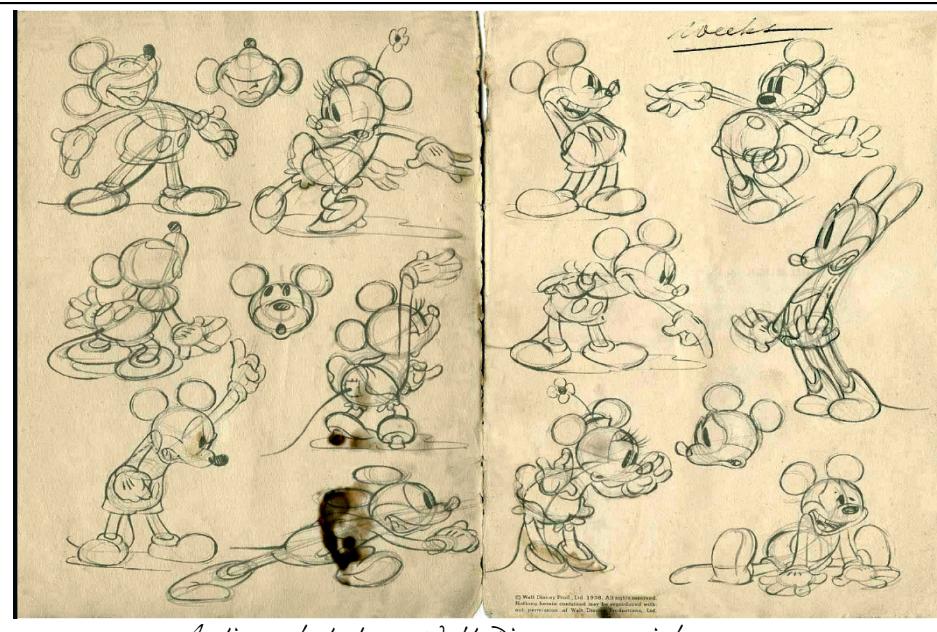
Direction refers to the implied movement of a line. Line weight (thickness) is used to suggest direction. For example, thicker lines suggest forward motion and shrinking suggests inward motion.



Alberto Giacometti, *Annette*, 1954, pencil on paper
And *Annette*, 1961, mixed media

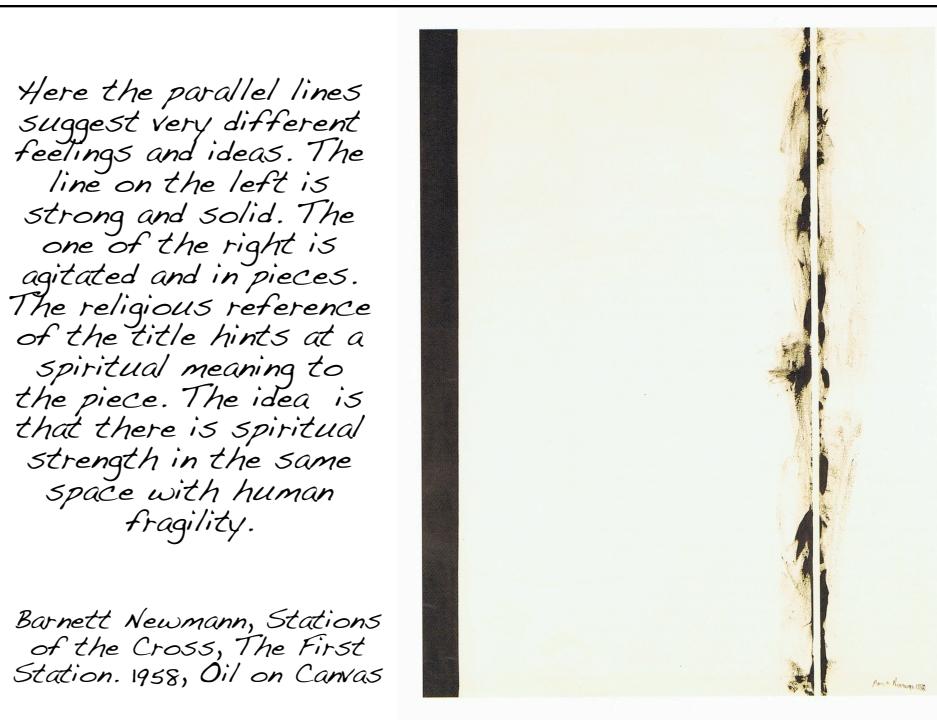


A match between line quality and expressive intent is very important.
Here the quick, scratchy, short lines suggest anxiety.

