

Second Sunday May 10

Draw Like an Artist: Inspired by the Diebenkorn Sketchbooks

*Sheltering at home provides a great opportunity for us to all draw on our familiar surroundings as a source of inspiration. **The sketchbooks of Bay Area artist Richard Diebenkorn are available on the website of the Cantor Arts Center.** In these sketchbooks Diebenkorn turns his artist's eye to the people who are closest to him both emotionally and physically.*

Today we will show examples of close-up family sketches, and how the process of keeping a sketchbook is not only a means for furthering great art but also a record of visual ideas freely expressed. These sketchbook drawings have a life of their own and allow us to take a small idea, set it free, and make it big.

*In celebration of Mothers' Day, let's honor our Moms (or anyone you know who is a mom) and show our appreciation by making her portrait. Mothers love all things handmade by their children. By studying **how** the famous artist Richard Diebenkorn made drawings of his wife Phyllis at home, we will learn a new way of seeing and recording previously unnoticed details in our own at-home worlds.*

Activity: Start your own Sketchbook

Find a picture of your mother and make a drawing of it in your own way. Remember it is your own special way of putting pencil to paper that makes your drawing special and unique.

Drawing from a picture can be a warm-up exercise for drawing from life. Drawing from life means that you are looking directly at a live person (or landscape or still life).

Why is it easier to draw from a photo?

- *The picture composition is laid out for you.*
- *Your subject or object is already translated from the 3D world into a flat form (2D) so that it is easier for your brain to translate the information.*
- *Seeing and selecting the lines or shapes that you want to emphasize is clearer.*

Diebenkorn made his sketches from life. He had lots of practice drawing people and objects, and his eye was well trained to observe and translate visual information into art.

Demonstration

Artists train their eyes and hands to work together as a team. Contour, blind contour, and gesture drawing are central to understanding the sketchbook drawings.

Here is what you will need:

- A picture of your Mom
- A copy of the picture made on a printer/copy machine (options: scan picture using a camera phone app and then print it, or if you choose not to use the printer, you can draw directly from the photograph as we do in the demo)
- Pencil, pen, or black marker
- Blank sheets of paper or a sketchbook

Tip: Share your artwork on social media with #SecondSunday or by tagging us with @cantorarts.