



FREESTYLE DRAWING WITH TOONKY BERRY

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EDUCATOR

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Goals and Questions

Objective

The student will demonstrate the use of surrealist drawing techniques in order to create a collaborative "freestyle" work of art in the style of artist Toonky Berry.

Long-range Goal

The student will be able to think imaginatively and transform the world around them into something new in their artwork.

Essential Questions

How can our conscious mind influence our perception of the world around us?

How can contemporary artists reimagine master processes and approaches in their own art-making practice?

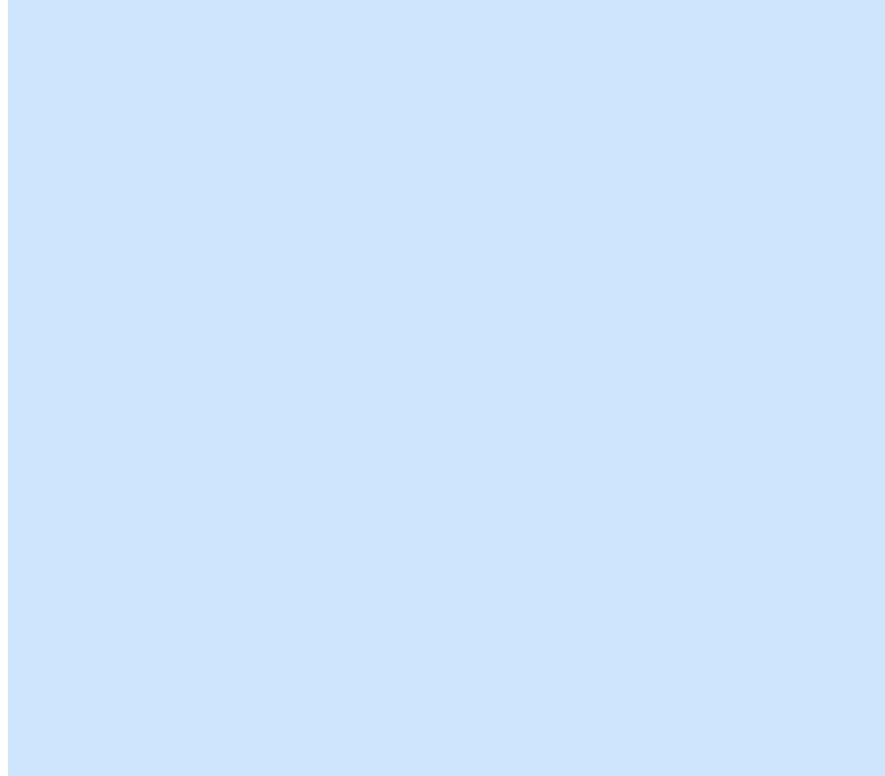
Visual Art Standard

HS1.VA.Cr2.A
Make art or design without having a preconceived plan, using course-specific objectives.

Materials

Materials:

- Clouds or photos of clouds
- Sketching paper
- Pencils/erasers
- Large white drawing paper
- Sharpies or black acrylic markers



Day 1: Surrealist Automatism

Creating art without conscious thought or using content from the unconscious mind to create artwork.

- Automatism is a term from physiology associated with unconsciously controlled body movements such as breathing.
- Automatic drawing was used by groups of artists such as the Surrealists, Dadaists, and other 20th century artists.
- This process was strongly influenced by psychologist Lucian Freud who used automatic drawing and writing to explore the unconscious minds of his patients.

Automatic drawing examples to view:

- **André Masson's
"Automatic Drawing"**
- **"The Beautiful Bird
Revealing the Unknown
Pair of Lovers" by Joan
Miró**
- **"Forest and Dove" by
Max Ernst**

Vocabulary

Metamorphosis: When someone or something changes completely in form or state.



Distortion: Twisting or changing something from its natural state.

Transformation: The act of changing a form or shape from one thing into another.


Surreal: A mix between something familiar and something bizarre or fantasy.

