

Abstraction Warm Up

Ages: 11–18 (Grades 6–12)

Inspiration: Norman Lewis' *Untitled (Subway Station)*, 1945

Duration: 30 minutes

Materials needed:

- Paper
- Pencil

Procedure:

1. Look closely at this image. How many individuals are present on the subway platform? What do you think their relationship(s) to one another might be, if there is any relationship at all? How does the abstraction of the figures influence how you react to and understand the setting in the subway station?
2. Take a piece of paper and fold it in half, and then fold it in half again. Unfold it, and you will have four sections.
3. Choose an object or image to draw from. In the upper left hand section of your paper, draw your chosen subject as realistically as possible. Add contour, shading, and as many details as you can. This is a directly representational drawing.
4. In the bottom left section, represent your chosen subject as simply as you can, using only lines, or as stick figure(s).
5. Fill in the upper right hand section and bottom right hand sections, adding in the steps you need to take to get from a representational to an abstract drawing of your subject. What details, shapes, lines, and/or shading can you remove at each step?

Share your work:

Take a photo of your work and post it to Instagram using the hashtags #MuseumFromHome and #SelfInTheCity, and tag the Museum.

