

WHEN THE WORLD BECAME QUIET

Drawing animals with artist Tim Ridley.
PDF Guide + video links

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DRAWING ANIMALS WITH ARTIST TIM RIDLEY

Tim Ridley makes work that investigates the relationships between animals and humans.

During the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic as humans withdrew from the world animals became emboldened by the lockdown. News reports and social media gave us images of all kinds of creatures venturing into cities and towns the world over.

Some came in search of food but many were drawn in by the quiet, the lack of cars and buses, people and machinery. Many seemed to delight in their new freedom, behaving playfully in the new spaces.

In this series of activities, you will experiment using a continuous line to make drawings of animals from reference images.

Many artists use images from reference books or the internet in the research of their paintings, drawings and sculpture.

In this series of activities, you will experiment using a continuous line to make drawings of animals from reference images.



You will need:

- Sheets of plain paper, several different sizes
- Pencil
- Biro
- Images of animals you want to draw



https://youtu.be/d_gWv18JMMk

Tim's Top Tip:

Don't be fixated on the end result, art is a process, a journey, each drawing feeds into the next.

EXERCISE ONE:

Start with the face.

Collect together a selection of different animals faces.

Black and white photos are easier to draw from than colour as the monotone makes the image clearer.

Select a piece of paper large enough to fit several animal faces on.

Place your pencil on the paper and with one continuous line, draw your first animal.

For your next face, start from a different point and repeat the process. Add two or more faces until your page is full.



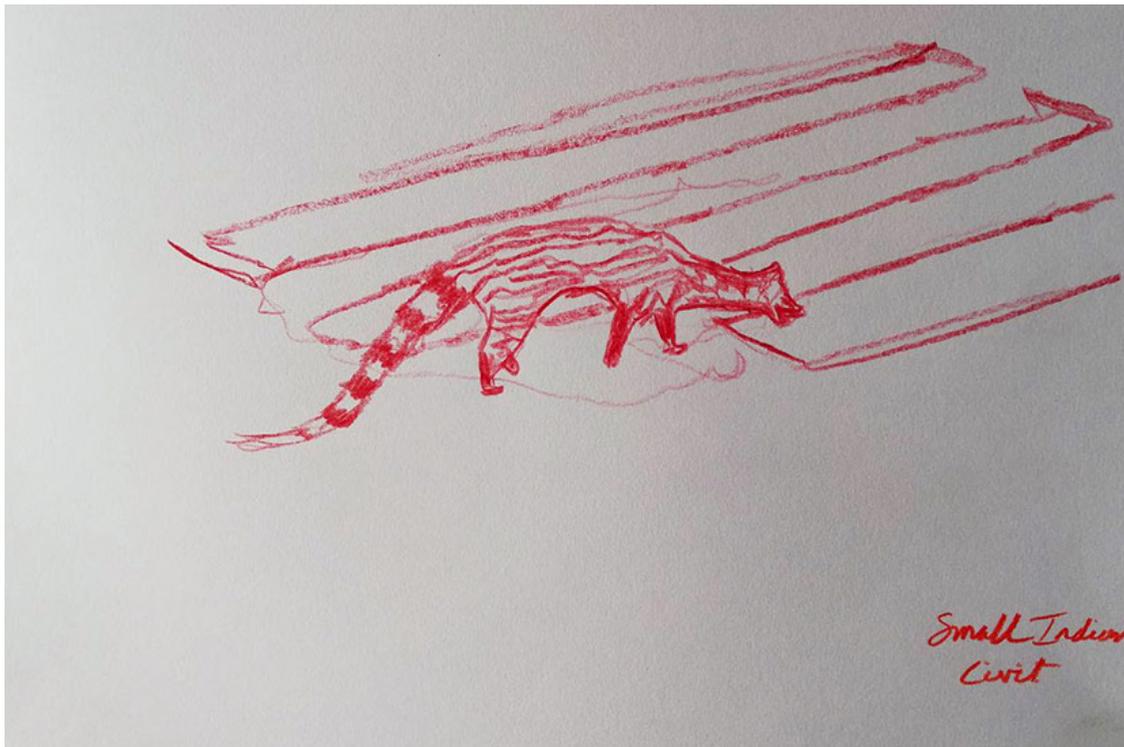
How did you find that?

Where on the face did you start?

Which was the easiest point to start from?

Which sketch do you like best?

Why?



EXTENSION 1:

Experiment with different pencil grades and with holding the pencil at different angles.

EXERCISE TWO:

This time you're going to draw a whole animal on a single sheet of paper.

With a pencil using the same single line technique make an exploration of the shape of the animal's body.

Where will you start this time?

