

Marion Osborn Cunningham & One-Point Perspective

One point perspective is one of a series of principles that work together to give the illusion of depth in a two-dimensional space.

Artist Marion Osborn Cunningham (1908-1948) is widely recognized for her intimate and playful San Francisco city street scenes. When dealing with the urban landscape and its architectural structures and busy streets, one-point perspective is essential to creating a successful composition. When using this drawing method, there is the illusion of objects getting smaller as they appear further away and merge towards a singular 'vanishing point' within the horizon line of the image. In these two examples, Cunningham suggests three-dimensional appeal in a two-dimensional art form. The insertion of birds, figures, and a whimsical color palette further energizes the cityscape.



Erling Roberts, *Portrait of Marion Cunningham*, n.d.,
Oil on canvas, 18 x 20 inches.
BMoA Permanent Collection 1987.01.28



Marion Osborn Cunningham, *Untitled*,
c. 1930s – 1940s, Silkscreen, 6" x 7 1/2".
BMoA Permanent Collection 2002.25.02.
Gift of the Osborn Family, 2002



Marion Osborn Cunningham, *Untitled*, 1944,
Silkscreen, 6" x 7 1/2".
BMoA Permanent Collection 2002.25.04.
Gift of the Osborn Family, 2002



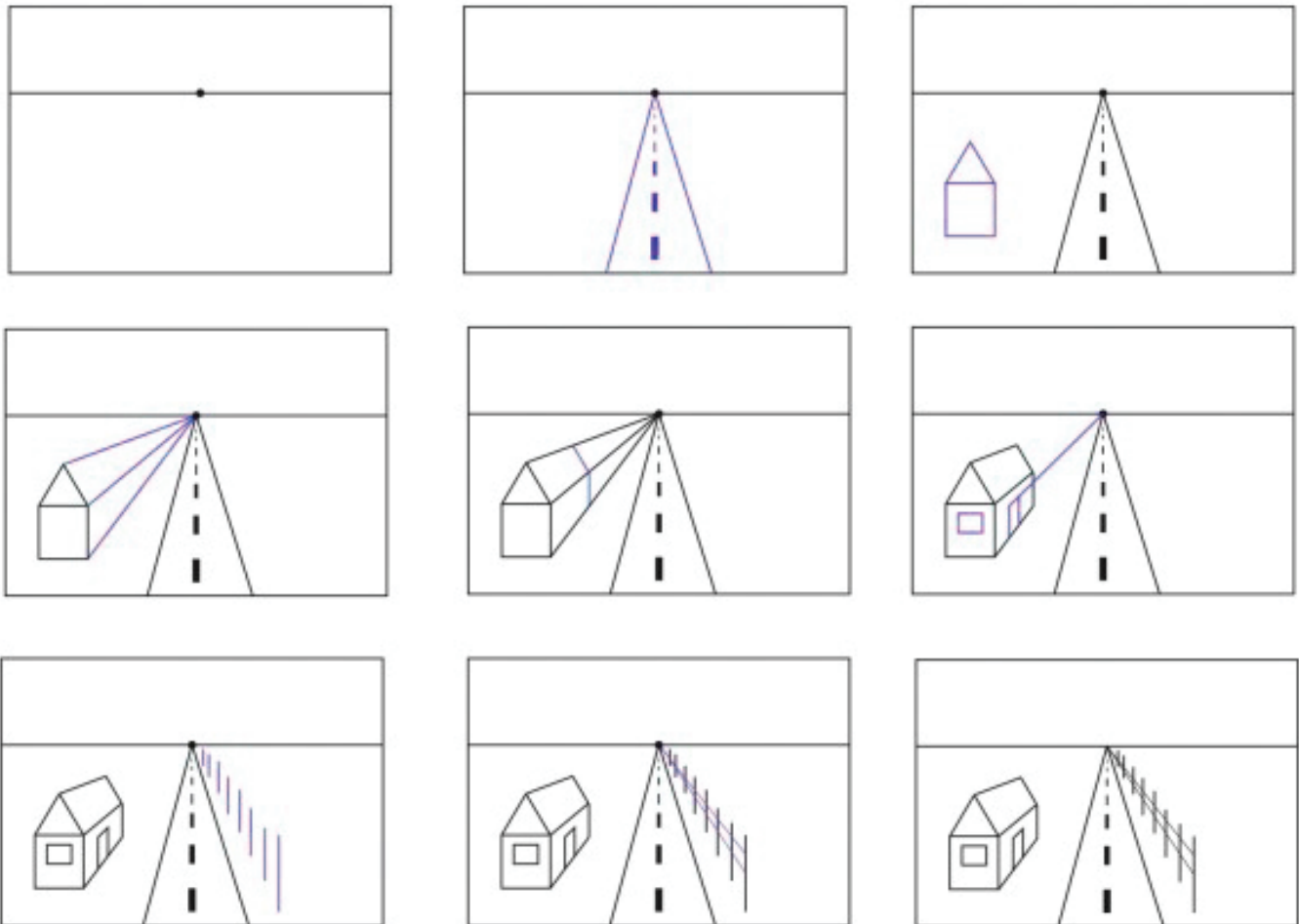
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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make a horizontal line across the length of your paper.
2. Mark a small dot in the middle of the line. That dot will be your vanishing point.
3. Make a street by making a triangle, starting at the vanishing point.
4. Begin drawing buildings by first drawing the front, then drawing lines from the corners to the vanishing point, as seen below.
5. Reference step by step example below:

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser



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EXTRAS

About The Artist: Marion Osborn Cunningham (1908-1948)

Artist Marion Osborn Cunningham was well known for creating serigraphs or screenprints from the 1930s until her death in 1948. Recurring subjects in her prints were cable car scenes, as well as scenes of San Francisco, where she was living. She was a member of the National Serigraph Society, the San Francisco Art Association, and the San Francisco Women Artists.

The Bakersfield Museum of Art was initially named the Cunningham Memorial Art Gallery, created by a gift from the artist's family. The collection of serigraphs by Marion Osborn Cunningham initially shaped the Museum's Permanent Collection. Today the Museum has over 80 works on paper by the late Marion Cunningham.

Make your own small one-point perspective drawings in the spaces below!

