



CHRISTIE'S

# We ♥ New York: Let's Draw

Drawing activities inspired by  
city life, for wherever you live!

Ten drawing activities created  
by Studio in a School NYC,  
in celebration of the exhibition,  
*We ♥ New York: Cityscapes by the  
Children of New York City*



# Introduction

Studio in a School NYC, is proud to present, *We ♥ New York: Let's Draw*, ten drawing activities related to the digital exhibition, *We ♥ New York: Cityscapes by the Children of New York City*. The exhibition presents thirty-five artworks about life in New York City as experienced from a child's perspective. All artworks were created by children and teens participating in Studio in a School's New York City Schools Program. [Use this link to see the full exhibition.](#)

The activities in *We ♥ New York: Let's Draw* are inspired by city-life, but you don't have to live in a city to enjoy them. Studio NYC's Artist Instructors developed these open-ended activities for everyone who likes to draw. Several activities that appear here were adapted from Studio NYC's, *Daily Sketch*, a web-based collection of drawing prompts. If you like what you see, visit [Studio in Your Home](#), to discover more of Studio NYC's art activities, videos, and lessons.

At Studio NYC, we believe that art is a powerful tool that enables artists of all ages to connect with their surroundings. In this booklet you will find opportunities to discover new things about your environment by looking at it through the eyes of an artist. You will also find opportunities to draw from the imagination by envisioning fantasy buildings and cities. Whether drawing from observation or imagination, these activities will spark your creativity and show you ways to use the elements of art, such as, line, shape and color, to connect with places that matter to you.

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## Discover Lines

What kinds of lines can you find inside your home or out your window? Are they thick or thin, long or short, straight or wavy? Do they repeat and form a pattern? Do they overlap or crisscross?

Find a place that has different kinds of lines. Now draw them!



Top photo by Denise Schatz  
Bottom photo by Christina Graham



## Geometric Shape Hunt

When two ends of a line meet, they make a shape. Geometric shapes have common names and are always the same: square, rectangle, circle, triangle, and more.

Hunt for geometric shapes either inside or outside your home. Draw them and label them.

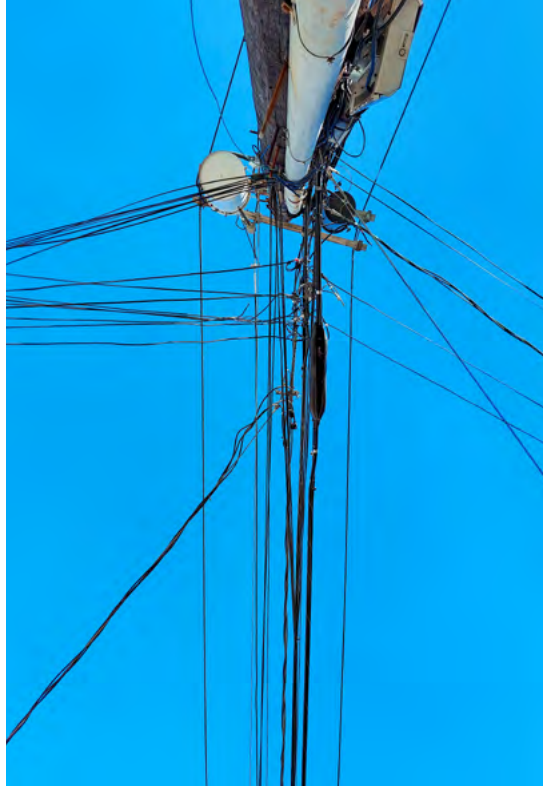
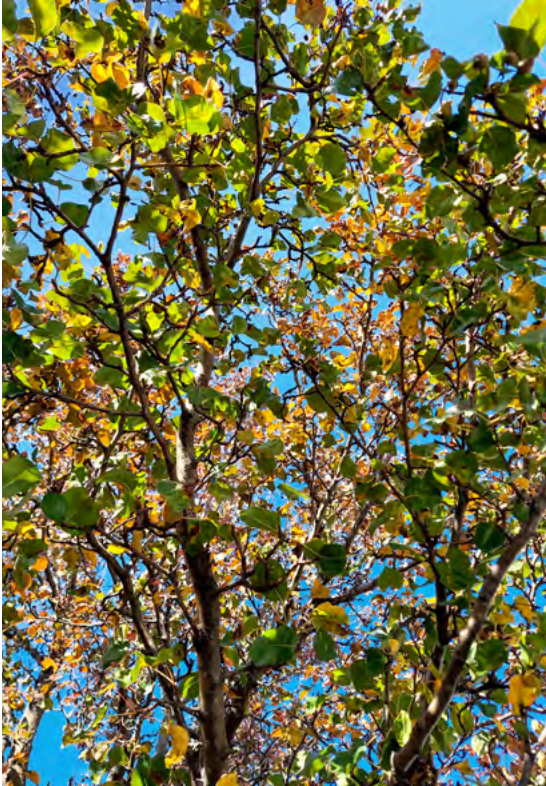
How many did you find? What did you notice about them?