<https://youtu.be/1oAvrBX6rss>



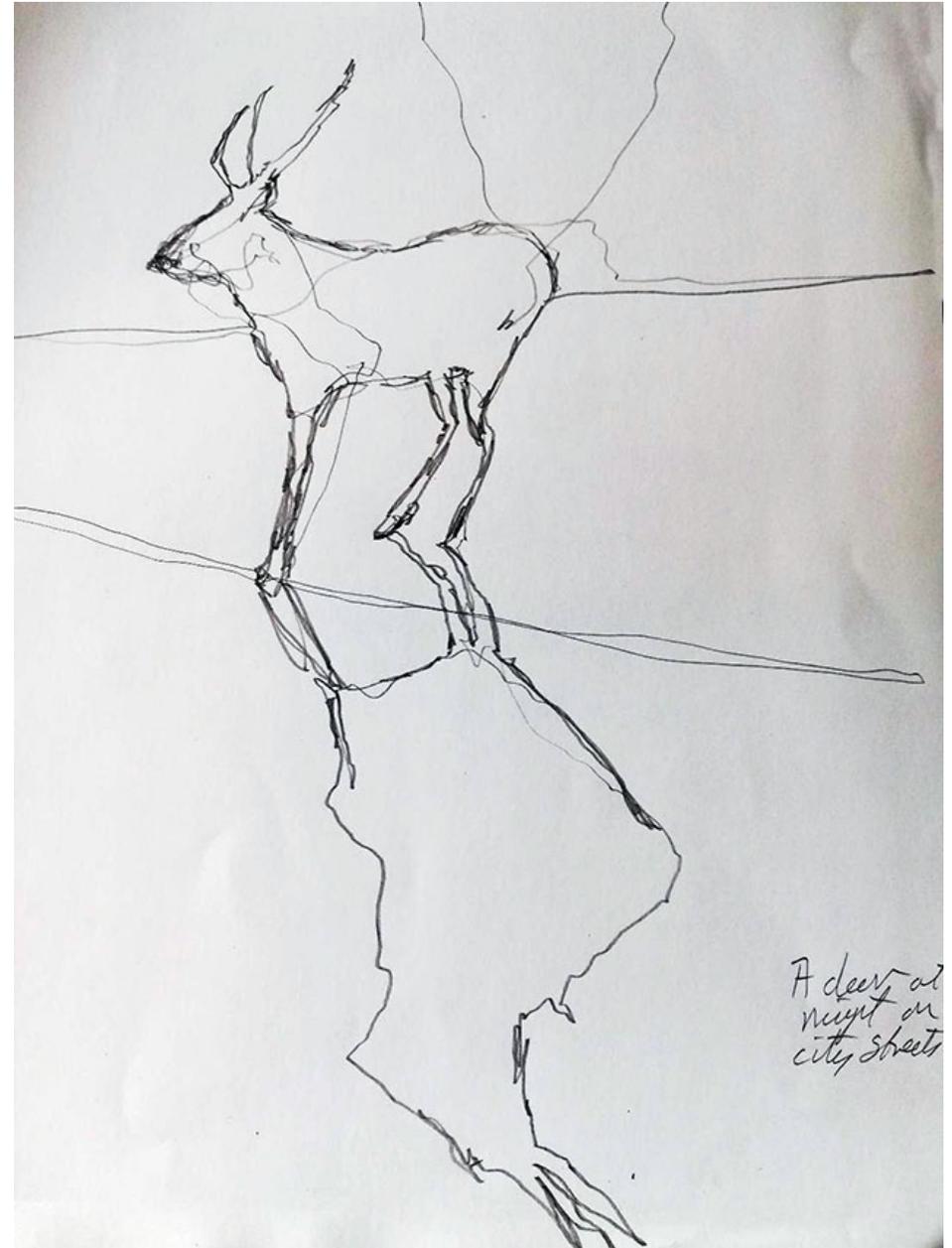
Tim's Top Tip:
Don't try for perfection, enjoy the process, an expressive and energetic drawing is always better than a dull very accurate copy.

EXERCISE THREE:

Choose another animal and this time use a biro to make your continuous line drawing.

Where will you start this time?

Tim's Top Tip:
Bring something of you to the drawing, a quirk, a mistake, strange shading or distortion can be great!



TO END

Compare your pencil drawing with your biro drawing – which do you like the best?

Biros are great to draw with as they give a thin, consistent line but they can also be unforgiving as every line is permanent.

EXTENSION 2:

Cut one of your animals out and on a separate piece of paper create a range of backgrounds for it from its natural habitat to a cityscape.

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If you are on social media, feel free to share your work and tag us: @newlynexchange on Twitter and Instagram #ChildrensArtWeek
www.newlynartgallery.co.uk

We hope you have enjoyed these exercises and join again for the next workshop!