Proportion: How the size of various elements in a work of art relate to one another.

Analyzing the Artwork

This is a mural created by Toonky Berry in Memphis, TN. Describe the mood of the piece. How does Toonky's use of the elements of art contribute to your interpretation? In what way is this artwork different from that of Surrealists and Dadaists using similar methods?



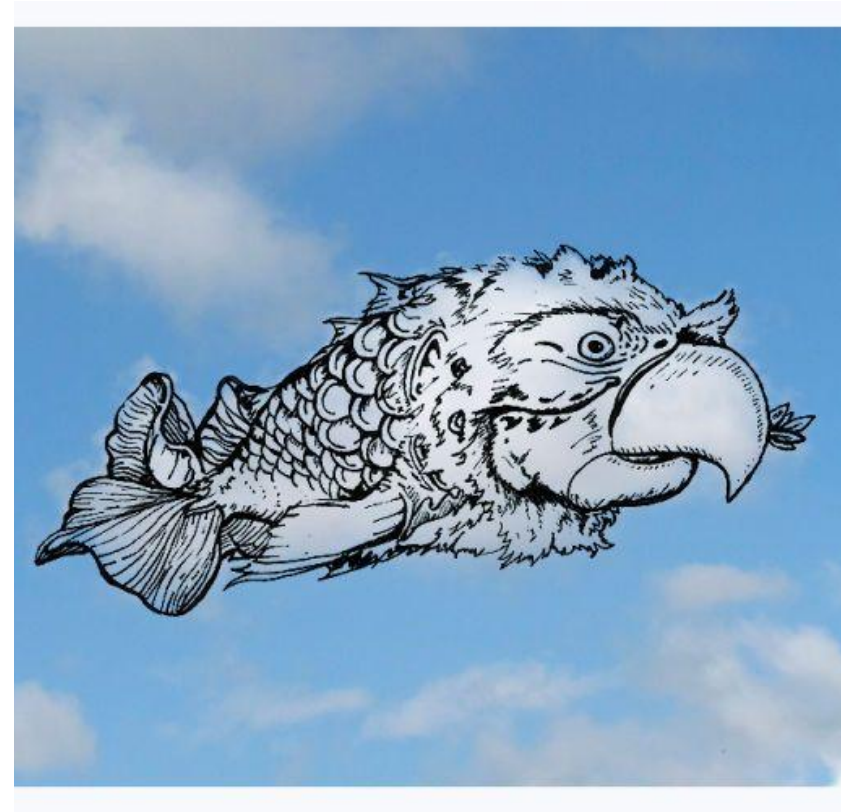
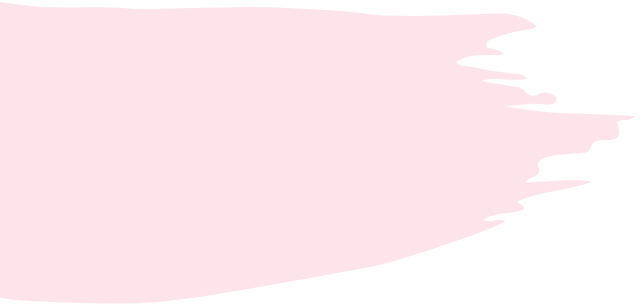


Draw clouds from outside or work on top of a photo of real clouds. What familiar shapes can you find in the clouds? Transform the cloud shapes into something new and recognizable by adding detail and drawing over the cloud shapes with a sharpie or pen. Don't overthink this process, draw the first thing you think of when you see the shape. Once everything is drawn, come back and add line weight and details being led by the principals of design.

Practicing transformation and metamorphosis

*Examples from
Quartoknows.com*





Freestyle Drawing with Toonky Berry by Amy-Beth Rice

Day 2

How can contemporary artists reimagine older artistic strategies to create modernized artwork? Think of Toonky's "freestyle" method.

- Take a few minutes and think about this question.
- With the person beside you, share and discuss your response to this question.

Share your cloud artwork with the person beside you.

