

## Beginning with Random Marks

This lesson has only one project. Consider Lesson 4 as the warm-up for Lesson 5, or Lesson 5 the continuation of Lesson 4. We begin by making somewhat random marks on a large sheet of paper; we then develop isolated areas of the piece; and finally connect the isolated areas and bring the whole thing into its own “compositionality”. That’s like personality...



Credit card scraping

In most lessons, the pdf file is the bulk of the content, and the video is supplementary. In this lesson the video takes a primary role. So watch the video. <http://youtu.be/wRX7njEUiIM>

### Random Marks

1. Get out your 18”x24” cheap drawing paper. Make a “beginning”, an opening statement, on each of several sheets, using the techniques demonstrated in the video, or come up with your own. Keep it simple. This opening statement is one thing that will hold your composition together.



Squirt and Blot

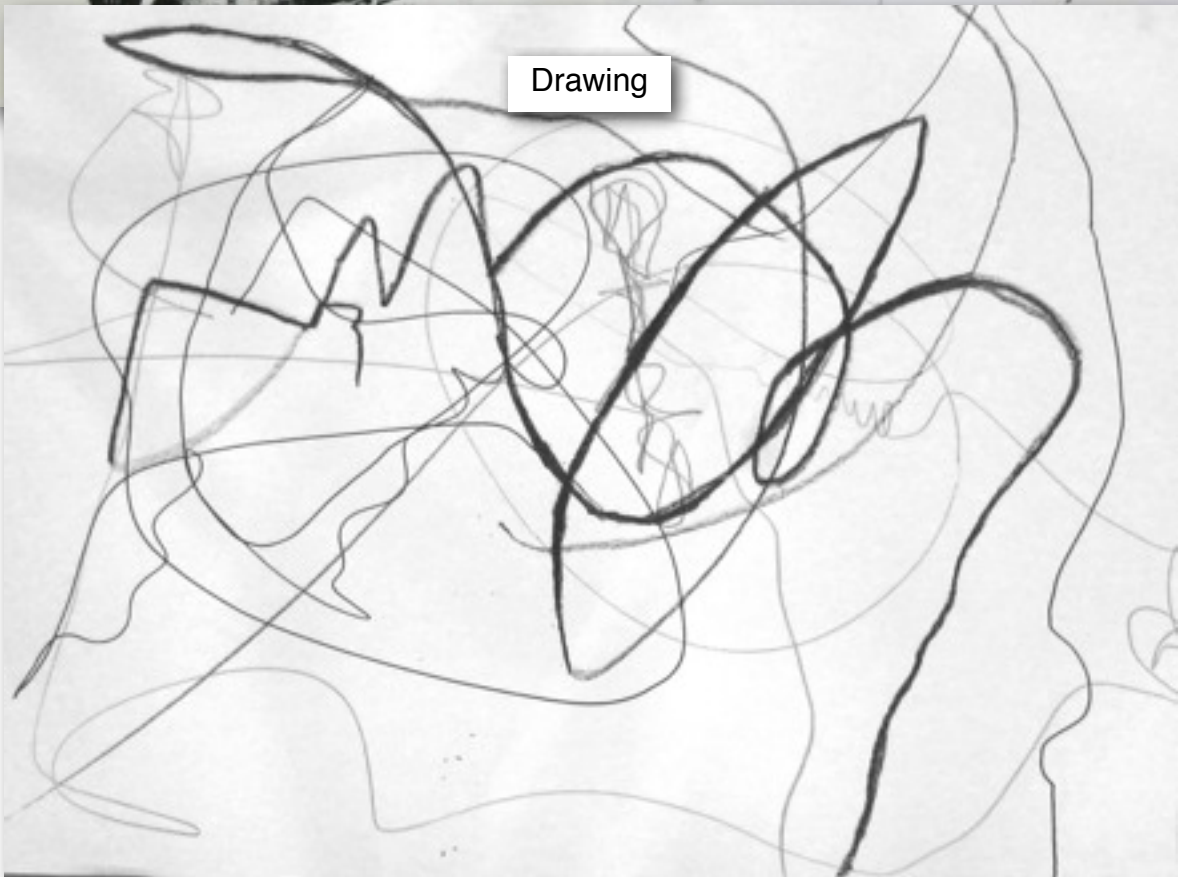


Random Ink

These are examples from the video.



Lift and Blot



Drawing



2. Make a viewfinder by cutting a square hole out of a sheet of the large paper. I recommend the whole be about 9"x9", but the exact size is up to you.

Choose one of your "beginnings", and isolate one area with the viewfinder. Work in that area using whatever techniques you like: paint, stamp, collage, draw, make shapes-lines-texture-scribbles, etc. Just work on this section until you feel it makes a statement. Not a finished composition, but something you can work with.

3. Move the viewfinder to another area of the paper, and work within the isolated area, this time using different means of achieving a "statement". It's OK to repeat some elements, colors, etc., but just be sure to introduce NEW elements as well.

4. Now you have a choice as to procedure: you can remove the viewfinder altogether and connect the two areas, or place the viewfinder so that it overlaps the two areas that you already developed. In either case, make some connections between the two isolated areas that you worked in.

5. Finally: resolve the piece. This, of course, is the hard part, and it is up to you to find a way to do this. **Take your time.** Each piece will be different, and some will not lend themselves so easily to resolution. Do your best. If your piece is at a standstill, unresolved, leave it. Move on. Don't agonize, and feel free to post pieces that you feel are unresolved. Just don't say "This Piece Sucks" or anything like that.



This is the demo piece in the video after I've worked on two isolated sections, and begun to connect them.

## Extreme Composition: Lesson 5

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I would much rather see you leave a piece unresolved than have you *Plan Ahead* and *Play It Safe* in the beginning to make sure it Hangs Together. You will be doing several of these, and some will be more challenging than others. Trust your experience - all that hard work you did in Lesson 4 (and also Lesson 2) will come to bear on this exercise.



To tie the two sections together I painted over a lot of the original random painting, leaving it exposed in some areas and veiled in others.



Next, I turned the piece to a vertical orientation and painted over what had been the green section in the second isolated area.



To finish the piece, I merely extended one of the vertical wandering lines into the painted out, previously green, area, lower center area. This piece is as finished as it is going to be. Sure, there are some loose ends, and it is “too busy”, but I like it, and I’m going to leave it as is.

The following piece begins with the random drawing demonstrated on the video and pictured on Page 2.



This is my first isolated section, with painting, stamping, and transparent collage.



This is the second isolated area; I turned the piece ninety degrees before isolating this section. Notice that I did stick to a similar color scheme.



Here is the piece with the two isolated sections.

I have related the two sections and unified a lot of the “background” area, leaving some of the original drawing merely veiled. Oh, and I turned this one vertical as well.



This is the finished piece. I added the large black donuts,

This piece I considered unresolved. I don't know where it's going, but I need to put it aside and look at it later. **I am posting it anyway.**



Have fun with this lesson!