

# station gallery

## hagop khoubessarian: drawing



THE ONTARIO  
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INFORMATION TO SPARK THINKING ABOUT ART

### feature work from our Permanent Collection

Born in 1931 in Alexandria, Egypt, Hagoup Khoubessarian received his early education in the Armenian schools of Cairo. In 1955 he went to Rome to study at the School of Fine Arts from which he graduated in 1960. In 1961 he immigrated to Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his family and maintains his studio. He is a member of the Ontario Society of Artists. He has exhibited in Canada, the United States and France.



Ink drawing by Station Gallery student

#### fact:

Many ancient cultures around the world have independently discovered and formulated inks for the purposes of writing and drawing. The knowledge of the inks, their recipes and the techniques for their production comes from archaeological analysis or from written text itself.

*“Matisse makes a drawing, then he makes a copy of it. He recopies it five times, ten times, always clarifying the line. He’s convinced that the last, the most stripped down, is the best, the purest, the definitive one; and in fact, most of the time it was the first. In drawing, nothing is better than the first attempt.”*

Pablo Picasso

### Process: What is Ink Drawing?

Ink drawings are made with a liquid that has pigments and/or dyes which is used to colour a surface to produce an image, text, or design. Ink is used for drawing and/or writing with a pen, brush, or quill. Thicker inks, in paste form, are often used in letterpress and lithographic printing.

Ink can be a complex medium, composed of solvents, pigments, dyes, resins, lubricants, solubilizers, surfactants, particulate matter, fluorescers, and other materials. The components of inks serve many purposes; the ink’s carrier, colorants, and other additives control flow and thickness of the ink and its appearance when dry.



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### feature work

Consisting of thousands of hatch marks each, Hagop Khoubessarian's drawings depict scenes of general hardship and death that occurred during the Armenian Genocide of 1915 as well as specific historical events in his life. For example, in *The Departure/Le Départ*, Khoubessarian depicts a farewell between an individual and his family. The family members are faceless, and made indistinguishable by their common fate. Their intentional stylization transcends gender and class boundaries; for Khoubessarian, this is a "world of survivors left in an environment devoid of reference to the source of their lost identities."



*The Departure/Le Départ*, 1968  
ink drawing on paper  
87.5 x 62.5 cm  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. George Dyer, 1979

### curriculum questions

In what way has the artist used variety in this piece?

What area of the drawing has the darkest colour values? What area has the lightest?

What technique do you think the artist used to get the dark areas of the artwork?

### curriculum link

Grade 3, Principle of Design Focus : Variety (from The Ontario Curriculum for The Arts 2009)

Variety: slight variations on a major theme; strong contrasts (e.g., use of different lines, shapes, values, and colours to create interest [bright or light colour values, dark colour values])