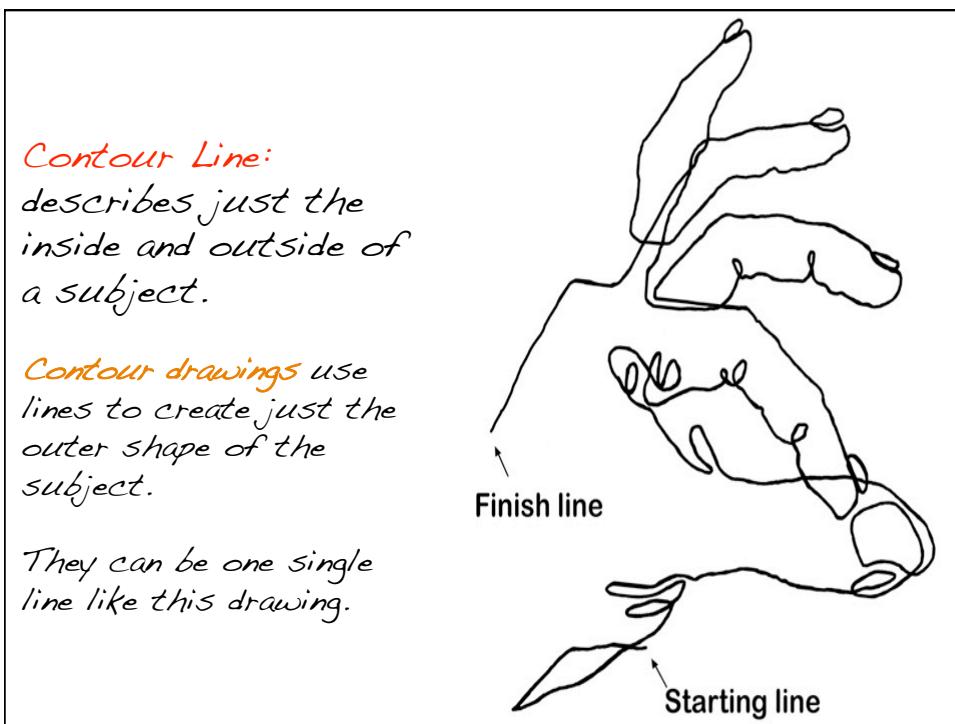
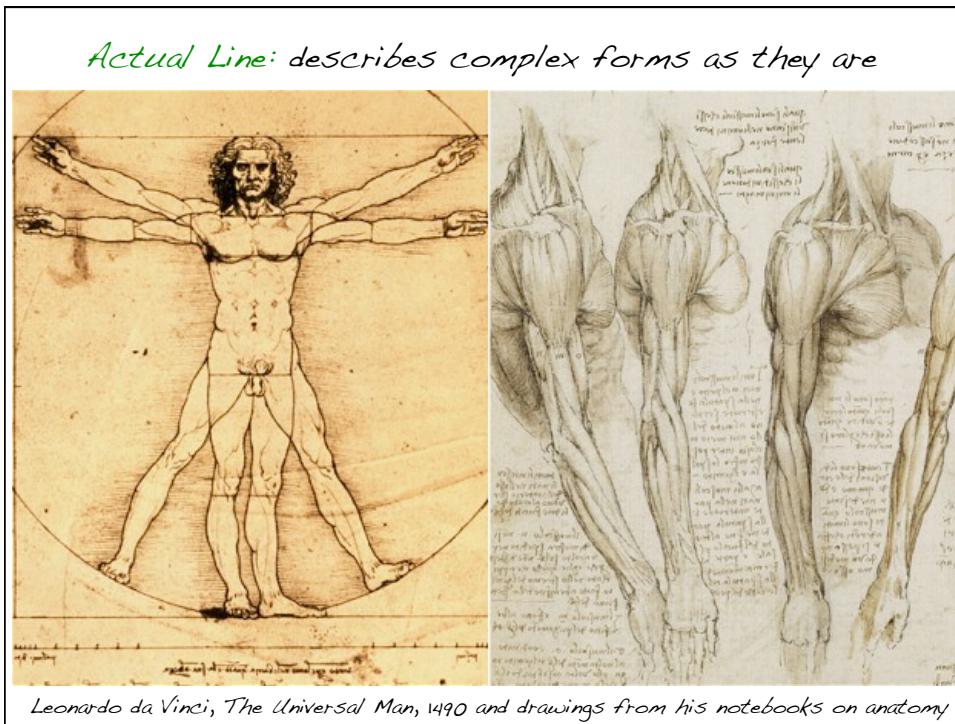


