

Today's challenge from Sam Hale



Cats and Dogs

You will need:

- A4 paper.
- A pen or pencil.
- B pencils or charcoal.
- A printed sheet of paper (not too small) such as a page from a book, a map, sheet of newspaper.

Warm up:

- Place your non-dominant hand on a sheet of A4 paper.
- Holding your pencil in your drawing hand, place the tip on the paper next to your wrist, below your little finger.
- Close your eyes, or take off your glasses, and soften your gaze.
- Begin to slowly draw around your hand.
- Be mindful of your breath and the feel of the pencil next to your hand.
- When you get to the base of your thumb, turn around and come back in the other direction.
- Keep going until you have drawn around your hand 3 or 4 times.
- When you're ready open your eyes and carefully looking at your hand, add whatever detail you choose.
- How many dogs or cats has this hand stroked?

During today's task I would like you to keep your pen or pencil moving at all times. If you need to stop to think, come back to your hand drawing and add wrinkles, pattern or detail, until you are ready to go back to the other task.

Cats or Dogs (or another animal of your choice)

- If you made a list of all the dogs or cats you have ever known, how many would there be?
- Write them all down on piece of paper and number as you go.
- Fold a sheet of paper into 16.
- In each box, write the name of a dog or cat that you have known. They can be alive or dead and can have belonged to you, someone you have known, or they may have barked at you as you passed their house.

- Write down what you can remember about them. Are they becoming more real as you think about them.?
- If you don't know their names add what you think of as their name. (There is a dog that regularly scares me when I'm out running; I call him "garage dog" and have only ever glimpsed him through a fence.)
- Circle the ones that are becoming most vivid.

Now choose one.

- Picture yourself with them, at a specific moment in time.

Answer these questions:

- Where are you?
- What's the season?
- What's the weather like?
- Who's with you?
- What's behind you? In front, just out of view, above?
- How do you feel in that moment?
- How does the dog/cat feel?

Time to draw

Working on your printed paper and working from memory:

- Draw the dog/cat in the scene that you've recalled.
- Decide whether or not to include yourself?
- Aim to create a specific moment in time.
- Use your dark pencils to make a drawing which is strong enough to win in the competition with the printed paper.
- Add a narrative if that works for you...

For inspiration:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/john-cat-n05154>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/warhol-foot-with-cat-ar00259>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/hilton-two-dogs-t11746>

<https://www.instagram.com/mingdenasty/>

<https://collections.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/collections/1260/animals-and-birds/objects>

This tranquil scene depicts a man reading quietly, while his cat slumbers at his side. Although common today, the idea of the pet was comparatively new in the nineteenth-century. Artists set out to reinterpret animals traditionally seen as vicious and brutal. Here, the cat appears as a peaceful, even spiritual, companion.



Sunday Afternoon

Edward Thompson Davis (1833 - 67)

Oil on canvas

c. 1850 - 67

Wolverhampton Arts and Museums

It is the morning of St Valentine's Day. A young, wealthy lady reads her love letters and proudly looks in the mirror, enjoying her youth and beauty. She is accompanied by her pet dog, who eats a discarded note; perhaps written by an unlucky suitor.



St. Valentine's Morning

John Calcott Horsley (1817 - 1903)

Oil on canvas

1863

Wolverhampton Arts and Museums

Please click on this link for more details about Still Lively:

<https://www.creativehealthcic.co.uk/older-people/>