

Learn More about Paul Keene:

Drawing Crowds

Where do you go where there are a lot of people? On the school bus? In your classroom? In the school cafeteria? To a local park? To the movies? To sports practice? To your choir? To a concert? To a play? In an assembly, at a pep rally, or at the mall?

Paul Keene saw a lot of people in the jazz clubs he visited. In *Jazz Series #4, Chicago Blues, 1983*, Paul Keene crowded several jazz musicians into one drawing. He included some details, left some details out, and used a lot of overlapping to show the players in the jazz club.

Imagine yourself in place where there are lots of people. If you were going to draw all the people, which person would you draw first? The person in the front, that is closest to you, or the person in the back, who is the farthest away?

To get this project started, draw an outline of a person on heavy weight paper, and carefully cut it out. Trace it somewhere on a piece of paper. Lift up the person, and lay it in another place in your drawing. Trace it again. If the two shapes overlap, let the first shape “win.” Continue tracing and retracing the shape until you have a crowded composition, similar to the one you see below. You can flip the shape from back to front to add variety to your composition. You can use more than one cut out person as well.

You may finish this drawing in a variety of ways – by adding detail for realism, by adding a background to show where the crowd is, by adding bursts of color to create a more abstract crowded effect, or by inventing a technique of your own.



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