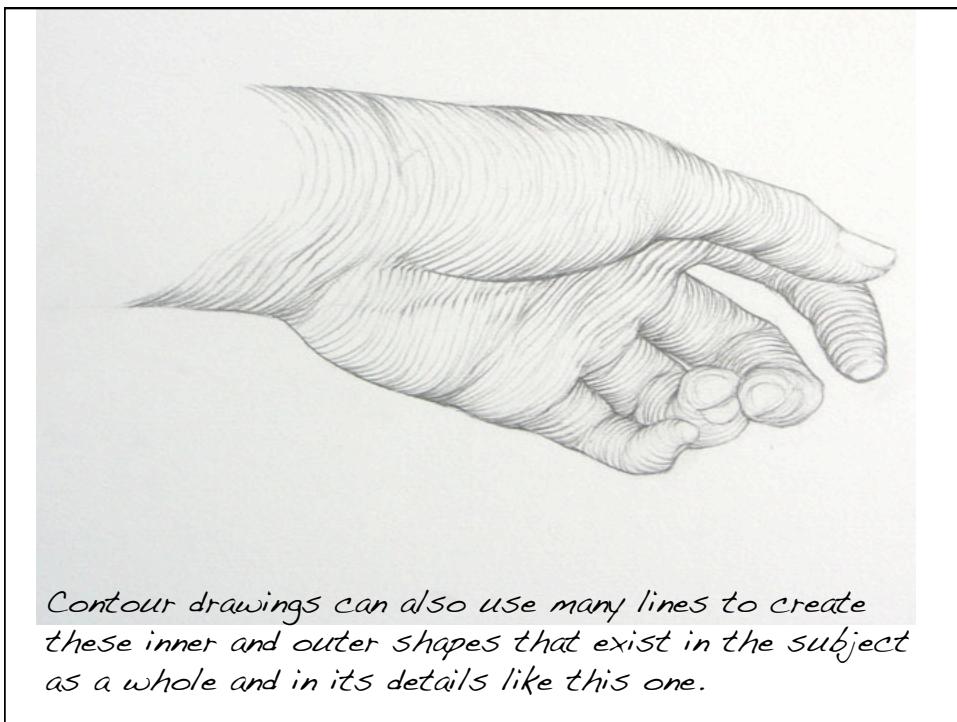
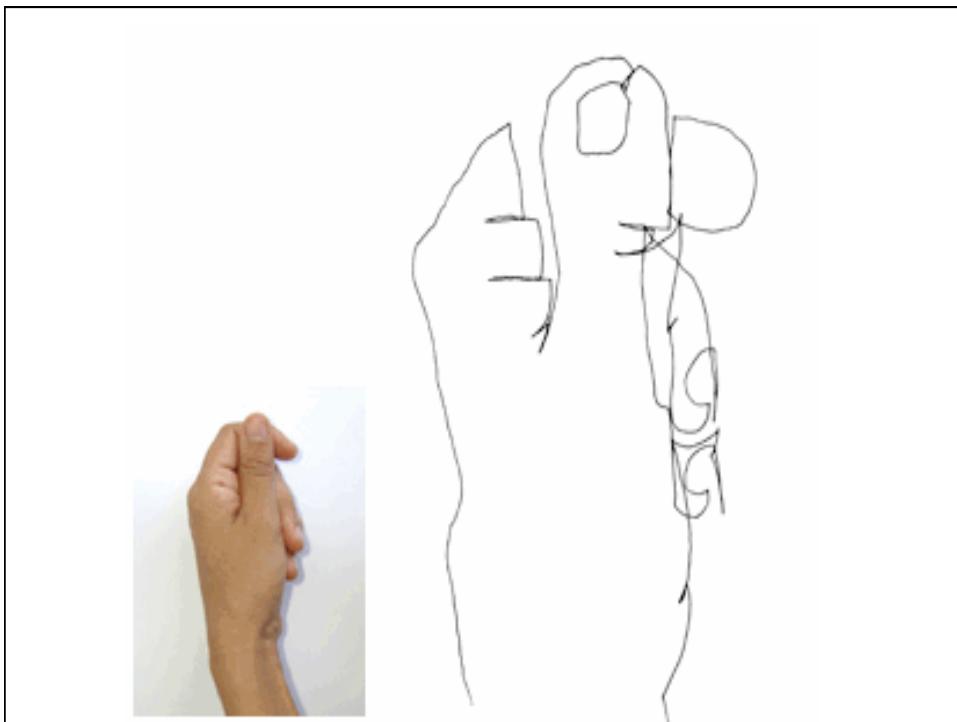
Action sketches, Walt Disney, 1938, ink on paper

