

Technical Elements in Drawing as Means for Entertainment and Sustaining Education

**Samuel Viyaje &
Fatimetu Umhouko Momoh**

Abstract

Where there is much gladness of heart, people tend to be more productive, efficient, and fulfilled. In this jet age, people want quick-fixes and make no room for adequate rest, as they work round the clock without sufficient rest to enjoy what they have worked for. Consequently, it results in weariness of soul, sadness, confusion, health complications, lower productivity and eventually premature death. To device psychological relief, this paper seeks a means of exciting and refreshing the mind through fun-filled drawing. Some ingredients of exciting drawing for entertainment and education were discussed. Innovation on drawing skills to intrigue the viewers so as to prevent them from over-laboring is the underlying power of this paper. Evidently, more entertaining drawing in public offices, private homes, hospital and highways would reduce some challenges that do lead to deterioration of health and unsustainable education.

Keywords: Technical Elements, Drawing, Entertainment, Sustainable education

Introduction

With Dramatic concept could be employed to draw audience to the drawings, first their eyes and then their soul. This dramatic concept is possible through creative technical elements such as stylization, exaggeration, abstraction, simplicity, uses of outline and contour lines, emphasis on space, and focal point etc. With these elements, the viewers of such drawing could be happy, entertained and educated. The button-line of man's need is happiness; this is true as people often commit suicide because they are unhappy. Great numbers of people are waiting for someone to relieve them of their pains and boredom. If there is an opportunity to communicate to others through drawing, it is better performed by an artist.

Each time people watch and listen to a comedian they are constantly reminded of relaxation and entertainment. All that keeps human eyes glued to the comedian is simply entertainment as it releases excitement to the audience. If a comedian could rely much on words complimented with action, the visual artist through drawing could do even much more knowing that a "picture is worth more than a thousand words". A stylized, exaggerated, abstracted and simplified concept has great potentiality to intrigue the viewers than an objective concept. Reason is, the expression is detached from common and natural objects people see daily. Shocking and beautiful concept could be quite entertaining if done in their suitable manner of composition.

In an exhibition of drawing, the only way it can turn out to be an unforgettable visual experience to whoever comes around is the shocking ingredient (technical elements) the drawing possesses. With such touch, your audience will readily march to your beat. What truly turns people on is "newness" of idea. With it you hold the viewers long enough in admiration and eventually you creatively entertain them out of their wariness and pain.

Creative Expression in Drawing

Creativity is about looking for other ways of doing things. Creative people celebrate the off beats, they focus on innovation. Most times children are the recipient of creativity, as put by Pablo Picasso, “*Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up*” meaning, however, as one grows old one would have to keep his child like experience to be truly creative. Hence, the artist has on this drawing (plate 1) entitled “lost of vision” explored this childlike drawing experience as means of entertainment and education to the viewers.

