

Artists Outline Shapes



Edgar Degas Rider in a Red Coat, 1873. Photo Credit: Dover Publications Inc. NY

When you draw with a material that has color, such as soft pastels, you must choose a color for the lines. These lines add beauty to your finished art. Look at this picture of a jockey. A jockey is a man that rides a racehorse. The picture is called *Rider in Red Coat*. It was painted by Edgar Degas in 1873. In it we can see the outlines of the horse that the man sits on. The outline is a line that shows the edge of the object so that it can be recognized. The artist did not finish this work so we can see the way he started it. He has filled in the lines describing the coat with red color. If he had continued on this painting, a color would have been chosen for the horse too.

What stands out most in this painting of a man on a horse?

Does the red coat stand out because of its color or because it is in the center of the page? Do you think both of these characteristics of the coat help it to be the center of attention?

Project: You Use Soft Pastels!

Use colored pastels to draw a picture in color. Choose an animal from a photograph. Look at the photograph to see the shape of the animal. Look at the photograph to get information that you can put into your picture. See the next page for tips on how to use soft pastels.

STUDENT GALLERY



Annora age (6) draws the kangaroo, first with white pastels, then fills in the areas with color.