More fluid lines suggest movement and energy.

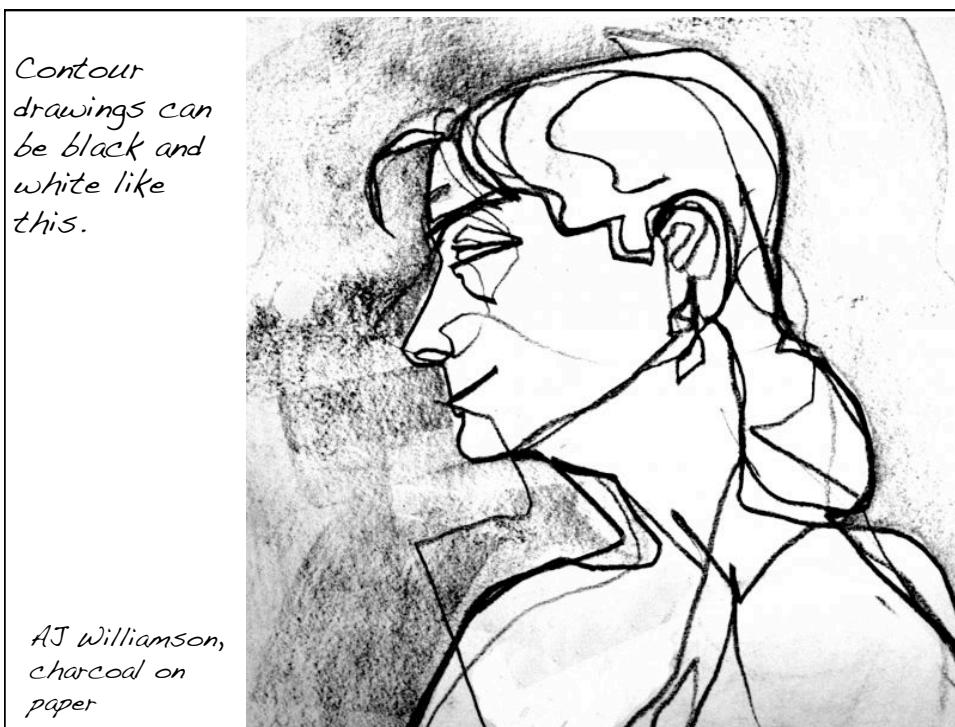


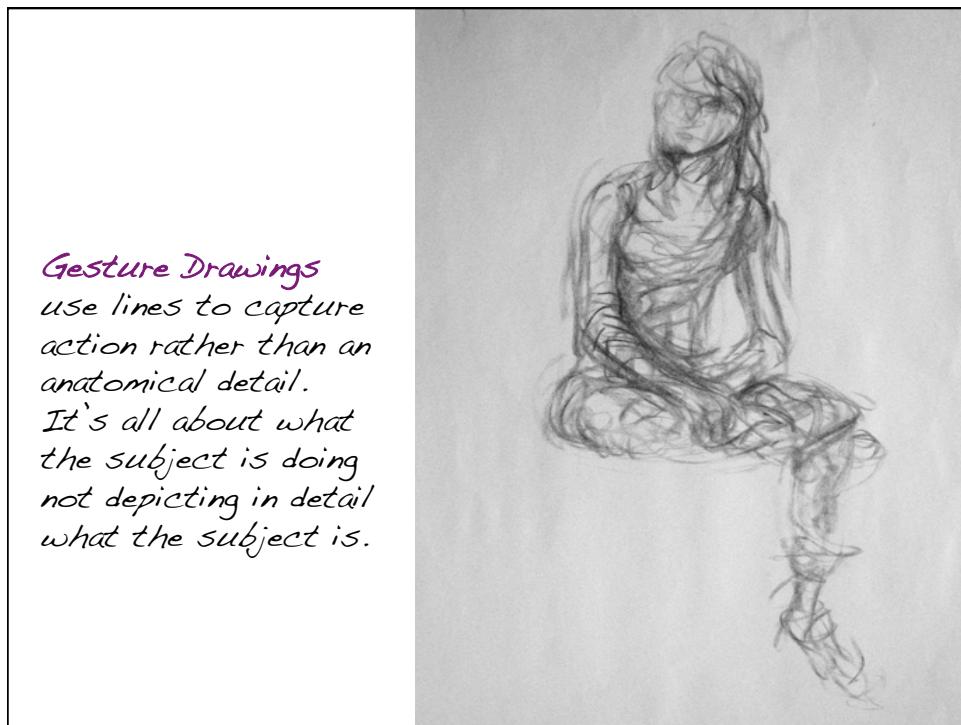
