

Art Activity

Shadow Sketches



Get to know your shadow

Shadows are a great way to add some drama to a work of art. They can also make small things appear larger than life or alter ones perspective in a scene. Shadows can also be turned into a puppet character on a surface using a light source and your own hand to provide lots of fun entertainment. In this activity, we will celebrate our own shadows by sketching them. Are there any other items that might make a good shadow sketch?

1

SEARCH

Search your home for the suggested materials.

2

CREATE

Get creative with each step and think outside the box.

3

ENJOY

Enjoy your creation and share with others.



McNay Connection
Shadow Puppet of an Artist Holding a Palette 1886-97.



McNay Connection
Robert Edmund Jones, Design for Javaese dancer shadow puppet 1917.



McNay Connection
Edward Hopper's Night Shadows 1921.

Suggested materials:

- Paper, or perhaps a large piece of cardboard
- Markers, the bolder the better
- Optional: sidewalk chalk on the concrete also works well!
- Sunshine or a light source like a strong lamp if indoors.
- Potential models: siblings, parents, pets, and your toys!

Instructions:

1. First things first, let's try tracing our own hand or that of a sibling or parent. Take your paper and marker outside (or grab the sidewalk chalk) and see which direction the sun is casting a shadow.
2. Once a shadow is established, ask your model to hold still while you trace them onto a piece of paper or, if using chalk, on the concrete. See how long they can hold still, it's not as easy as it seems!
3. When the sketch is done, notice how different the shadow drawing looks compared to the



4. Now see where else this project can take you and trace anything you see fit. Enjoy!