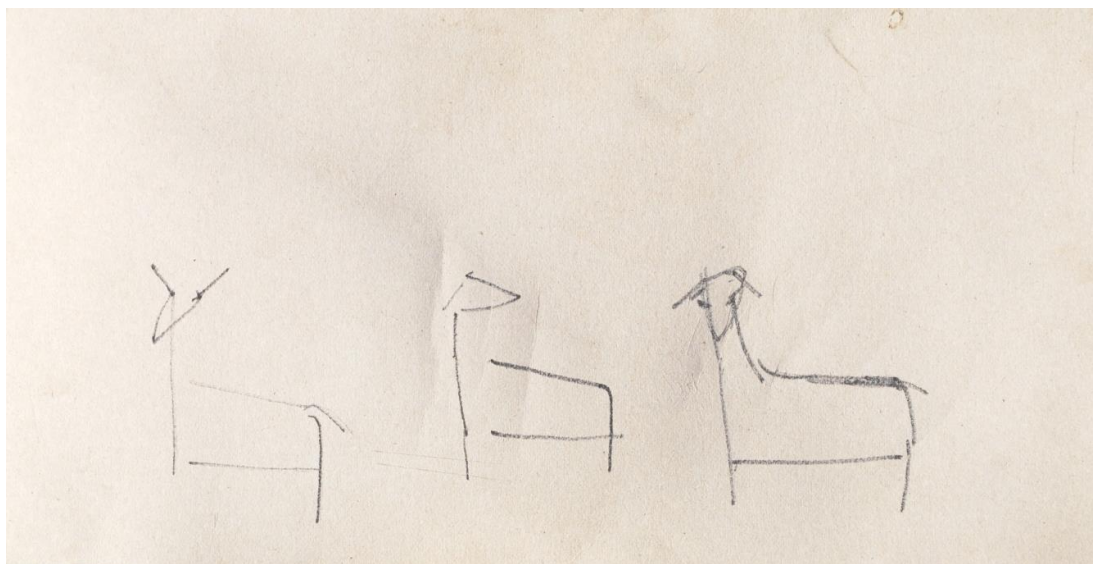


Fig 1: “Lost of vision”, Sources: photographs by Samuel Vijaje (2013)

To be creative, sometimes you do exactly the opposite. Though many artists have educationally gone far, yet they have to forget their educational experience by thinking and acting as a beginner. Kreigel (2000:34) said “*bring your child to work*”. And that is what a good artist does.

On plate 1, the first goat is a good example of this, the ear and the vertical outline that runs downward the head which forms the neck and the legs have this child like concept. A friend saw this and said, “I am loving it”, he was filled with childlike excitement. This response reminds me of Maxwell’s statement (2003:107) that “creative thinking draws people to you and your idea” added to that, creative drawing draws people to you and your work.

Drawing as entertainment has to be creative enough to draw intension or else the drawing will be “ordinary or mere drawing”

Creativity involves the development of your own drawing style, Hoddinott (2003:307) offers a clue “that your drawing style emerges based on:

- Your unique way of viewing the world around you.
- An acceptance of the challenges to deviate from the “norm” and be true to yourself.
- The styles of drawing that you prefer.
- The subjects that you find most appealing and love to draw”

To enthrall the viewer, the artist explored stylization, distortion, exaggeration and simplicity. Objective drawing has viewing pleasure, but with extra effort you reinvent the excitement. The use of caricature equally promotes the viewing pleasure. Caricature is a creative means for entertainment; this is made possible through distortion of forms, to intrigue the viewer. “A caricature is a rendered image showing the features of its subject in a simplified or exaggerated way” – (caricature Wikipedia). Historically, Leonardo da Vinci, was one of the earliest artist that explored caricature for maximum communication. “Leonardo da Vinci actually sought people with deformities to use as models. The point was to offer an impression of the original which was more striking than a portrait” – (caricature Wikipedia). There were many more caricaturist of old, like: Sir Max Beerbohm (1872-1956, British), George Cruik Shank (1792-1878, British) Honore Daumier (1808-1879, French), Mort Drucker (1929, America), David Levine (1926-2009, America) and many others. They were all distinction in style and purpose – political and public figure, and satire.

The modern or most contemporary caricature are used as gifts or souvenirs most cartoonist and caricaturist aimed at one thing to entertain and educate through humor. With entertainment by means of drawing, life becomes more adventurous, daring and amazing to both the artist and the viewer.

Entertainment as Cure

Whatever holds you long enough in admiration even until it is almost a “distraction” is a genuine entertainment. Every good, strange and humorous thing attracts, so the artist strive to explore in this drawing. Drawing as means of entertainment is a cure to human problem as it reduces our weariness. With it, we find ourselves hugely enjoying life in spite of its trouble and uncertainties. It is often said that what kills a man when diagnosed is not the sickness but the fear of dying of it. At the same time what brings sorrow and failure to people is the fear of unknown. But if people can be detached from such thought patterns of life, by means of been entertained in drawings, even in the midst of sickness and economic crisis, people would find life more interesting.

If it comes to entertainment in drawing, objectivity is not much good to anyone. Though, realistic drawing is good but not enough for a genuine entertainment. Often for maximum entertainment, artist has to withdraw into his imaginative worlds to reinvent forms in his own visual language. Even when drawing has some subjective approach, there should be some objective ingredients in it. Some of these ingredients could be honesty, creativity, fun, excitement, and authenticity. Sometime you even subject these ingredients to people’s opinion to know how effective they function in your drawing – your validation is necessary for any artist who truly wants to be an entertainer.