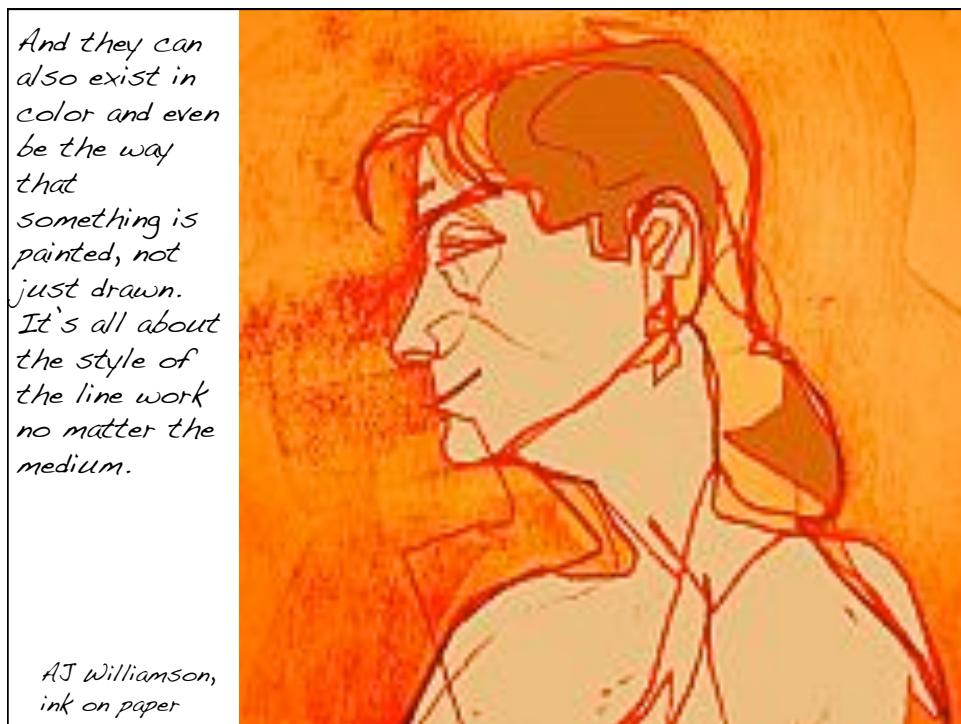
Barnett Newman, Stations of the Cross, The First Station. 1958, Oil on Canvas

