

Blind Drawing Workshop 3

1 Blind drawing inside paper bag

- Put your open journal or sheet of paper inside a bag. You're going to make a drawing without being able to see your hand drawing. Drawing is 90% seeing – this kind of 'blind' drawing forces you to focus on what you're SEEING not what you THINK YOU'RE SEEING.
- Arrange a small still life of objects (in this case relating to the beach), – look at the negative shapes and spaces – observe the distances between objects the intersection points, think of these relative distances as a map.
- Now as your eye travels slowly around and across the objects allow your hand to draw, unseen, inside the bag. Draw across a double page spread. You are simply 'taking a line for a walk' – one continuous line or any number of lines – find a new one to follow and draw 'when you lose your way. Think about the marks you make, make some thicker where appropriate.
- Open up the bag and reflect on the results – does the drawing reflect your present state of mind in any way?
- Repeat this exercise with your unfavoured hand. You could change your drawing implement part way through a drawing?

2 Draw an object inside a paper bag

- Use a large sheet of paper or draw directly into your sketchbook. Without looking put your hand into the bag and feel the object. Spend some time touching every surface from all angles. Try to imagine what it is and think about the different marks that can be made to describe the shape, surface texture. Make a drawing try not to lift your pencil from the paper.
- You can repeat the exercise with your unfavoured hand
- We could pass the bags round so that we continue the drawing but with different objects if time permits. Each drawing can be started with a different coloured pen!

3 Develop these drawings

You may want to emphasize certain areas with heavy lines or crosshatching – block in negative space – colour?. You can repeat these exercises with your own objects or still life set up.

Close your eyes whilst drawing and try to remember what you have seen.

Block areas, rub out areas, cut the drawings up and reassemble, anything goes. Enjoy!



Willem de Kooning created many drawings with his eyes closed, they can be seen on at MOMA, New York, many drawings were based on the theme of the crucifixion:



Tony Cragg is a sculptor and so is concerned with three dimensionality and material but his drawings are very interesting, particularly when considering exercise 2. 'This idea of drawing as an almost-private world, in which forms can be generated free

from the demands of 'real' materiality, is very evident in Cragg's own sketches. They seem intended to capture pure energy, or invent new forms through some automatic means (like the random overlap of different vessel forms).' Glen Adamson for V & A.

Great books for creative drawing projects are 'Experimental Drawing' by Robert Kaupelis and 'Drawing Projects, an exploration of the language of drawing' by Mick Maslen and Jack Southern