Validated Response

To get viewers entertained and educated, the artist must first be a beneficially approach. To further validate this, many people should be introduced to the drawing so as to have their criticism and opinion. Their response will show how far the message could truly be contagious. The entertainment artist wants for others are largely determined by the entertainment they have within themselves on seeing their visuals. If we are uncomfortable with our drawings as artist, if we do not know the strength and weakness in our drawing, the attempt we make to entertain others will usually misfire.

The firsthand reaction test to your drawing is you – how you truly feel about it, is how others too would. In drawing, good plan is what it takes to influence viewer's mood and it marks the difference between ordinary and incredible drawing.

Planning

Entertainment and education is possible in drawing but only with conscious plan. “Anything becomes simpler when it has a plan” – Zigler (1998:142). This ought to come first before drawing. Know what you want to achieve, how to achieve it and the needed technique to achieve it. Zigler (1998:176) further adds “an intelligent plan is the first step to success”. While planning on executing this drawing, the artist thought about simplicity as a tool for achieving entertainment, the dramatic effect of space and composition, imagination, focal point, outlines and contour lines were further put to work.

Simplicity

Simplicity is a mystery; it is an age-long mystery that catches the fancy of nearly all. With it you tell your story more interestingly. This way you visually connect quickly to the viewers. When you draw to entertain you share inspiring stories to your viewers. You take them on a journey with you, that is what need to happen in drawing for maximum entertainment and education. A simplified journey of drawing is less but it is more to the viewer – less is more. Ralph Waldo Emerson [1803-1882] put it best that “*to be simple is to be great*”. For a shocking simplicity, the drawing was done with a schematic minimalism. Drawing made simple has great entertaining influence on viewers mostly when there is much space around it.

Space as Beauty

Space gives the viewers a better view of a subject; the negative space is as strong as the positive space. (The title of the drawing lies in the strength provided by negative and positive space) sometimes enough space in a picture plane creates this “whole world – wide feeling”. The concept entitled “lost of vision” is symbolic to human race portraying a world trend where people's vision is suddenly lost. We all have vision but how many were able to pursue their vision to fulfillment. The human brain was made higher than that of the animals. They plan, strategize, make logical conclusion and mostly have a vision, where because of some economic factors, what differentiate man from animals is lost, then the human is like other animals. Carson (2000:124) puts it further that,

I frequently remind my listeners that we are the only creatures on earth to whom God gave such huge frontal lobes. What does that mean? Frontal lobes are used for rational thought. As human beings we come programmed with the ability to extract information from the past, gather information from the present, integrate that data, and project it into future. And the significance of that is: we do not have to live like animals. Other animals only react to their circumstances. Too many people give up this divine inheritance. Instead, they act like animals.

Hence, this drawing entitled “lost of vision” is symbolic to some human beings living like animals. The space makes this generality visible – you tend to apply the titles to many whose childhood vision are lost. The space equally creates more rooms for eyes to move round the main subject in a pleasurable, flowable, and entertainable way. How? Like a

tailored cloth, if the allowance between the cloth and the body is tight, there is no comfort. There is no comfort if the cloth is big neither. But the pleasure one gets is if the space in the picture plane is all right.

