

THEY DON'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES ON!!!! AAAAAAAAAAH!

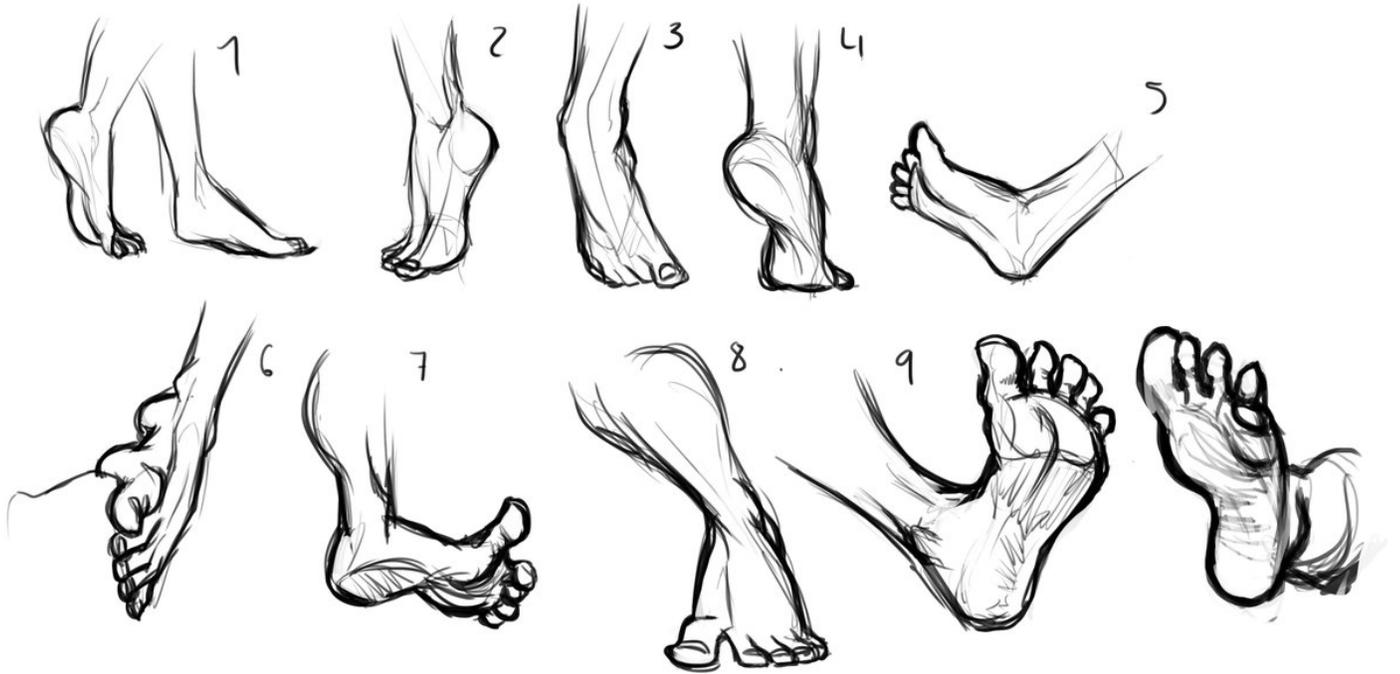
(created by P. Hesse)

