# Drawing Strategies that make the difference!

More art ideas for your students from Craig Horsland

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#### A Practical Strategy

This strategy works well on field trips. Provide students with a copy. If your drawing boards are covered with kraft paper glue a copy to a top corner.

- 1. Begin by finding something in the centre of what you're looking at that attracts your interest and sketch it first.
- 2. Establish the basic shapes and work lightly so that changes can be made if necessary.
- 3. Draw in any direction from this first point.
- 4. Stop drawing when you either lose interest, have nothing left to draw in that direction, or come to the edge of your paper.
- 5. Return to your original starting point and again draw from here until you either lose interest, have nothing left to draw in that direction, or come to the edge of your paper.
- 6. Continue in this way.
- 7. Once the drawing is fairly well set add the details and darker values.

## A Light Sketch"

Start with a tentative sketch to establish the basic shapes. Ensure this sketch is lightly drawn so that changes can be made if necessary. Once the image is established develop the details and darker values.

#### Upsidedown

A successful and somewhat novel approach to drawing when using a photograph is to turn the photo upsidedown. Once the brain adjusts we start ignoring reality and begin drawing the shapes, lines, and values we actually see instead of those we expect. Interestingly our inner dialogue turns from using actual names to using descriptive wording such as 'the twisted line', 'that splotch to the right', and 'above the black oval'.

## Radiating from the Centre

Begin by finding something in the centre of the view that attracts your interest - a doorway, a telephone pole, an outdoor stairway, a tree, a house, a boat, or a barn - and sketch it first, as completely as possible. Then draw what is next to it, above it, below it, behind it, right and left of it, and so on as the composition grows.

