

## Drawing the Figure

Richard Corral, Gluck Fellow in Art

The goal is to loosen up and draw a figure that moves beyond the stick figure. First the students should warm up by only drawing circles, covering up half or a whole page of only circles. They will draw fast. The point is to draw with the whole arm and not just move our fingers. Ask the students to start by making small circles, then as they make bigger circles their wrist should move, and then their whole arm from the shoulder.

Step one: Start with the three circle snowman shape. Or, call it the three circle technique to not have the students draw an actual snowman.

Step two: Center line and direction. This is to get the students thinking about the circle as not being a flat pancake but see it as a three dimensional sphere. Tell them to see the line starting at the first axis point and moving down to the bottom axis point, the whole time let the line curve around the sphere.

Step three: Bulk up the shoulders and bean shape. Now the students need to draw three circles, one smaller one for the head and two for the body leaving a small gap for the neck. Tell them to think of the body as a bean shape that can bend and twist, these should also have a center line. Also the three circles do not have to point in the same direction. The final step should be to bulk up the shoulders, think of it as two rounded triangles on the top side of the bean body.

Step four: Constellation arms and legs. Now without making the limbs thick, draw dots one for the shoulder, elbow and wrist. For the leg start at the hip, to knee, and ankle. Connect the dots with a line, this line might be the center line or side of the limbs.

Step five: Bulk up the limbs by drawing lines on both sides of the center 'constellation' line to thicken them up. Keep in mind that the limbs general start out thick near the body and gradually get thinner towards the extremities. Keep the hands and feet simple. Hands can be simple ovals and feet can be triangles.