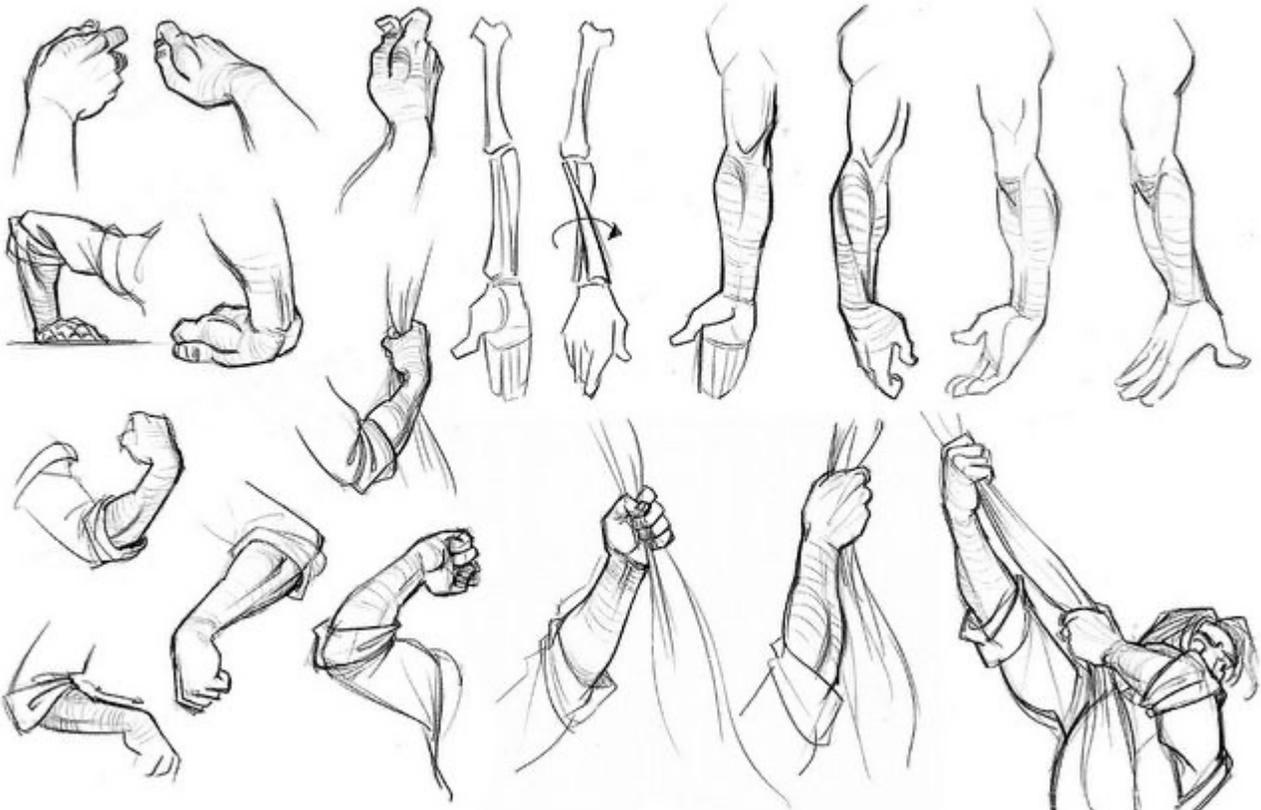
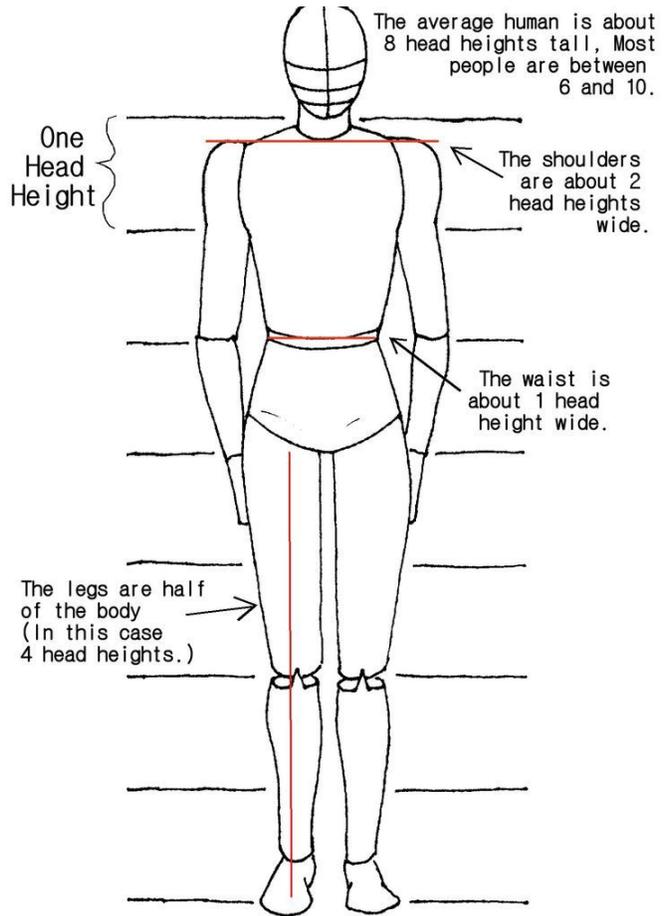
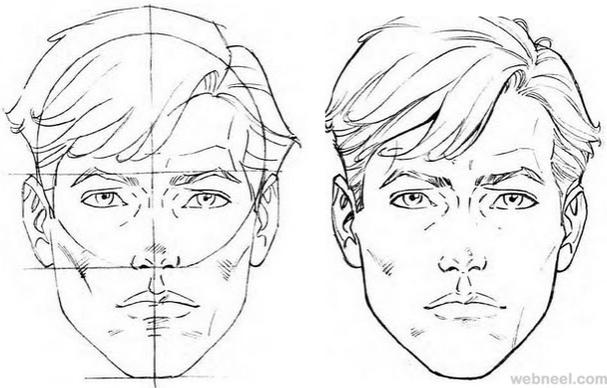
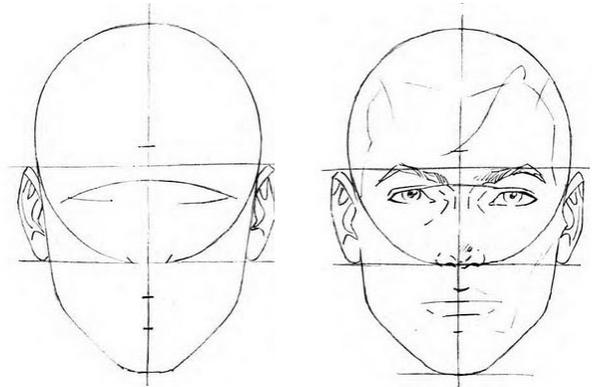
PART 1: WELL, THIS IS EMBARRASSING!

