



Animation principles and a closer look on staging

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The Disney stuff

Character Design	Solid Drawing, consistency	Appeal	Staging	Exaggeration
Planning (storyboard, script)	Staging			Exaggeration
Animation strategy	Straight Ahead / Pose to Pose			
Animating	Timing	Slow In + Slow Out	Squash and stretch	Follow Through + Overlapping Action
	Arcs	Secondary Action	Exaggeration	Anticipation

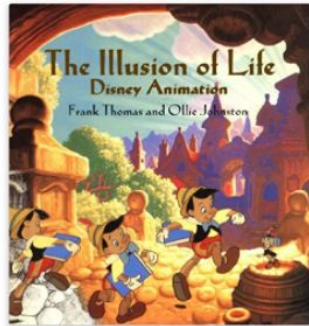


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The Illusion of Life: Disney Animation Hardcover – Illustrated, October 19, 1995

by Ollie Johnston (Author), Frank Thomas (Author)

★★★★★ 1,335 ratings

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Hardcover
\$41.49

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15 New from \$42.90
6 Collectible from \$70.00

The most complete book on the subject ever written, this is the fascinating inside story by two long-term Disney animators of the gradual perfecting of a relatively young and particularly American art form, which no other move studio has ever been able to equal.

The authors, [Frank Thomas](#) and [Ollie Johnston](#), worked with Walt Disney himself as well as other leading figures in a half-century of Disney films. They personally animated leading characters in most of the famous films and have decades of close association with the others who helped perfect this

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Follow the Authors



Ollie
Johnston

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Reading age



10 - 14 years

Print length



576 pages

Language



English

Grade level



5 - 9

Dimensions



10.75 x 1.5 x
11.5 inches

Publisher

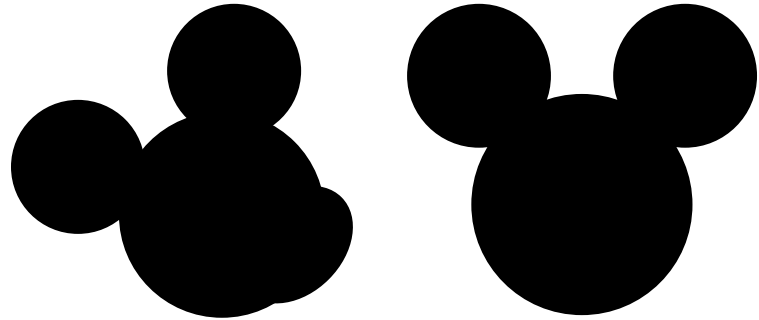


Disney Editions



Staging – setting up the scene and composition as clear as possible

How you stage shots is vital. This is a major factor for audience to understand what is happening.



Mickey from side and front > What shape are Mickey's ears?