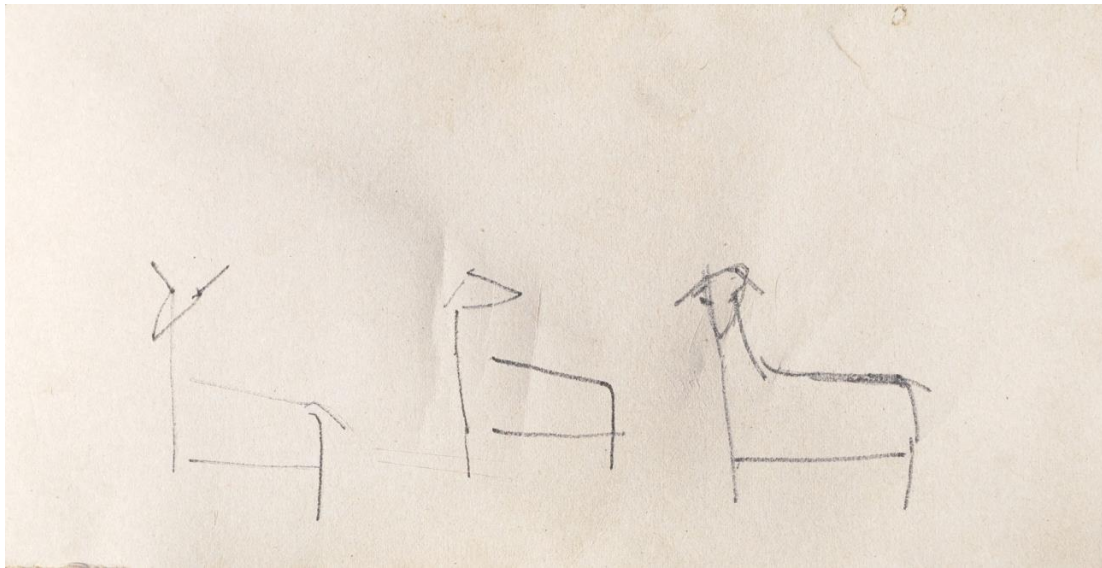


Fig 2: “lost of vision” Source: Photograph by Samuel Vijaje

Appropriate space round the subject gives similar comfort and pleasure. The space in between each goat enhances the visual drama and entertainment that the drawing is set to achieve. You can take a good look at each goat move to the next before you relate the three goats together, no overlapping. This is simply aimed at dramatizing the composition.

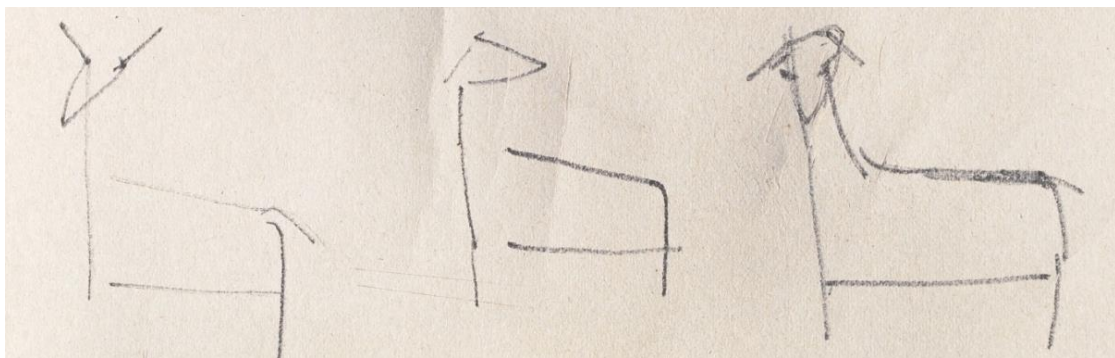


Fig 3: “lost of vision” Source: Photograph by Samuel Vijaje

Fig. 3 does not allow for free movement of eyes as plate 2 does. The reason is that the space round the goat is reduced (too small). For maximum entertainment more space around the goat is needful.

Beyond Realism

Beyond realism lies the concept of artistic entertainment. Like every other realist, the artist sincerely loves to draw somewhat realistically for quick comprehension of his subject too. But, his worry is, if he draws too realistically for entertainment, his viewers will know what the drawing is about right away, lose interest instantly, walk away and may never come back for second view. That is what the artist always tried to avoid when drawing to entertain and educate.

To entertain and educate the viewers, usual subject is presented in unusual way through stylization and exaggeration. The form is also treated in a simplified form thereby creating vague appearance in some area. This uncertainty of line creates visual presence and mystery. Then the viewer wonders what exactly is happening and consequently spends more time looking at the drawing. It also seduces viewer to return again and again to find something new. Forms and its composition could be real or dramatic; to entertain, a dramatic composition of forms is better.

