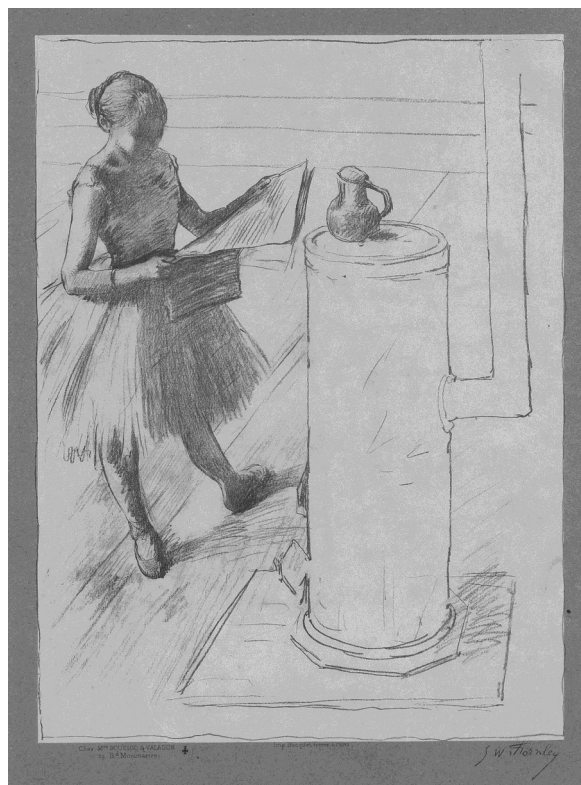


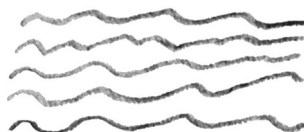
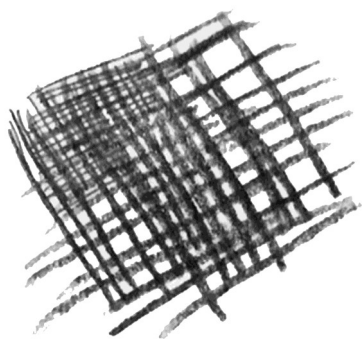
# Draw Like Degas

In 1855, French artist Jean Ingres (pronounced Ahng) advised a young student to “Draw lines, young man, and still more lines, both from life and from memory, and you will become a good artist.” The student was Edgar Degas (pronounced Day-gah), who followed Ingres’ advice and became famous for his drawings, paintings, and sculptures. Degas is probably best known for showing movement—especially dancers and race horses—and for portraits of people.

Many drawings begin with pencil lines, of course, to show what the artist sees. But a good artist uses more than just simple lines. He or she can create the feel of motion by making some lines long and wavy, others short and choppy. Adding shading with dots, smudges or crisscrossed lines can cause the drawing to have depth or fullness, looking almost 3D. Look at the drawing of a dancer by the stove created by Degas and a friend. Can you spot his use of these different kinds of lines? Degas used all these tricks to bring great life to his artwork, creating images that people love to look at even after a hundred years!



Above: Edgar Degas (French, 1834–1917) and Georges William Thornley (French, 1857–1935), *Danseuse près de la poêle*, ca. 1888–1889. Lithograph with chine appliqué on thin wove paper applied to greenish-blue paper. 12 7/8 x 9 3/4 in.



*Draw something simple, like a house,  
a flower or a face.*

*Add interest to your drawing like this:*

Try shading with dots or crisscrosses.  
Draw some lines sharp and thin or thick and smudgy.  
Use straight lines and wavy lines.

How does your drawing change when you use different pencils—soft, hard, or even color leads?

*Don't forget Ingres' advice.*

*Keep practicing, and even if you're never as  
famous as Degas, you're sure to become a better  
artist than when you started!*

