

Stick Drawing

This activity induces the beginner experience by simply exaggerating the length of a typical drawing/writing tool. Attaching an arm length stick to a marker changes the mechanics of drawing enough that simple shapes and forms require slow and deliberate focus. This activity invites us to release ourselves from outcomes and exactness, and experience the full body focus one engages when trying on the new and unfamiliar.

Time: ½ hour

Group Structure: open floor space so all participants can stand around the paper edge with available drawing space

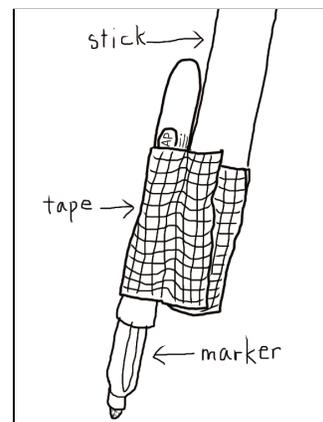
Materials: large roll of paper (bulletin board paper)

tape (sticky enough to secure marker to stick end)

sticks (about arm length) yard sticks, dowels, even straight branches can work
markers

Directions

1. Each participant prepares an extended tool by securely taping a marker to one end of a stick. Be sure the marker tip extends about 1 inch beyond the tip of the stick.
2. Roll out a length of paper on the floor allowing drawing and standing space for each participant.
3. Participants rotate to a new position on the paper between each prompt, every 30 sec to a minute.
4. Drawing Prompts:
 - An irregular shape
 - A life form
 - A Car
 - A hand
 - Big smiley face and a tiny smiley face
 - Carefully color inside a space created by someone else's drawing
 - An emoji for how you feel right now
 - Create a continuous line around the paper. Attempt to go around drawn items.
 - Collaborative faces (first person draws head, then ears, add eyes etc...)



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TIPS

Accompanying this activity with music can help deepen focus and slow the pace

Declare collaborative norms beforehand (adding to versus destroying another's work)

Reflection

How can you tell you are engaging with your beginner mindset?

What did you expect? How was it different from what you expected?

How did you adapt? What surprised you?

Hang the drawing and do a gallery walk using I notice... I appreciate... I wonder... statements

WHICH CREATIVE RESOURCES ARE WE GROWING? tolerating ambiguity, embracing mistake making, collaboration, drawing is an embodied act!

WHAT KINDS OF THINKING DOES THIS ROUTINE ENCOURAGE? embodied thinking, growth/beginner mindset

WHEN AND WHERE CAN IT BE USED? Community building exercise, try creating group illustrations of systems in science (water cycle, life cycle, diagram of a cell etc...), try writing and solving math equations, what else?

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