sketching is seeing
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
SKETCHING IS SEEING
WELCOME

to the National Gallery of Art

Everyone can draw! Maybe you’re an artist, or maybe you haven’t drawn since you were a child. Sketching is a way to look more closely and notice details. Take a moment, relax, and observe the world around you. Use this sketchbook to draw what you see.

Visitors of all ages welcome; no experience is needed.

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

The Gallery is located near several Metrorail stops: Archives–Navy Memorial–Penn Quarter (Green and Yellow Lines), Judiciary Square (Red Line), and L’Enfant Plaza (Blue, Orange, and Silver Lines). Metrobuses stop on 4th Street, 7th Street, and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Gallery Hours
Monday–Saturday: 10:00 am–5:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am–6:00 pm

Visit nga.gov/community for more information about Sketching Is Seeing.

All images in this booklet are details from paintings and sculptures in the National Gallery of Art collection.
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**Daily in October | All Day | Sketching Is Seeing**
Throughout the month of October, pick up a sketchbook and pencil at any Information Desk and go on a sketching adventure.

**Oct 5 & 12 | 11:00 am, noon, 1:00 pm | Mindful Sketching**
West Building Rotunda

**Oct 19 & 26 | 11:00 am, noon, 1:00 pm | Mindful Sketching**
East Building, Ground Level

Visit the National Gallery of Art for a 45-minute sketching experience. Take Five Meditation will guide participants through a series of exercises that combine close looking and mark-making with basic meditative techniques.

**October 14 | noon–4:00 pm | Drop-in Drawing**
Education Studio, Concourse

Participate in the process of art-making. Drop by the Education Studio on the Concourse to experiment, create, and collaborate.

**October 27–28 | 11:00 am–5:00 pm | The Big Draw Festival**
West Building and East Building

Join us for the world’s largest drawing festival! This museum-wide celebration of drawing includes a Sketching Lab, in-gallery sessions with teaching artists, live models, music, and film. Learn more about the International Big Draw Festival at [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org).
EMOTIONAL MARK-MAKING

Think about how lines suggest ideas, emotions, and movement. Draw what might represent a quiet line, an angry line, and a dancing line. Draw gentle, cold, calm, and screeching lines. What other kinds of lines might you draw?

Take a line for a walk: Find a starting point on your paper and begin drawing. Let your line wander freely around the page for one minute, then return your line to the starting point.
STILL-LIFE PAINTING

Composition

Composition is the arrangement of visual elements in the painting. Choose a still-life painting and make a rough sketch of its composition. As you draw, look for vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines, as well as geometric shapes.
LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS

Perspective

Choose a landscape painting that you could imagine entering. Sketch one or two details. Consider the relationship of objects in space as you sketch. Continue to add details as you notice them.
PORTRAIT PAINTINGS

Expression

Select a portrait of someone you find intriguing. Sketch the features that most strongly convey that person’s individuality.
SCULPTURES

Gesture

Gesture drawing offers a way to study the human figure in motion. Choose a figural sculpture that conveys a sense of movement. As you sketch, start with the largest. Try doing a few quick sketches from different angles.