

O-riginal Art Activities: Shadow Drawing Inspired by Ashleigh Coleman



Ashleigh Coleman, *In the Dining Room*, 2020, Archival pigment print, Courtesy of the artist

Ashleigh Coleman was born in 1983 in Virginia. She is a self-taught photographer. Ashleigh currently lives on the land of her husband's family in rural Mississippi. Her photographs have exhibited across the United States, and are currently part of the traveling exhibitions for Looking for Appalachia and A Yellow Rose Project. She is a founding member of Due South Co.

Create a drawing using shadow inspired by Ashleigh Coleman's photography.

SEE ASHLEIGH COLEMAN'S IN THE DINING ROOM IN PHOTONOLA: CURRENTS 2020, HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF NEW ORLEANS PHOTO ALLIANCE MEMBERS AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM.

Supplies

Paper, Object, Pencil, Black Color Drawing Utensil

Instructions

Step 1: Look at Ashleigh Coleman's artwork, *In the Dining Room.* What do you notice about the artwork? What is the **subject** of the **photograph**? How does the shadow produced by the windowpane change the image?

Step 2: Decide what you want the subject of your drawing to be. In Coleman's photograph the snake is the subject.

Step 3: Use a pencil to draw your subject in the middle of your paper.

Step 4: Search your home for a place that has a strong source of sunlight. If there isn't sufficient sunlight use a lamp to create a strong source of light. If you are by a window, is the windowpane creating shadows over your drawing? If you're using a light source, search your home for an object to use to cast a shadow.

Step 5: Set up your drawing space with the shadow from the windowpane or object casting over your drawing. Using the shadow as a guide, trace the shadow over your drawing with a black color drawing utensil.

Step 6 (Optional): Use color pencils to color your drawing.

Vocabulary

Subject – the main focus or idea represented an artwork

Photograph - an artwork made by light falling on a light-sensitive surface, either photographic film or another device

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