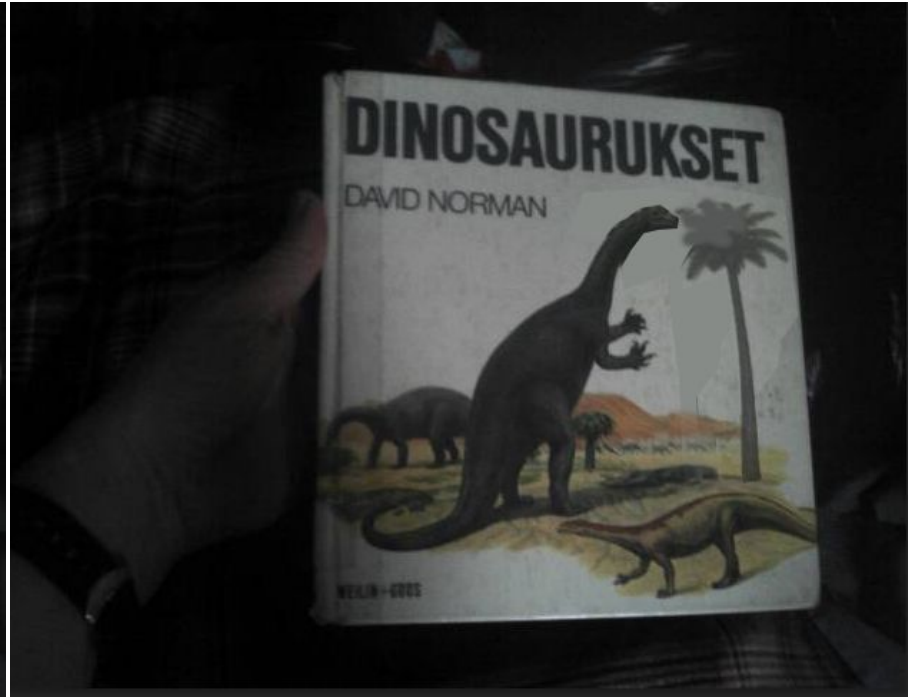
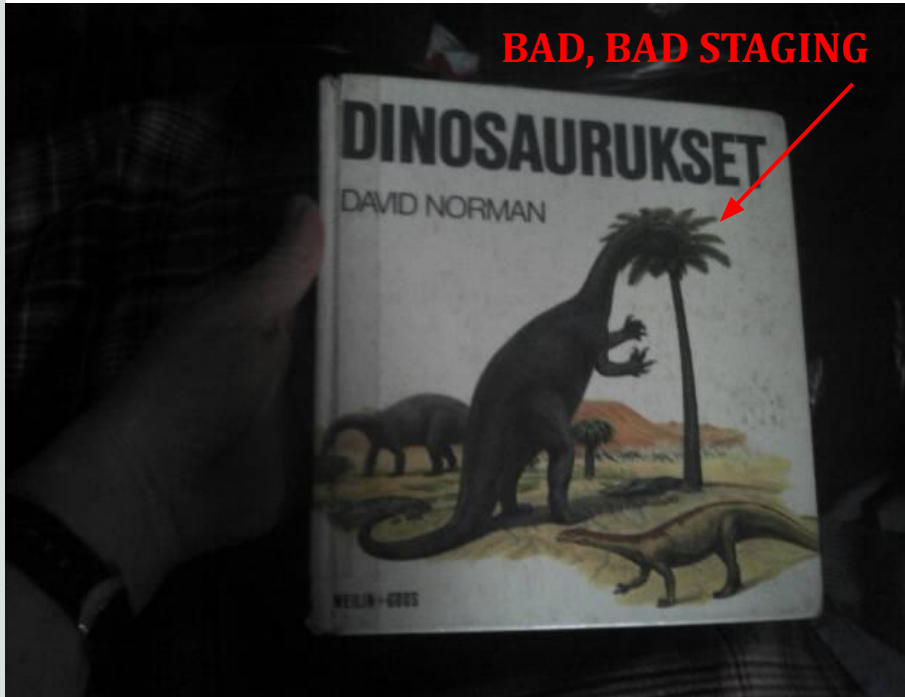






Creating good silhouettes, (staging)

While creating any layout think how readable it is. Think about silhouettes and perspective while photographing and drawing. Naturally this applies to layout in general.



Where staging can (and should) be applied

- **Interior Design:** In interior design, staging refers to the process of arranging furniture, decor, and other elements within a space to create a specific mood or atmosphere. It involves considering factors such as scale, balance, and functionality to achieve a harmonious and visually appealing design.
- **Sales and Marketing:** In sales and marketing, staging refers to the process of presenting a product or service in a way that maximizes its appeal to potential customers. It includes factors such as packaging, presentation, and pricing, as well as the use of visual and verbal cues to create a desirable image of the product or service
- **Drawing and Illustration:** In drawing and illustration, staging refers to the arrangement of elements within the image to create a clear and effective composition. This includes considering factors like focal point, balance, directional lines, negative space, and atmosphere to effectively communicate the intended message to the viewer.



