

Let's Take a Line for a Walk

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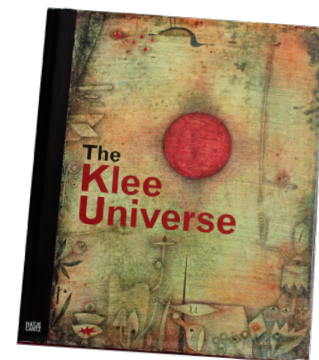
What's the project?

We are going to do a line drawing.

What do you need?

Pencil or pen and a couple of pieces of paper.

Anyone who can make a mark on a piece of paper can draw. We do it all the time; doodling on bits of paper when we're trying to think, scribbling absentmindedly on whatever's about when we're left on hold on our phones. Drawing makes you happy and confident, it's a way of expressing how you feel. It brings you joy.

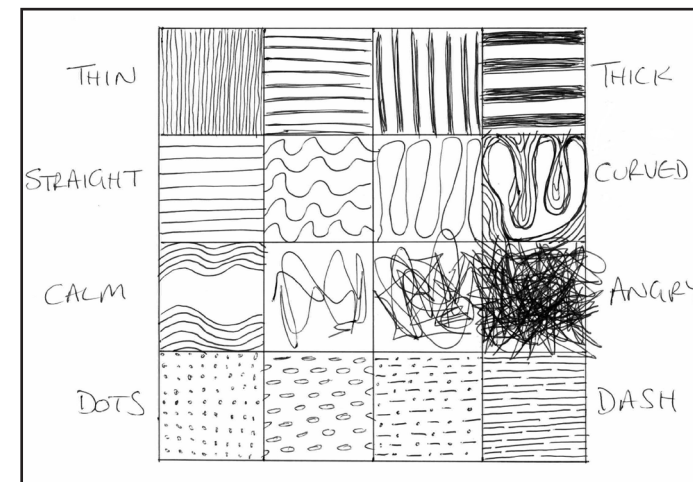


The line is a basic element of drawing and can be drawn thick or thin, straight or curved, calm or angry, or as a dot or dash. When the Swiss-German artist Paul Klee wrote The Pedagogical Sketchbook in 1925, he said drawing was like, "taking a line for a walk". When you put it like that, drawing suddenly becomes less daunting. Are you ready to take a walk?

Let's start with a drawing exercise

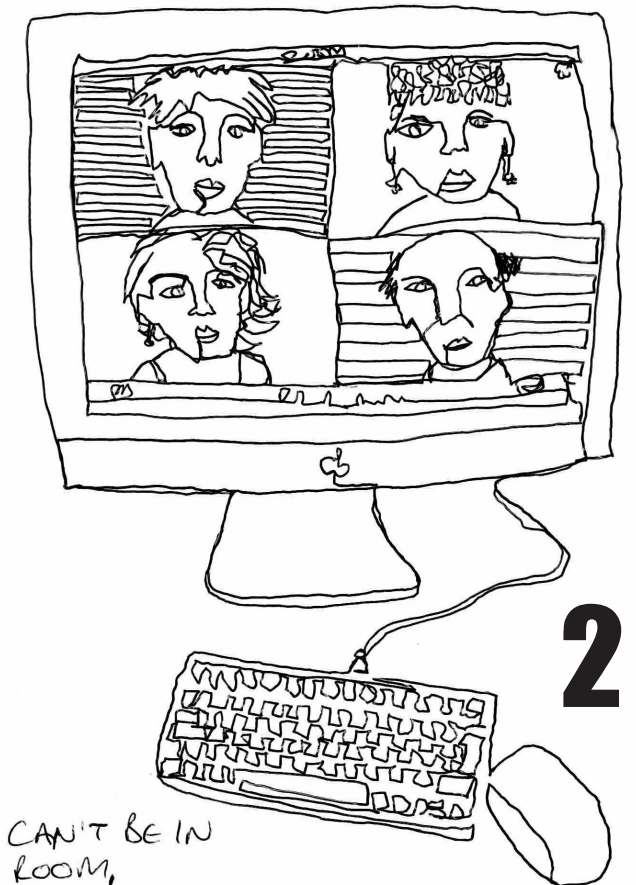
Draw a 4 x 4 grid which fills the paper you are using.

Starting from the top row and going from left to right, draw some lines in the first box, and then alter the nature of the lines in each of the following boxes. For instance, in the first box the lines could be quite thin and by the last box in the row, the lines are really thick. You can come up with your own line styles or use those in the illustration below.



This activity has been developed for you by artist Jack Doyle, commissioned by Castlefield Gallery, Manchester.

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YOU CAN'T BE IN MY ROOM,
BUT YOU CAN BE IN MY ZOOM.

The Project

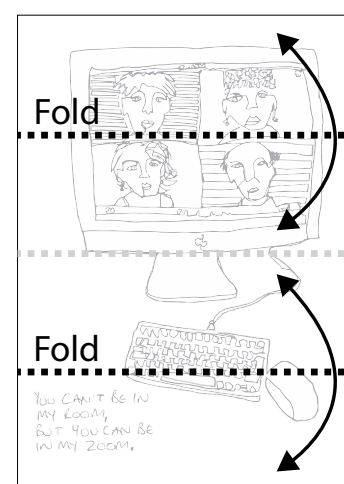
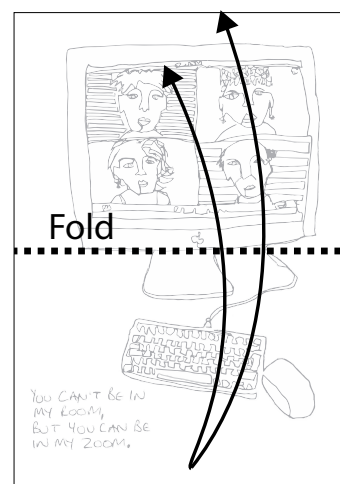
Now draw an object using the line styles you've just been experimenting with. You can use anything for inspiration: an everyday object in your home or maybe something that's important to you. The drawing above has been made using one continuous line.

Letterlocking

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Letterlocking

This process of folding a letter in such a way that it becomes its own envelope, dates back to the 13th century. It was a way of securing the letter's contents from prying eyes until the recipient received it. The skill went into decline with the mass production of envelopes in the 19th century. Follow the instructions and have a go.



What next?

You could display your finished drawing at home, but having taken your line for a walk, why not take it on a longer journey? You could share your work on social media or follow the instructions below on how to letterlock and you can either post or give your picture to a friend or a member of your family.