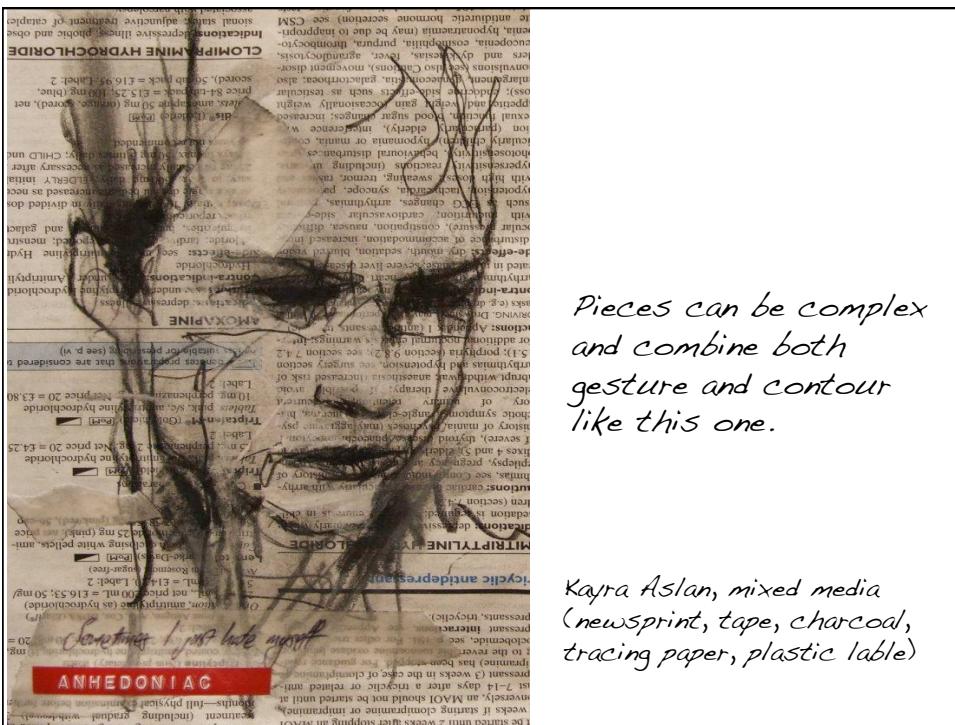
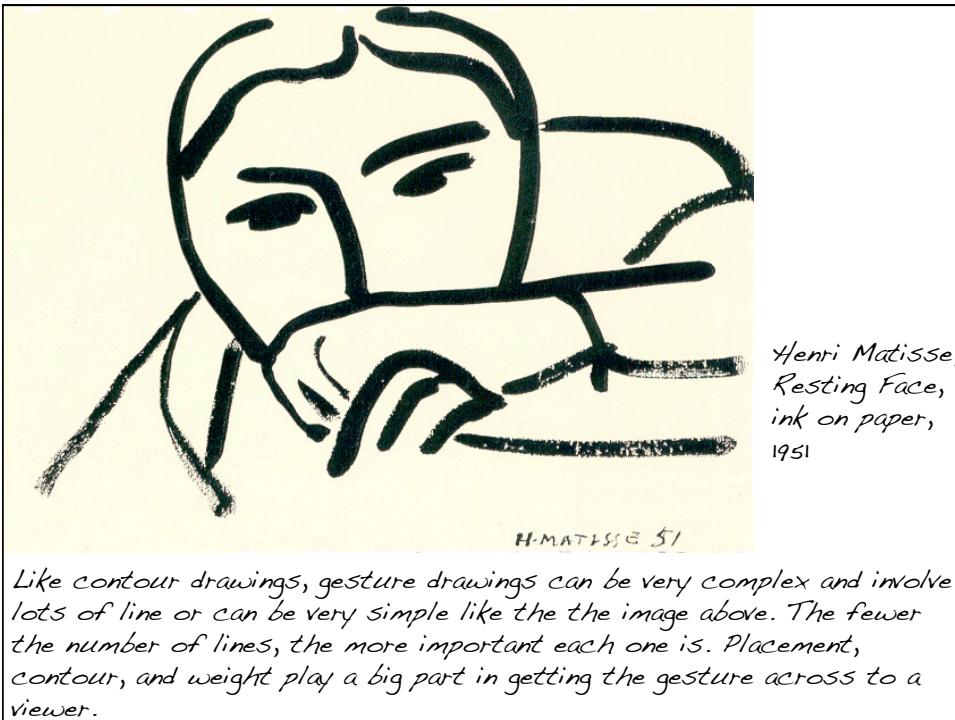




Contour drawings can also use many lines to create these inner and outer shapes that exist in the subject as a whole and in its details like this one.

