
Walt Stanchfield 49

Notes from Walt Stanchfield's Disney Drawing Classes

“Sketcher“

by Walt Stanchfield

SKETCHER

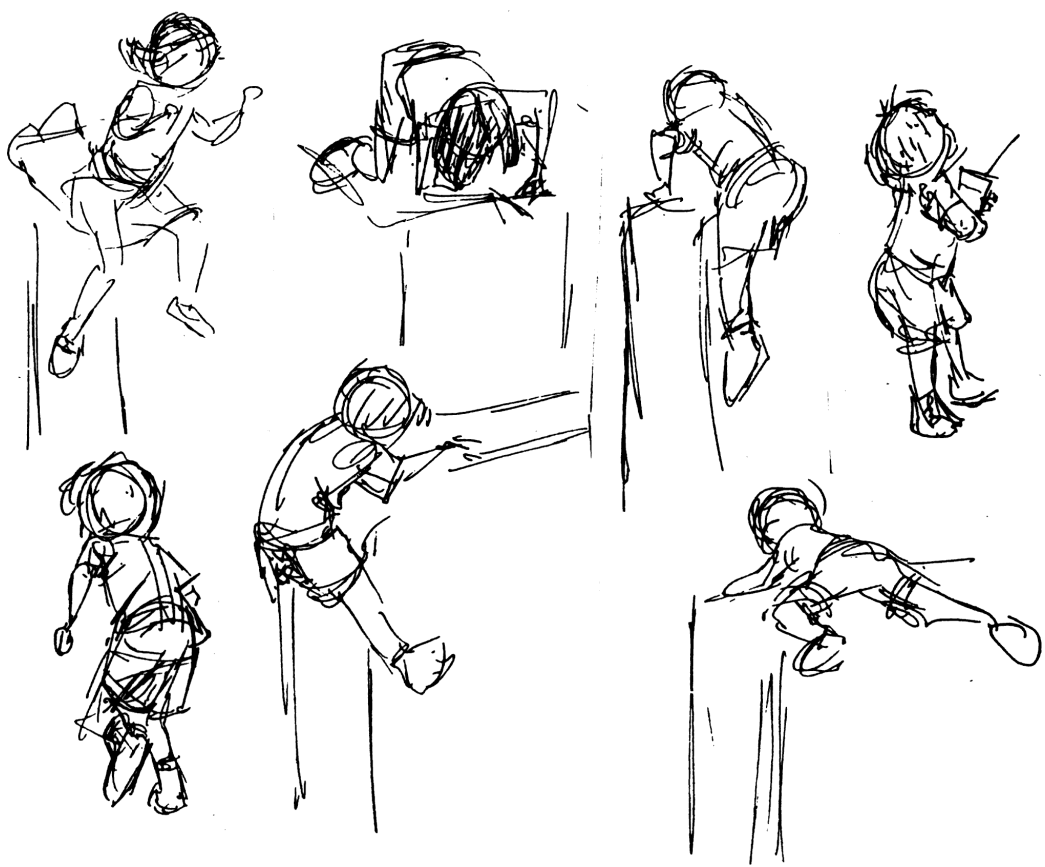
"The cartoonist, when he sketches is going through a process of study. He concentrates upon the model, plumbs its movement, bulk, outline. Then he sets it down, remembering that he wants only the spirit--the "guts" of the thing he's after. He puts into his drawing (even though it may be as big as your thumbnail) all his experience. He simplifies. He plays with his line. He experiments. He isn't concerned with anatomy, chiaroscuro or the symmetry of "flowing line." There's nothing highbrow about his approach to the sketch pad. He is drawing because he likes to draw!"
Lawrence Lariar.

Sketching is to the artist what shadow boxing is to a boxer; keyboard practice is to a concert pianist; practice is to a tennis player, or a participant in any sport (or endeavor). I have often quoted artists-and cartoonists who swear by and recommend sketching as a necessary part of an artist's daily ventures (adventures). And occasionally I reproduce drawings from sketchbooks for the purpose of promoting interest in sketching and for just plain old inspirational purposes. This week I feel privileged to bring some of animator Ron Husband's work to you.

Ron appears to be a quiet guy who just goes about his business in an even-mannered way. But he is an inveterate sketcher--his pen is constantly searching and probing for incidents of every day life, attempting to push them beyond the ordinary--into the realm of entertainment. The 100 filled sketch books in his room (there are a 100 more at home) might hoodwink you into thinking that is all he does when not animating, but he has several "irons in the fire," and is more than capable of doing justice to all of them. He is an illustrator for children's magazines, and is involved in some very imaginative books of his own. Ron doesn't confine his drawing to just the small sketchbook format, either, I recall an exhibit a year or so ago where he displayed many drawings about 17 x 22 inches. They ranged from humorous to dramatic, and were most elegantly done.

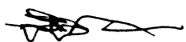
Ron believes quick sketching is an aid to animation. He maintains sketching will enhance drawing ability, quicken your eye, help you to analyze action in a shorter period of time. He says the benefits of quick sketching are: the ability to capture the essence of a pose, to acquire believability in your drawing, to sharpen your awareness of "grid" or ground planes and backgrounds, a greater familiarity with depth, perspective and 3rd dimension, also frees you from thinking in terms of the standard 3/4 front or rear view.

I had only time to go through a few of his sketchbooks but in those few was a wealth of material. Here is a sampling:



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