Figure Drawing

Learning how to draw the human figure
Proportion: The size and relationship to its whole part

- A person's proportions are measured by the size of his/her head, so the "head's length" is the unit of measurement in drawing the human figure.

- The average height is 7 1/2 heads but this may vary depending on race, sex, and age.
Basic measurements

- Adult & Teen 7 to 8 heads tall
- Child 6 to 6 1/2 heads tall
- Baby 3 to 3 1/2 heads tall

In fashion, artists use 9 to 10 heads tall.
Measurements by Age/Gender

VERY GENERAL AVERAGE PROPORTIONS
USE AS A ROUGH GUIDE ONLY

- INFANT
- 4 HEADS HIGH

- 6 YEARS
- 6 HEADS HIGH

- 12 YEARS
- 6 1/2 HEADS HIGH

- ADULT FEMALE
- 7 1/2 HEADS HIGH

- ADULT MALE
- 7 1/2 HEADS HIGH

FASHION CROQUIS

- Head 1
- Head 2
- Head 3
- Head 4
- Shoulder
- Neck
- Elbow
- Wrist
- Hand
- Ankle
- Feet without heels
- Heels
There are several helpful methods for the process of figure drawing. Each method breaks down the figure into easy stages building the figure one piece at a time.

Four techniques or methods:

1. Head/Module Measurement
2. Wire Frame
3. Shapes Construction
4. Form/Manikin Construction
1. Head or Module Measurement

IDEAL PROPORTION AT VARIOUS AGES
2. Wire Frame
3. Shapes Construction
4. Form/Manikin Construction
Checks and Balances

- Draw what you see not what you think something looks like.
- Get the proportions right.
- Break down your subject into sections.
- Check relationships: how much bigger, longer or shorter one part is to another.
- Notice where the angles, curves and straight lines are.
Figures at various levels
Gestural Drawing
Gestural Drawing