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Thumbnailing!

Thumbnailing is a vital step in the creative process as it shapes your entire project. By fleshing out small sketches, you can eliminate undesirable ideas and uncover intriguing elements. It's akin to window shopping or trying on clothes to find the perfect fit. Skipping thumbnailing leads to more cleanup work later on. While the initial idea may be cool, refining and clarifying certain concepts becomes necessary, consuming extra time.

Thumbnailing helps you avoid these pitfalls and is easy to learn if you can sketch. It's about rapidly generating new ideas. Other way of thinking it would be to use term, Fail Fast.

In character drawing one needs to add the body language, not just facial expressions.



Using silhouettes in drawing

Silhouettes are an important aspect of staging in drawing, and I apologize for not including them in my previous answer. Silhouettes can be used to create a clear and distinct shape for a character or object, which can help the viewer quickly identify and understand the composition of the drawing. Here are some tips for using silhouettes in drawing staging:

1. **Use clear shapes:** Silhouettes work best when they are simple and clear. Use strong, recognizable shapes to create the silhouettes of your characters or objects.
2. **Avoid tangents:** A tangent is when two or more shapes or lines touch or overlap in a way that creates visual confusion. Avoid tangents in your silhouettes by keeping the shapes separate and distinct.
3. **Consider negative space:** The negative space around a silhouette can be just as important as the silhouette itself. Use negative space to create balance and contrast within the composition.
4. **Use contrast:** Silhouettes can be used to create contrast within a composition. Use dark silhouettes against a light background or light silhouettes against a dark background to create a striking visual effect.

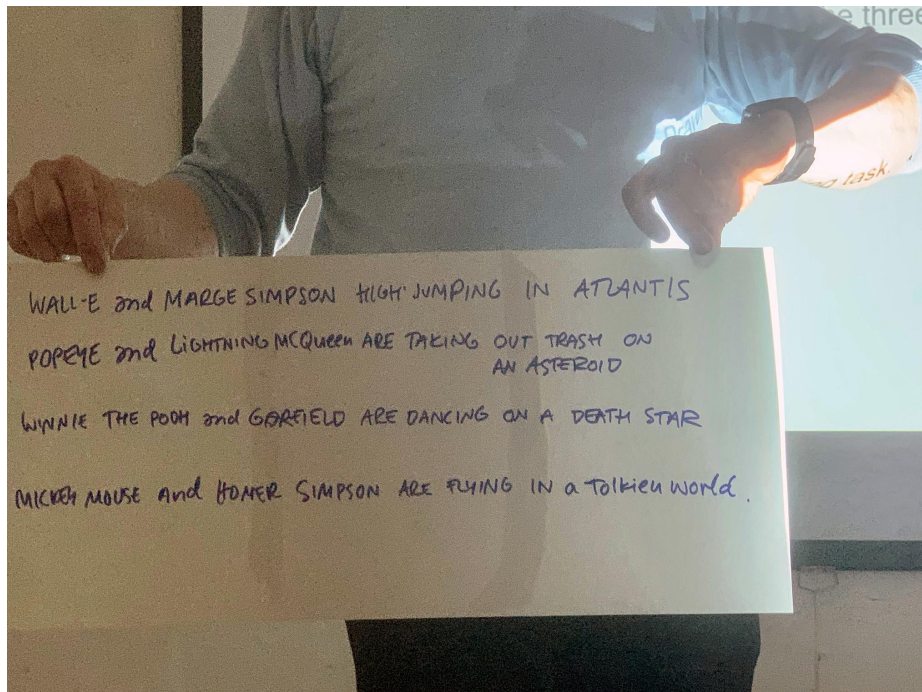
By using silhouettes in your drawing staging, you can create clear and visually appealing compositions that effectively communicate your message to the viewer.



Drawing task

Pick up some paper and pens!

Draw small silhouette based drawings of the three scenarios in ten minutes! Make as many as you can in that time!





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