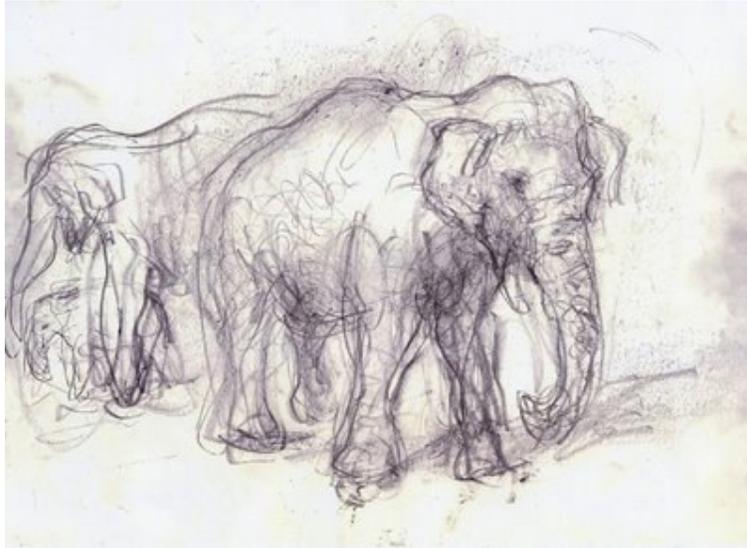


*Saturday, 15 October 2005*

I started the day drawing at the ballet studio where Frey was teaching. He is an amazing dancer. He started the lesson with floor work, rolling movements, bodies unfolding like starfish in the depths of the ocean. The tempo accelerated and by the end of the class everyone was jumping and flying through the space to powerful African rhythms. I call it AFreycan dance.



In the afternoon I met Dora at Artis Zoo near the camels. We walked directly to the elephants, where Yindee was born two months earlier. It was crowded but we managed to find a spot to sit and sketch. The parents and children were delighted to watch the cute little Yindee. If the fence hadn't been there, they could have petted the fluff on her adorable head. I had not expected Yindee to be so small. It was touching to see this toylike creature hiding between her mother's legs. From time to time her mother pushed her forward with her trunk so she could learn to walk.



Then something unexpected happened. The male elephant wasn't getting the mother's attention. He stood up on his rear legs and eagerly climbed onto her back. Between his legs a new 'trunk' appeared. It was then that people realized this was not a public circus act and they were witnessing a very private scene. Instead of visitors in a nursery, they felt like voyeurs in a bedroom. Parents did not know what to say to their kids.

An hour later, I was finished with my sketches of the baby as well as the parents (Dora was already drawing giraffes at a quieter spot). One of my favourite elephant drawings is by Rembrandt, *An Elephant, in the Background a Group of Spectators*, c. 1637. It is a black chalk drawing of a travelling circus. He managed to draw the pose, the shape and the skin of the animals so well. I only wonder whether the eye is not too big.