Artists say that the most difficult thing to draw or paint are “figures” --what we call the human body. When most of us draw, we draw a dress or pants and a shirt on the body, because --well, people need clothes on! --BUT, it is easier to do that than trying to make the legs look like real legs. It is hard to make hands and a face look real --something we really aren't good at, at all. Truthfully, most of the art we make of people looks more like cartoons, doesn't it?

The human body (*what artists call the figure*) is truthfully one of the greatest challenges an artist will ever face. Imagine painting or sculpting out of marble: skin, the blood veins on hands, muscles, skeletal structure, posture, and get them all in the right proportion, as well as trying to communicate an idea!

LOOK at the detail and many different positions of the body and the math involved in getting the correct "proportions" in these drawings.

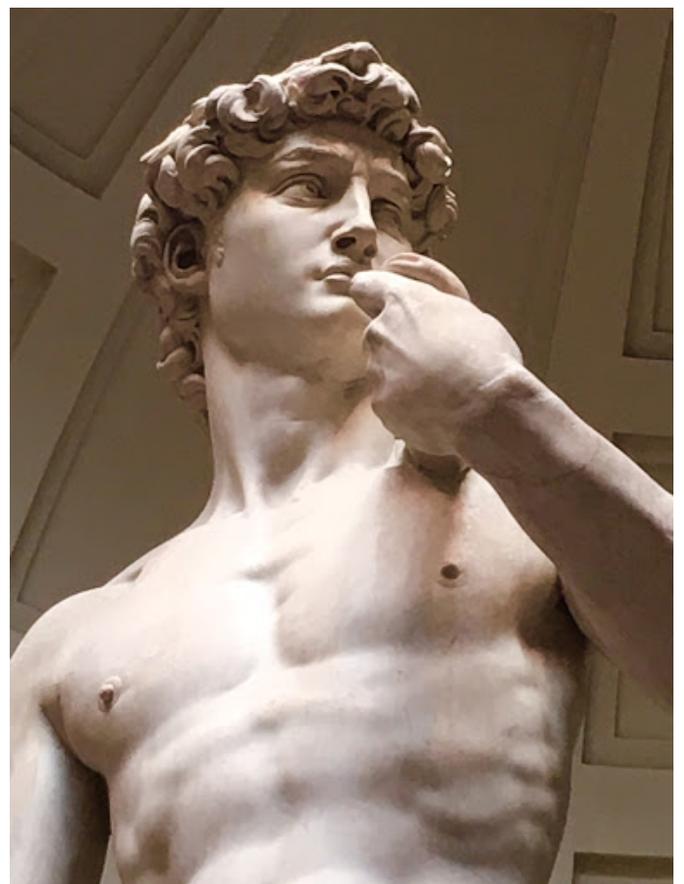




Art museums are places created for showing the work of famous artists. These artists all began drawing people when they were your age. Their drawings of people, even when they were children, might have been somewhat better than yours, but over the years and with a LOTS of practice, the world's best artists became skilled enough to draw the human body --the greatest of all challenges for the artist.

Museums have paintings of flowers, animals, abstract art, and sculpture of many different things, and this includes nudes. Micheangelo's marble sculpture was mostly of nudes. Imagine how hard it was to do this! Clothing and gloves would have made it easier!

Kids are always welcomed and encouraged to go to art museums. In fact, art museums all have programs to help kids



appreciate art and to even make art of their own. They love to have you come, but an art museum is not like Sesame Street or Disney World. When you go to art museums, you see adult things portrayed in art; things like war, death, and yes, nudes! I know that looking at nudes can be really embarrassing --put some spiderman underwear on that guy! (ha) But when you visit art museums --even Crystal Bridges --you will see nudes. Why? Because paintings and sculpture of nudes are the hardest of all things to do, and the artist is proving he can successfully DO IT, bringing his/her figures to life!

One more thing... why are so many nudes --especially the women --kinda pudgy? Believe it or not, a long time ago, plump was in! No one wanted to be skinny. Today, they look to us like they have eaten too much ice cream and cookies, but not then. You never saw a painting of a skinny or what we, today, call "normal" size woman.

