

DOODLE DESIGN

With this activity I hope to explore the beauty of doodles and elevate them to finished designs. Doodling is an accessible, everyday activity that most of us do without thinking about it. Doodling can offer a way to relax and just get involved in the 'flow' of creativity, hopefully allowing us to switch off from some of the busy, more demanding aspects of life. Usually when we doodle, we're not thinking about the finished result and it is this aspect, along with the intuitive way of creating doodles that interests me. Once again, I'm going to share some inspiration and explain a little about how doodling and intuitive mark-making is part of my process as an artist and designer.

INSPIRATION



Temporary mural at The Whisky Bond, 2017



Backdrop mural and hand painted garments for Drawing Life, 2018



Hand-painted T-Shirt at Scotland Re:Designed, 2017

I paint a lot of murals, and although I sometimes need to keep a specific design in mind I often work intuitively, incorporating mistakes along the way- as you would when doodling. I just try to block out the scale of what I'm doing and I find that I produce better work when I'm working in this unstructured way.

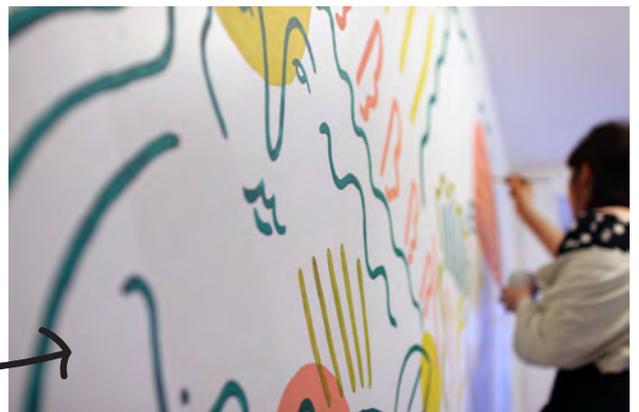
Mural painted in collaboration with Emer Tumilty for the Merchant City Festival, 2017



Textile design and painting workshop for GSA Widening Participation Programme, 2019



'Algues' mural painted in a private bathroom, 2017



I have also transferred this way of working to painting onto garments and accessories- often just starting out with a theme or a couple of motifs in my head which I then play around with so that it feels like problem-solving, figuring out where to place things. I also find this way of working exciting and fun as you can make mistakes and have to work out what to do to transform the design.

Keith Haring, 'Untitled', 1983



Textile design by Pablo Picasso, c. 1963



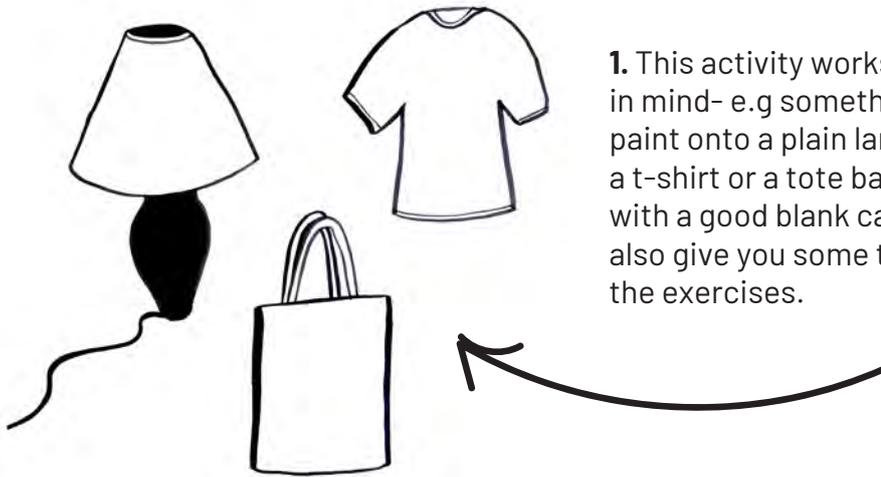
Contemporary designer Luke Edward Hall



Recycled tote bags- old bags turned inside out and painted with textile paint

STEP BY STEP

Materials: something to paint on to e.g lampshade, t-shirt or bag, paint (suitable for your chosen object e.g fabric paint for a t-shirt), a few sheets of A4 paper and a pen/pencil or paint, paintbrush.