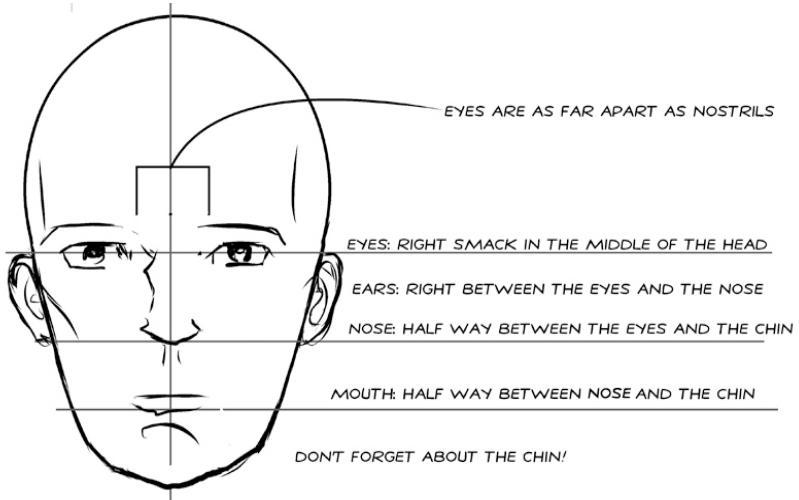






Organizational lines are very important to drawing and painting. They are a skeleton on which a more complex image can be built.

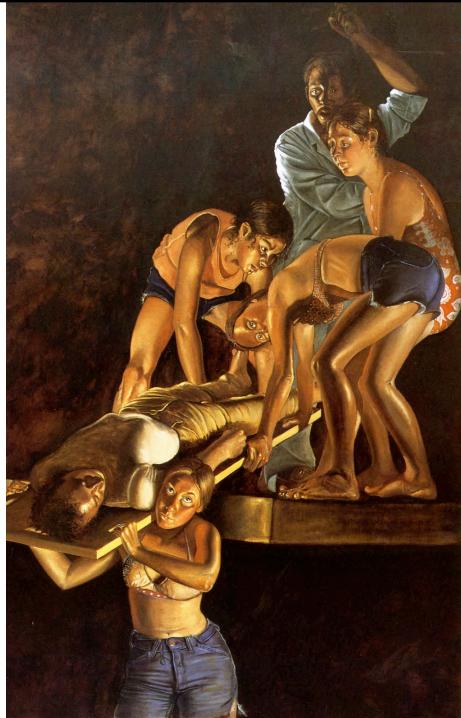
Bodies have specific proportions and when those proportions aren't followed, people don't look as we intend.



Organizational lines can often be seen in drawings until the artist removes them or uses other media to cover them. These lines are still present in how we view the piece.

If you look back at the drawings of Mickey Mouse, you will see the organizational lines in the drawings.

