

Around a Tiger

Jan 5th, 2004

As Nasya 3.8 arrives Ryan and Andrew are in the middle of role-playing, wearing tiger and lion costumes. Nasya stares at Ryan who is on his hands and knees and declares, "Tigers don't crawl."



Her subsequent drawing of a tiger began with a most graceful arc representing the back and or body of the beast. She added a circle for a head and a long snake of a tail. The legs and body are drawn in a continuous line. Ears, eyes, nose and a smile complete the face.

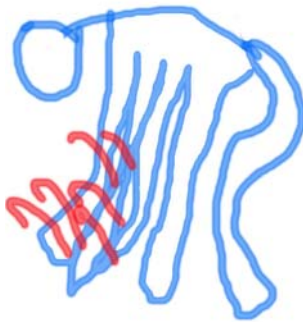
This tiger is smiling. Is he happy?

Nasya growls and adds sharp teeth at the very thought. She adds horizontal and vertical

lines to act as stripes and finishes the drawing.

We use a book with a picture of tigers as a reference and compare this picture to her own. Nasya looks and looks and quietly imparts this realization.

"The stripes go around."



In what is surely an astounding mental leap, Nasya draws lines that hook giving the impression that they wrap around a three-dimensional 'cat leg'. She repeats the phrase; "The stripes go around." She rises to the challenge artists always face when working in two dimensions and trying to represent three.

I catch my breath and we take a look at the tiger's face in the reference book. I point out the interest I have in the shape of the big cat's mouth. It appears at this point that my interest is not shared and Nasya begins to draw a school bus (*which we may*

discuss in a later documentation). When she has finished with her school bus,

she takes a small sheet of paper and recreates the cat mouth as it was in the now closed reference text. To this she adds a very cat-like nose and a pair of eyes. She begins to over-write her work before it can be photographed, but the main elements are still visible.

Nasya is a keen observer. As she is unlikely to verbalize her thoughts we are lucky to have these renderings to attest to her understanding of form in three dimensions. Also to remind us that learning is taking place whether or not it is immediately apparent.

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