

The Mark of Humanity

We cannot rely solely on the mind to comprehend the tangible sensibilities of the space we inhabit. There comes a time in learning where the *rudimentary* and the *basic* become key elements for transcending experiential knowledge into a conceptual framework. The observational act of drawing assists in developing a critical mind, and utilizing the human figure as subject matter provides a necessary constant that is measurable and quantifiable. However, the *body* also houses the intellect and is therefore simultaneously enigmatic.

Drawing embodies a duality of both literal and conceptual. The body, through practical, repetitive application retains muscle memory and thus moves from the concrete toward a complex, fluid rationale—less about the mechanics. Consider a child learning to ride a bike, the initial concern for the learner lies in understanding and conquering the skills necessary for controlling and manipulating the machine, but once this has been accomplished, the concrete, technical is secondary; the expanded world, freedom to move about becomes the objective. The philosophical is awakened. But the machine remains relevant and necessary for maintaining independence.

To some the practice of drawing from observation, especially the model, is considered archaic, relegated to the technician and not the *Artist*. This argument continues to exist and truly cannot be won through a simple act of writing and espousing the merits for drawing, observing and interpreting the physical, material aspects of humanity. In society, closed-mindedness, ignorance can occur at all socio-economic and intellectual levels, and closing off one vital aspect of *art* narrows and restrains the dynamic visual culture dialogue. Additionally, art history chronicles the cyclical and fickle nature of art. Drawing and observational processes continually holdfast and withstand vilification. One can only hope that liberal minded, informed individuals grasp drawing as a philosophical mode of transportation—the mark of humanity.

Written by L.A. Bryson

Copyright protected 2017