Dramatic Composition

How revolutionary the arrangement of your subject? Good drawing sometimes loses its flavor with bad composition. The manner you arrange your design on a picture plane could help or destroy your concept, for a drawing to be enticing, it has to be well composed. Better still, the composition should be dramatized. “Dramatic composition do not need to be complicated. In fact, simple is better, as long as the big shapes form a sound structure with these three qualities: Direction, Balance, and Integration” (Kelly 2001:3). Humors has many fans, to invite, entertain and educate this fans is for the composition to be simple and dramatic. Sharing in Albert Dorne’s philosophy (1904-1965).

Don’t even be satisfied with an ordinary composition or keep repeating the same few basic arrangement in your pictures. Try to create something new. Think – experiment – move your object around in depth until you arrive at arrangement that are different and interesting. That is what the best artist does.

For dramatic composition, you need to experiment by stretching your imagination. I think, creativity of great composition lies more in our imaginative power.

Power of Imagination

Realistic drawing is not good enough for a maximum entertainment. Often artist has to withdraw into his imaginative world to reinvent forms in his own language. Remember, the unusual attracts more; it draws people to wherever it is found. To draw viewers to your drawing, use your imagination maximally. Albert Dorne (1904-1965) advised that,

A good artist is always looking for fresh forms of expression and he knows that to find the new he must get away from fixed ideas that are literal and limiting. Therefore give your imagination free rein. Don’t be afraid to experiment with shapes and symbols, to try new materials, to arrive at effects that are amusing and unconventional. Invention plays an important part in the art of designing, and the source of invention is imagination.

Imagination leads to inventiveness. With it, you change the rules and consequently redefine people's joy – the joy they derive from seeing strange things. All the imaginative ingredients on the picture plane need emphasis and central point. Hence focal point is needed to emphasize the main message.

Focal Point

The spot your eyes rest on for a longer time is focal point. It drives home the message the artist has to say. The head of the third goat (in fig 4) is the focal point which depicts a confused state of the goat. The focal point is further emphasized in outline as means of creating variety and fun. The effect of contour lines gives the focal point its strength.

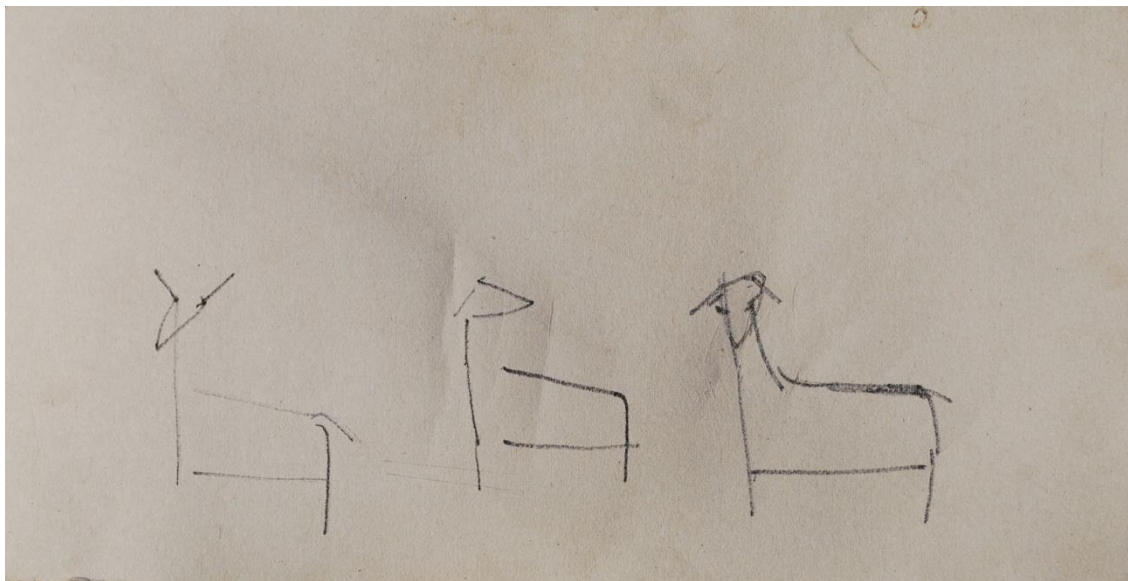


Fig 4: “lost of vision” Source: Photograph by Samuel Viyaje

The contour line on the focal point creates emphasis. This is evident on the third goats with more descriptive lines. Unlike the outline, the contour line has more descriptive and analytical potentiality.

