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2 Nadia’s drawings

Nadia always preferred to draw in fine point biro pen on white paper; she showed no interest in the use of colour (or in colouring in); she did not enjoy using paint, which only frustrated her as did the flow of ink, which she smudged causing her to discard a drawing. The pictures have not been reproduced at their original size and those of her drawings made in pencil on poor quality paper have been difficult to reproduce with great clarity. Some photocopied illustrations are included because they have relevance for the development of her work.
Drawings of animals

Horses

Figure 2.1 Fairground horses; these were among Nadia’s earliest drawings (from the age of 3 years 5 months).

Figure 2.2 Fairground horse; drawn at approximately 4 years of age.
Figure 2.3 The heads of two horses; drawn at approximately 5 years of age.

Figure 2.4 Three horses’ heads; drawn at approximately 5 years of age.
Figure 2.5
A line-by-line reconstruction of a horse’s head drawn by Nadia, made with the aid of a videotaped observation.

Figure 2.6
Enlarged version of the completed drawing of a horse’s head shown in Figure 2.5.
Figure 2.7 Horse and rider completed at approximately 5 years 6 months.
Figure 2.8 Two horses and riders; drawn by Nadia when she was aged between 5 and 6.
Figure 2.9 Rider with trumpet; drawn at the age of 5.
Figure 2.10 Two riders drawn by non-autistic children aged 6 years. From the author’s own collection.
Figure 2.11 Front view of a horse and rider. This was drawn at the age of 5.
Birds

Figure 2.12 Cockerel from one of Nadia’s picture books. By kind permission of Ladybird Books Ltd, Loughborough, UK.

Figure 2.13 Cockerel; drawn by Nadia at about 6 years of age.

Figure 2.14 Horses, cockerel, and a cat; drawn by Nadia at about 6 years 3 months.
Figure 2.15  Two cockerels; one upside down. These were drawn at about the age of 6.
Figure 2.16 Cockerel and chicken; drawn when Nadia was about 6.
Figure 2.17 Cockerel and beaks; drawn at the age of 6 years 4 months.

Figure 2.18 Three cockerels with beaks open; drawn at the age of 6 years 4 months.

Figure 2.19 Cockerel facing right, with beak open; drawn at the age of 6 years 4 months.
Figure 2.20 Illustration of pelicans from a Woolworths children’s colouring-in book (circa 1970) which served as the inspiration for Nadia’s drawing (see Figure 2.21).

Figure 2.21 Pelicans drawn by Nadia at 6 years 7 months.

Figure 2.22 Cockerel and pelicans typical of drawings by an average 6-year-old. From the author’s own collection.
**Other animal drawings**

**Figure 2.23**
Two dogs; drawn between the ages of 4 and 5.

**Figure 2.24**
A dog with menacing face; drawn between the ages of 4 and 5.

**Figure 2.25**

**Figure 2.26**
Nadia’s drawing of a lion on the back of the book in Figure 2.25.

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Figure 2.27  
A drawing possibly of an okapi; drawn between the ages of 5 and 6.

Figure 2.28  
A reindeer; drawn when Nadia was about 6 years 3 months.

Figure 2.29  A giraffe; drawn at about the age of 5.
Nadia Revisited

Drawings of humans

Figures

Figure 2.30  Possibly footballers and a rider; drawn at the age of about 5.
Figure 2.31 Two dancing figures (or perhaps footballers); drawn at the age of 5.
Figure 2.32 Two figures: one appears to be dancing (left) and the other one an unfinished rider. Nadia was about 5 years old when she drew these.
Figure 2.33 A diver or a climber; drawn at approximately 4 years of age.
Figure 2.34 A vivid impression of action: dancing, fighting, or playing football; drawn when Nadia was aged 5.
Figure 2.35  A baby in a pram; drawn at approximately 4 years of age.

Figure 2.36  A baby in a pram; drawn much later at about the age of 12.
Faces

Figure 2.37 A face; Nadia was under the age of 6 when she made this drawing.

Figure 2.38 Drawing of the author; drawn at the age of 6 years 8 months.
Figure 2.39  A disturbing face; Nadia was about 6 years of age when she drew this.
Feet and shoes

Figure 2.40 A left and a right facing shoe; Nadia drew this between the ages of 6 and 7.

Figure 2.41 Shoes, including two sketches of crossed legs; drawn between the ages of 6 and 7. Note the foot balancing the slipper and the ‘wedgie’ shoe popular in the 1970s.
Figure 2.42  Two sketches of legs, feet and shoes; drawn between the ages of 6 and 7. Note the detailed drawing of the laces and the way in which the ankle of the crossed leg is angled to the floor.
Figure 2.43  Further drawings of legs, feet and shoes, including a full figure and part of a horse; drawn between the ages of 6 and 7.
Figure 2.44 A leg drawn on the football league table in a newspaper; drawn at 6 years 8 months.
The decline in Nadia’s talent

Figure 2.45 Carousel; drawn at the age of 10.

Figure 2.46 A horse; drawn by Nadia in her early 20s.
Figure 2.47 A garden; drawn by Nadia in her early 20s.