1. This activity works best if you have a final outcome in mind- e.g something to draw or paint onto. I'm going to paint onto a plain lampshade but you could work on a t-shirt or a tote bag too- something that will provide you with a good blank canvas. The object that you choose will also give you some thematic direction as you work through the exercises.

2. The first doodle exercise should just be free form doodling, to see what comes out when you doodle (you might already have a set of things that you doodle, just see what happens). I would suggest listening to something, watching TV or talking on the phone whilst you're doing this. Try and fill an A4 page with drawings and repeat this as many times as you like.

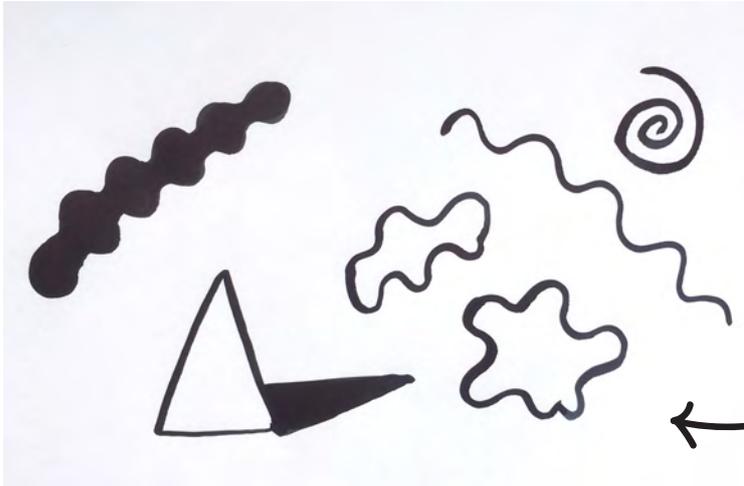


3. Next, fold another A4 piece of paper into 8 equal parts. In each rectangle spend 2 minutes doodling in response to each of the 8 key words that relate to what you have chosen to be your finished piece e.g:

LAMPSHADE KEY WORDS

Inside
Shadow
Illumination
Bright
Shapes
Room
Warmth
Glow

Your aim is to have a doodle for each key word. Key words for a t-shirt could respond to fashion or the body as follows: Wrap, Warm, Pattern, Conceal, Outline, Slogan, Fold, drape. Key words for a tote bag could refer to what you might use it for e.g grocery shopping: Fruit & Veg, Nourish, Cooking, Baking, Grocery Shapes, Packaging, Receipts, Trolley.

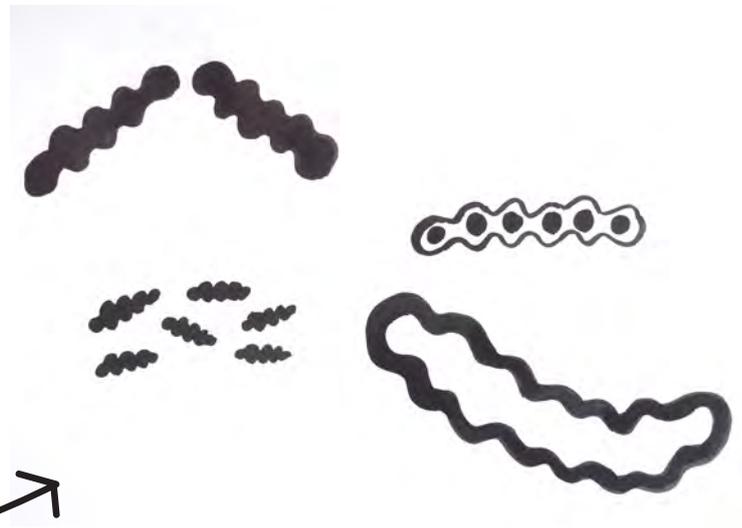


4. Now look at your original free form doodle and your key words exercise and choose 3-5 doodles that you like the best.

5. Play around with re-drawing your chosen doodles, using the following exercises:

- Draw outline versions of your doodles
- Draw mini versions of your doodles
- Draw giant versions of your doodles
- Draw a mirror image of your doodles

Plus make up some of your own experiments.



6. From the last 2 exercises choose the doodles that you think would work the best in your chosen object. It might work well to sketch your t-shirt, bag or lamp shade and practice the design on it before you start on the final thing.