- How does your partner's drawing demonstrate metamorphosis or transformation?
- How are the principles of design such as contrast, balance, proportion, and rhythm being employed in your partner's drawing?
- In your own work, what do you think you succeeded in? What do you think you could have improved on?

Who is Toonky Berry?

- Originally from Albany and Tupelo Mississippi, Toonky is a Memphis-based artist who creates illustrative drawings, paintings, digital art, graphics, and murals.
- Let's watch an interview with Toonky to hear more of his story.



Exit Ticket

Group discussion or with partners

How does Toonky combine art styles from other parts of culture with Surrealistic techniques to create something new?

How does Toonky's idea of "freestyle" relate to other arts such as dance or music?

What do you think of when you see Toonky's work?



Day 3 - 5

After watching Toonky's demonstration of the freestyle method, use a sharpie or black paint marker to begin creating your own drawing using this same method. Try to make immediate decisions as you draw so that the content flows from your unconscious mind. You may practice in your sketchbook or a practice sheet of paper beforehand if you wish. Before you begin drawing on your final paper, make marks halfway down your paper on all four sides and ensure your drawing connects to each line. This will allow all our drawings to connect into one big collaborative artwork.

Creating Your Own Freestyle Drawing

Refine Your Work

Once you've drawn your freestyle artwork, go back and refine it using the principles of design such as balance, contrast, and rhythm.

Thicken up areas of your drawing to create line weight and variation.

Add detail and emphasis such as hatching marks or decorative elements.



PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

THESE ARE THE TOOLS ARTISTS USE TO ORGANIZE THE ELEMENTS OF ART.

CONTRAST

DIFFERENT ELEMENTS USED TOGETHER TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR DIFFERENCES

EMPHASIS

USING A SPECIFIC ELEMENT OF ART IN ORDER TO CREATE A FOCAL POINT.

REPETITION & PATTERN

AN ELEMENT OF ART IS REPEATED IN AN ORGANIZED WAY TO CREATE PATTERN.



VARIETY

COMBINING DIFFERENT ELEMENTS TO CREATE INTEREST AND FOCAL POINTS.

PROPORTION

THE RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE WHOLE WORK OF ART.
COMPARISON.

RHYTHM & MOVEMENT

CREATES A SENSE OF MOVEMENT AND DIRECTION IN A WORK.

BALANCE

ORGANIZING THE ELEMENTS IN A WORK OF ART TO DISTRIBUTE THEIR VISUAL WEIGHT PLEASINGLY.

HARMONY & UNITY

EMPHASIZING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF ART TO CONNECT THE WHOLE WORK OF ART.

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Line Weight



Notice the different thicknesses of line in this work by Toonky and how it creates a sense of movement for our eye to follow as well as contrast.

There are also smaller details such as hatching lines and decorative marks that add interest and contrast between the sizes of the elements.

Reflect

EXCHANGE YOUR WORK
WITH A PARTNER

Does your partner's work exhibit a sense of rhythm and movement?

Is there a sense of contrast between varying sizes of shapes and variations of line weight?

Is there a sense of overall balance to the composition?

Day 6 - 8

Arranging the Artwork

WITH ARTWORKS COMPLETED, BEGIN TO ARRANGE THEM TOGETHER ON THE WALL OR TABLE, CONNECTING THE DRAWINGS TOGETHER. EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT COMPOSITIONS, THEN REFINE FURTHER WITH THICKER LINES AND MORE DETAILS AS NEEDED FOR THE NOW LARGER ARTWORK.



Presentation Ideas

Ways to share your
collaborative artwork
with others

- Install the final artwork somewhere in the community or school building.
- The image can be turned into a vector and printed on clothing and accessories, possibly to be purchased by parents or others to raise money for the program.
- The artwork can be uploaded onto multiple internet platforms and shared.

References



**Artwork created
by and courtesy of
Toonky Berry**



**Cloud examples
from
quatroknows.com**



**Information on
automatism from
tate.org/uk**