Contour drawings is an artistic technique in which the artist sketches the style and movement of a subject by drawing lines that result in essentially an outline. It is an important skill for artists because it is a foundation for any drawing or painting.

*Circus Horse* is one example of a contour drawing. Create by Alexander Calder in 1945, when he was better known for his abstract sculptures. Yet he remained fascinated by the circus themes that first attracted him in the 1920s. Horses were among the artist's favorite animal subjects, and he gave them form in drawings, wire sculpture, and even wooden toys.

You can learn more about Calder and his work in the Currier collection [here](#).

---


**Activity**: Blind Contour Drawing is a way to train the eye to draw what it really sees rather than what it thinks it sees.

**Materials**:
- Pencils
- Paper
- Something to draw. This can be everyday Objects (shoes, plants, desks, pencils, , etc.), people, a pet, or the landscape in front of you.

**Directions**:
1. Choose an object to draw
2. Pick a point on the object where the eye can begin to SLOWLY follow along the contour or edge of the object.
3. When the eye begins to move, so should the hand holding the pencil. At no time should you look at your hand as it draws. Try drawing the entire contour of the object without lifting your pencil form the paper.

**Tips**:
- When you are done you can add color to your drawing.
- Can’t help yourself and keep looking? Try poking your pencil through a paper plate before you draw so the plat acts as a visual barrier.
- Practice, practice, practice and have fun.

---

Share your creations with us on Social Media!
Follow us @curriermuseum on Instagram and follow us on Facebook, #MuseumFromHome #CMA #CurrierMuseumOfArt #CurrierMuseum #MuseumAtHome #KeepMakingArt
Some examples of blind contour drawings from Currier Staff (Top: Lauren Steele, Middle: Lynn Thomson, Bottom: Corie Lyford)

Share your creations with us on Social Media!
Follow us @curriermuseum on Instagram and follow us on Facebook, #MuseumFromHome #CMA #CurrierMuseumOfArt #CurrierMuseum #MuseumAtHome #KeepMakingArt