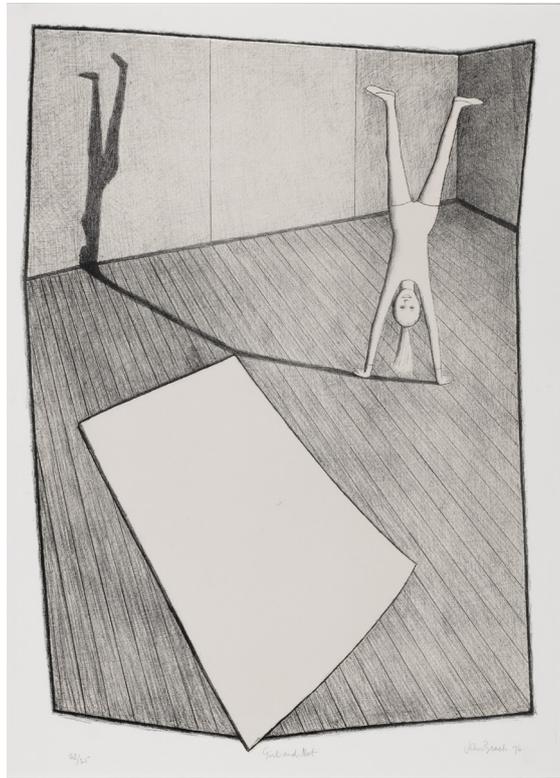


Start at home

Shading and Hatching



If I choose to paint the life I see around me,
it is because I find people more interesting than things.

– John Brack, 1956

About the artist

John Brack didn't always want to be an artist. At 16, he left school to work for an insurance company. It was the work of Van Gogh that first sparked his imagination, prompting him to enrol in night classes at the National Gallery School in Melbourne. John's art studies were rudely interrupted by World War 2 but he returned to the Gallery School after six years of army service. With a stark, distinctive style, and a keen eye for mood and social commentary, he became one of the most significant Australian artists of the post-war period.

About the work

Though best remembered for his solemn depictions of urban routine, John Brack also found inspiration in scenes of energy and movement, from the chaotic scramble of children's play to the controlled splendour of ballroom dancing. His prints and paintings of young gymnasts sit between these extremes, capturing a delicate transitional stage of life when strength is being built and limits tested. In *Girl and mat*, a monochrome print, shading and hatching are used to create different values from light to dark.



Materials you need

- a colouring book or printed colouring pages
- a lead pencil
- a pencil sharpener
- an eraser
- a black biro or felt-tip pen

Take it further

Draw a household item like a mug, a lamp or a piece of fruit, and use shading and hatching to give it form. Experiment with layering effects and hatching in different directions.

20 years before *Girl and mat*, John Brack created a set of affectionate prints of his children. Find his *Four Daughters* series online and observe the looser, wilder crosshatching. Make up a story about one of the daughters.

detail John Brack, Australia, 1920–1999, *Girl and mat*, 1976, printed by George Baldessin, assisted by Neil Malone, Crossley Print Workshop, Melbourne, colour lithograph on paper, 72.5 x 50.0 cm (image), 76.0 x 57.0 cm (sheet); Gift of Helen Brack 2010, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Courtesy Helen Brack.

Try it yourself Shading and Hatching

- 1 Choose a bold and simple colouring page. We're going to shade the picture with different values from light to dark.
- 2 Look at your picture. Which areas should be the lightest? Mark these sections with an 'x' in pencil, as a reminder to leave those spaces white.
- 3 Start lightly shading sections of your picture with lead pencil. Hold the pencil on its side and press gently to create a pale grey. Then press a bit harder to build up a darker tone in other areas, such as shadows.
- 4 Now try some hatching. Using a black pen, carefully fill a section of your picture with straight, evenly spaced lines. Make your lines further apart for light areas, and closer together for dark areas.
- 5 Next, draw a second layer of lines criss-crossing over the first. This crosshatching will make an area look darker still. Use it to build up a shadow.
- 6 When you've filled in the rest of the page, erase the 'x' marks in your white sections. Your shaded picture is complete!

View *Girl and mat* in our online collection:
<https://bit.ly/3xtPFS3>

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

@agsa.adelaide #agsastart