

A NEW WAY TO SKETCH

Mindless doodling is great for boredom, but if you're looking to really improve your drawing skills you must step outside of your comfort zone!

These two sketches from The Wellin's collection seem simple at first glance, but many skilled artists spend lots of time creating sketch after sketch until they land on the best one. Follow these steps and you'll be able to reach far beyond what you think you're capable of!

FROM THE WELLIN



Paul Cezanne
Date: Summer 1873
Medium: Etching
Object number: 1998.117



e e cummings
Date: unknown
Medium: Pencil on paper
Object number: 1985.8

WARM UP.

Shake your hands out. Take a few deep breaths. Do some jumping jacks. Put on your favorite music. And lastly, smile!

These exercises work best by drawing from a real object or subject in front of you, but your imagination is always welcome. You should also limit yourself to 30-second or 1-minute sketch times to encourage quick, loose strokes.



DRAW WITH YOUR NON-DOMINANT HAND.

An exercise like this helps us become more aware of how hard our dominant hands work and what our drawing strengths are. Additionally, it forces us to make mistakes! We're not looking for perfection here.

DRAW WITH BOTH HANDS AT ONCE.

Again, we're trying to stop thinking so hard, so make sure to have fun with this. Try drawing the same thing, symmetrical things, or go freeform.



HOLD YOUR PENCIL FAR AWAY FROM THE TIP.

Sometimes we grip our pencils as close to the tip as possible to control our strokes. Instead, hold the end of the pencil and focus on loosening your wrist to create flowing strokes. Don't be afraid to go over your lines a few times for practice.

USE YOUR FEET TO DRAW.

We often forget that we can use other body parts to draw! Explore a little and try out new things like drawing with your feet by sticking the pencil between your toes. Who knows, maybe you'll create a masterpiece!



TRY BLIND CONTOURING.

Place your pencil on the paper, then keep your eyes on your subject and draw without lifting the pencil. Don't look down! Spend 30 seconds trying to recreate what your eyes see; think about shapes, angles, and line textures.

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