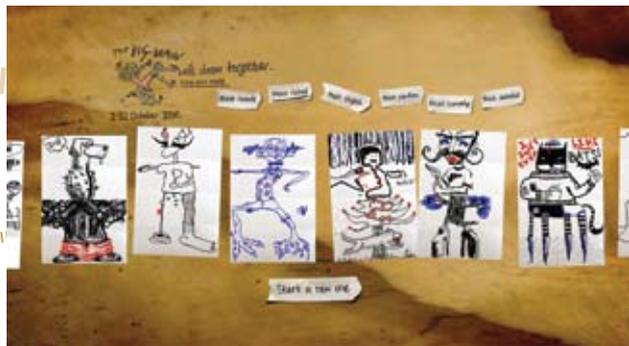


Drawing Like a Natural



Theresa McGee

Some believe that a student must possess natural talent to be successful in art. Since drawing is often considered the marker of “natural ability,” it can separate those who think they can be artists from those who think they can’t. Change these misconceptions that may inhibit artistic progress and draw out the natural talent in all students using the following online resources.

Break Drawing Down into Manageable Steps

Take the mystery out of drawing by breaking the process down into manageable steps. Younger students will love learning about depth and perspective with the three-dimensional drawing tutorials from Mark Kistler (tinyurl.com/DrawingTutorial). Explore animated steps or YouTube videos to build drawing confidence in your students.

You can also create your own drawing tutorial using Art Pad (tinyurl.com/DrawArtPad).

This online drawing tool allows you to demonstrate a drawing technique and replay the action with the option to pause animation at any time.

There are additional techniques to help you teach more specific drawing skills, including “How to Draw Using Crates, or Measuring” (tinyurl.com/DrawCrates). This video tutorial by art teacher Frank Curkovic breaks down observational drawing into scientific proportions.

Another excellent online resource, Draw!, emphasizes observational drawing with animated instructions (tinyurl.com/DrawInspired).

Include Creative Exploration

Let creative energy flow and build confidence with Zentangles. Explore the thousands of line design Zentangles on Flickr for inspiration (tinyurl.com/FlickrZen) and then visit the many Zentangle blogs for instructional resources (tinyurl.com/ZenBlogs).

Motivate and Empower

Find motivation from other artists who love to draw from Doodlers Anonymous (www.doodlersanonymous.com). Alternatively, show your students the Slideshare presentation “Ten Great Uses for a Pencil” (tinyurl.com/10pencil). Make drawing collaborative online using “Draw and Fold Over” (drawandfoldover.com). Start by drawing the head and “send it on” via e-mail for the next person to draw the torso. **Note:** While this activity is G-rated, the gallery is not. Monitor your students or have your school technology staff block the gallery.

Discover the teaching approaches that work best for your students. Use these resources to develop artistic thinking and inspire your students to draw, even when they think it might not come “naturally.”

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