Alfred Leslie
The Killing Cycle #5
Loading Pier, 1975,
Oil on Canvas



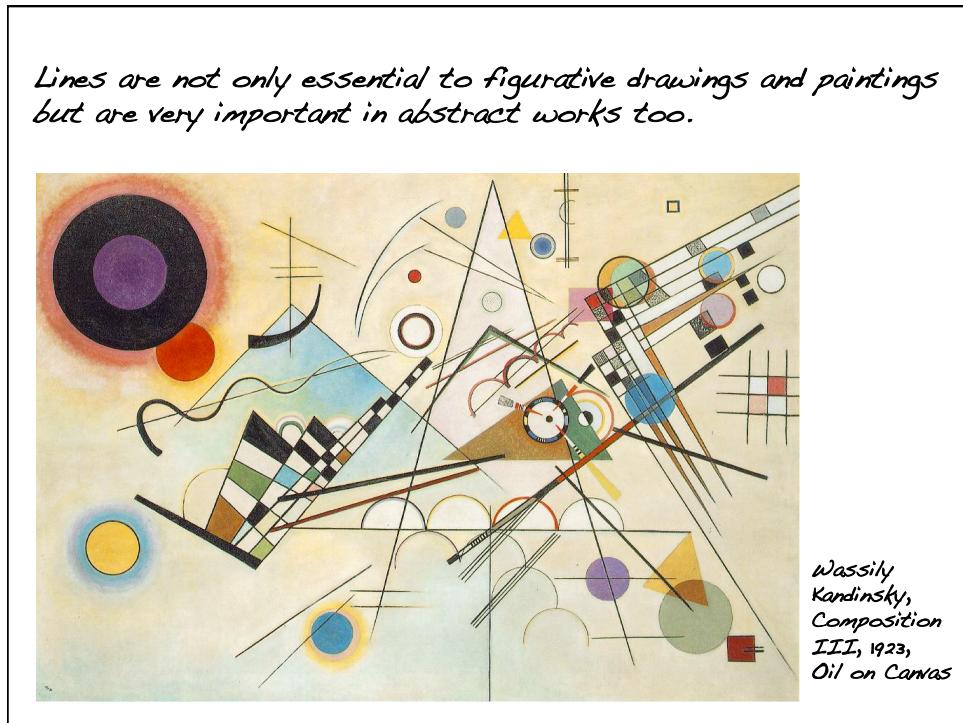
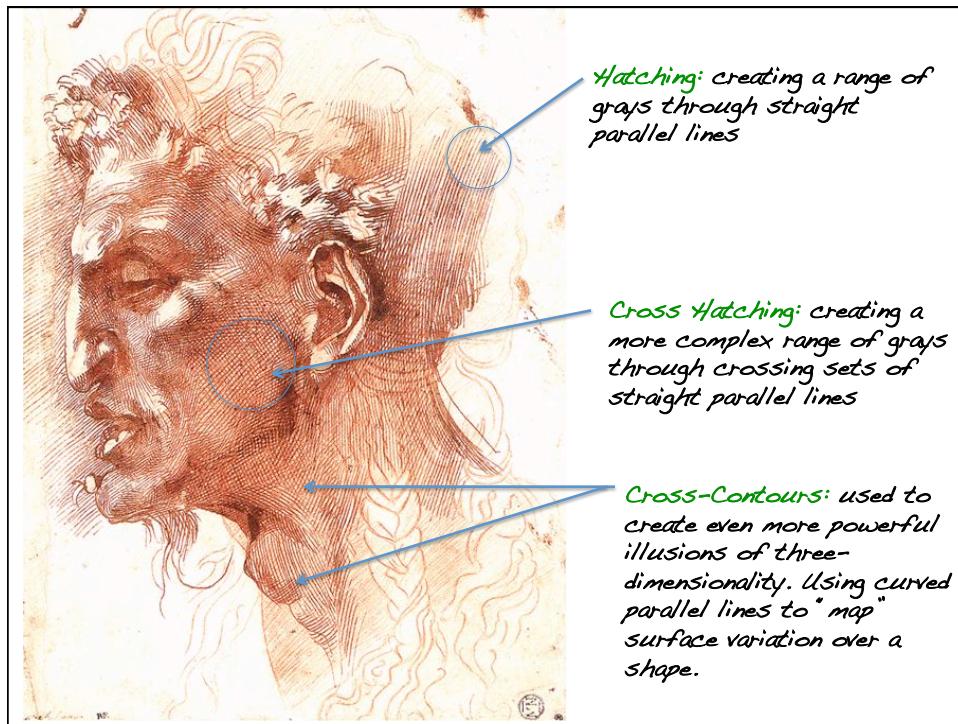
Here you can see where the organizational lines were as this painting was created.

We can also see how these lines meet and carry the eye through the painting.

Horizontal and vertical lines create stability and diagonals create movement.

How we use line can be complex, combine many techniques, and create shape, depth, and shadows and highlights.

Michaelangelo, Head of a Satyr, 1620, pen and ink over chalk





Lines are key in creating successful compositions in photography as well.

Charles Sheeler, Ford Production Plant Portfolio, 1930