Curves and lots of curves,
were in! I LIKE THAT! He,
he, he. (Miss Hesse couldn't
resist that one!)

...keep going



PART 2 (on NUDES in churches!)

Did you know that many historical cathedrals in Europe and even in our own country, have lots of nudes in sculpture and in paintings and mosaics. They do! The reason is that when God created man and woman, they were perfect. They weren't born wearing a nightie and neither were we! All that came later.

Almost everything Michelangelo and other artists created during that time period was for churches. The idea of showing man without anything on was to remind worshippers that all of us, regardless of whether we are royalty or a beggar, are



simple human beings. That we are all the same. One time Micheangelo was asked by the Pope why many of his paintings on the ceiling were nudes, and he replied, “I will paint man as God made him, in the glory of his nakedness.”

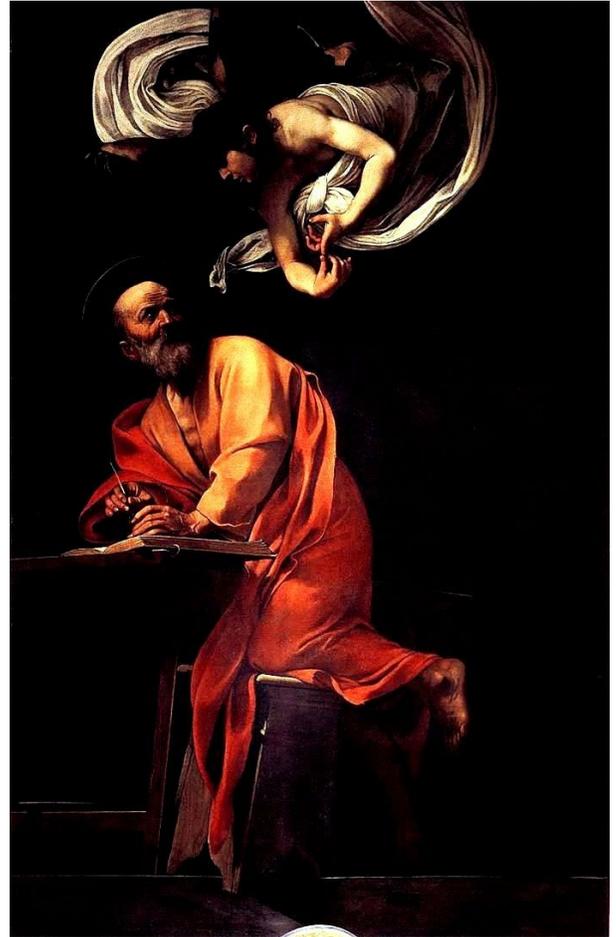
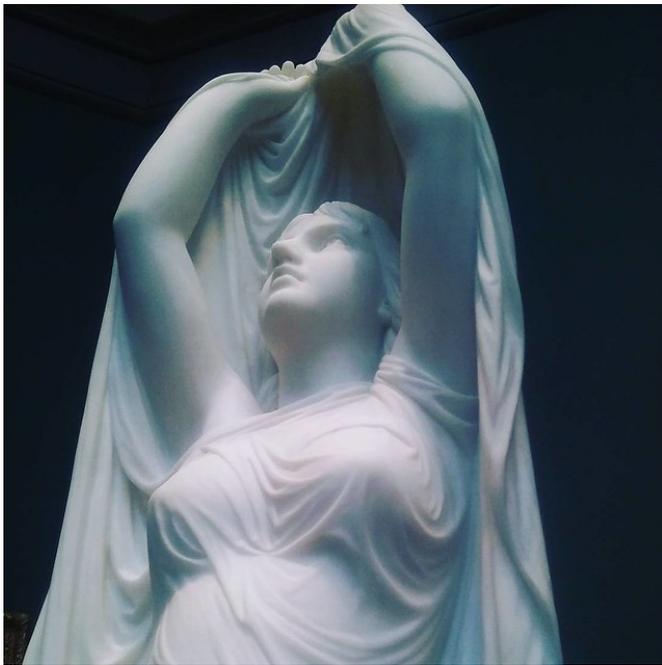
(image above of Sistine Chapel -- closeup below of God creating man. All by Micheangelo)



PART 3

DRAWING & PAINTING NUDES HELPS ART WITH CLOTHING LOOK MORE

NATURAL: For an artist to paint or sculpt a person in clothes he/she needs to understand the bones, muscles, and joints that are underneath. Drawing the nude figure is the only way an artist can learn to do this. While our drawings of people with clothes look --again --kinda cartoony, take a look at



these! They look real. All because the artists were good at creating the human body.

Quote from Michelangelo: “What spirit is so empty and blind, that it cannot recognize the fact that the foot is more noble than the shoe, and skin more beautiful than the garment with which it is clothed?”