Can you find shapes inside of shapes?

Now pick a place that had at least three different geometric shapes in it and draw it. Did you find even more shapes as you drew?

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## Look Up

There is a lot going on right above our heads.

While taking a walk, or at the park, look up. What shapes do you see? What size are the shapes? Are they the same or different?

What lines do you see? In what direction do they travel? Are there many lines or just a few? Do they touch or overlap?

How do natural shapes and lines look different from human-made ones?

Draw outside or draw your memory of what you saw when you get home. You can draw it in black and white or color. Or try both!

Photos by Matthew Mahler



## Look Down

Have you ever stopped to look at all the exciting things happening right at your feet?

While taking a walk, or at the park, try looking down. What catches your eye? Do you notice natural or human-made things or both? What do you like about them?

Now look at them with artist's eyes. What shapes do you see? What lines do you see? What colors do you see?

Draw outside or draw your memory of what you saw when you get home. You can draw it black and white or color. Or try both!

Photos by Matthew Mahler





## Shadows out your Window

When light hits an object, it casts a dark shape on the opposite side of the object, and sometimes onto other surfaces. The dark shape is called a shadow.

Shadows cast by an object change depending on how bright the light is, whether it is near or far away from the object, and the angle at which it strikes the object.

Can you see shadows out your window? If you can, you'll be able to watch them change as the sun moves across the sky. You might see shadows made by buildings or trees.

Make at least two drawings showing changing light and shadow. You can use pencils, crayons, markers, ballpoint pen or any other drawing materials you have available. A crayon or the side of a pencil might be the easiest drawing tool to create large areas of light and dark.

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Bottom photo by ©JuanLurduy - stock.adobe.com



## Build your own City

Build a city with boxes, cans, and other things at home. Start with just a few things, then make a sketch.

What kinds of buildings are in your city? What sizes are they? Look at the big shapes first, then the smaller shapes.

Add more boxes or cans, move them around, and sketch your city again. Is that fun? Add still more!

Photo by Saul Chernick





## Create a Skyline

A skyline is an outline of dark buildings against a brighter sky. Many cities have skylines that are easy to recognize because of the shapes of certain buildings, like the Empire State Building in New York.

Did you enjoy making a city out of boxes and cans? If you build a city against a bright window, you can create your own skyline!

Draw the outline of the buildings. You don't have to add any details.

Photo by Saul Chernick



## Invent a Building

Buildings are made of shapes. By combining simple shapes together, you can draw all kinds of interesting buildings. Here's a way to invent buildings using shapes you find at home.

First gather some simple objects that are easy to trace or copy. Bottle caps, coins, Lego bricks, small wooden blocks, and pieces of cardboard all work well.

Next, trace or copy one of your objects. Now add a new shape. Keep adding or repeating shapes until you have a building that you like.

Your shapes can touch or overlap, small shapes can go inside bigger ones to make details. Make as many buildings as you like. Color them in if you feel like it.

How would you describe your favorite building? What shapes makes it special?

Photos by Saul Chernick





## Nighttime Drawings

What does the world look like after the sun has set? How do the colors change? What happens to the shapes of objects? What do you see at night that you don't see during the day?

Draw an outdoor nighttime scene. You can draw the scene from observation, imagination or memory. Try drawing on a dark piece of paper with colored pencils or crayons. How is that different from drawing on white paper?

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## Draw what you ❤️

Think of something you love?  
Maybe it's...

a person

a place

a thing to hold or play with

a kind of food

something you love to do

Take a good long look at it, or if that's not possible, picture it in your mind. How could you show it in a picture? Will it be near or far? Will you draw all of it or just a part? Think about the lines and shapes you can use to draw it. When you're ready, give it try!

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