Outline

This is a word gotten from outer line. As used in the drawing, it is simply vague, fragile and captivating. This creates suspense on the goats – you do not know what exactly the line says and it gives the drawing an underlying narrative. The lines have dramatically aided the message of entertainment and education by keeping the drawing simple and intriguing. Would you not agree that the lively outline gives the drawing the entertaining touch it was meant for? With this lively outline, the job analyses and peoples reaction goes on and on – entertainment and education.

Job Analysis and Reaction

The dumb speaks in signs, though not easy to comprehend, but as soon you get the message you have this great joy emanating from you and then you are entertained. Why? The discovered beauty in communication by depending on gesture is more fun and enticing; owing to the fact that it is rare. The same feelings you get when you set your eyes on this drawing. The translation of line to communicate in a subjective (uncommon) way rather than objective (usual) manner as compared to how the dumb communicate in sign rather than in words is a great approach for entertainment and education.

Because this drawing has underlying messages by ways of its rendition, its interpretation is left to the observer. When time is spent trying to figure out what the communication among the goats is all for, suddenly you are discover the goats are facing the same direction. Then the question pops up. How come their facial expressions are in contradiction to the direction they take? Are the goats actually having two legs, many more curiosities begin to set in until you are seductively engrossed on the picture and finally begin to enjoy the sweet, vague, simplified and exciting movements of the lines. That is entertainment and education.

Lines have life; these lively lines help to achieve entertainment. The confident movements of these lines keep the eyes more glued to the work in admiration. It takes a better part of you until you are lost in it. Now you can see what the artists sees and feel what he feels. The entire drawing skill shows the needed power of imagination and innovation so as to fashion out entertainment and education through drawing.

Conclusion

Looking beyond objective drawing has credible potentials for entertainment and education. The artist did all he had to do in a subjective manner to take you on a journey - a journey of entertainment by being himself all through. The uncertain lines have a mightier power on the fancy to form the greater passions than those which are more clear and determinate. Hence, with vagueness and childlike approach in drawing, were these uncertain lines created to exercise the imagination and consequently keep you entertained and educated. Drawing of this nature, hang in public places like highways, hospitals and amusement parks would reinvent people's joy and longevity of life span even in the midst of bad economy and life's challenges.

The whole drawing process was an (entertainment) enjoyable experience for the artist and hope it would for the trouble and troubled – free viewers and readers. It is evident that people often commit suicide because they are unhappy. If you get an opportunity to educate others through drawing, why not rather be that artist who would entertain them through other media.

References

- Albert, D. (1967) *Famous Artists Course in Commercial art, Illustration and Design* Famous Artists Schools. West Port.
- Ben, C. (2000) *Big the Picture*. Getting perspective on what's Really important in life. Zondervan, Michigan.
- Brend, H. (2003) *Drawing for Dummies*. Wiley Publishing inc. Idiana
- Caricature - Wikipedia. Htt p://en. *Wikipedia.org/wiki/Caricature* Retrieved 15, January 2014.
- John, C.M. (2010) *Thinking for a Change*, Hatchef_ Book group. New York.
- Ralph Waldo Emersion (1803-1882). Essay Society and Solitude. Retrieved 11, December 2013 from. [www.wordofquotes.com/author/Ralph+ Waldo* Emerson/index. ht ML](http://www.wordofquotes.com/author/Ralph+Waldo+Emerson/index.html).
- Ramon, K. (200,) *The five Essential in every Powerful Painting*. International Artist Publishing. INC Verdi Nevada.
- Robert, J.K. (2002) *How to Succeed in Business without working to Damn Hard*. Warner Books, INC. New York.
- Zig, Z. (1998) *See you at the top*, USA Pelican Publishing Company inc.