

THE **12** MAGIC TRICKS OF DRAWING

a totally unique *HOW TO DRAW* book



author of the *Running on Rainbows Art Program*, Running on Rainbows Pty Ltd 1989,1993
and *Discovering Art*, McGraw Hill Book Company, 1975

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before we begin

Do you think you are “hopeless” at Art?

Good news ... it is an absolute myth!

You are saying, “But I can’t even draw a straight line.” Well, Leonardo da Vinci probably wasn’t too good at that either. He’d have used a ruler if he really needed a straight line.

What probably is true is that your development stopped at an early age. On top of that, you were probably actually told that you were not good at Art and that you took after your father or mother ... “hopeless” ... and so the myth continued.

However, if you feel that your Art ability is quite good, you probably can tell us exactly who it was that encouraged you in those early years.

Human beings are born with what we call “talent”, with the potential to make marks and create things. But in this society, something happens along the way.

Firstly, we are taught very early that if our drawings do not look realistic like photographs, they are “not good”. But did anyone actually show us how to make things look real on flat paper? The big stumbling block? ... HOW TO CREATE A 3D EFFECT ON A 2D SURFACE. We have to use *illogical tricks*. They are not hard - once we know.

Secondly, after we start school, our artworks about feelings and ideas - things we cannot see but are as *real* as the nose on our face - excitement, stillness, delicacy - are regarded as “not art, just rubbish”. Gone are the days when Art was a place we felt safe and happy in. No wonder only the brave and lucky grow up to be “talented”.

So let’s get lucky! Art creates an interesting and rich life.

Let’s go!



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SECTION ONE

YOUR THREE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

STAGE ONE: “Surviving the First Marks” stage

STAGE TWO: “Scribble” stage

STAGE THREE: “This is My World” stage

- ◆ What happened then?
- ◆ The problem was?
- ◆ A point about copying



YOUR THREE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

STAGE ONE

“Surviving Your First Marks” stage

The first time you ever picked up a pencil you probably put it in your mouth.

The second time around you probably used it to make a ghastly scratching noise on the floor or a long black line across the dining-room wall. You had discovered a dead-set source of power that you probably used for the next five years to attract instant attention.

You probably also realised that, with the stroke of a crayon, you, the individual, could leave your mark, literally, on the world at large. Magic stuff!

However - at this moment of enlightenment, how many of us have had our future artistic careers abruptly ended by having our crayon whisked away by a panic-stricken adult?

STAGE TWO

“Scribble” stage

Fortunately, Nature has provided parents with a built-in system of forgiveness and children do creatively revive to draw again.

Next time you were most likely provided with a large sheet of paper and a huge water-soluble crayon. You were probably enthusiastically encouraged to perform that wonderful dance of lines called “the Scribble” - round and round in the joyous swirls of movement, touch and sound. At times the lines went “zoom”, sometimes “swish,” and sometimes “kerploomp!”

STAGE THREE

“This is My World” stage

Then one fine day ... yes! ... you understood this thing called “art”. With a flick and smudge of the crayon, you knew that the marks that you were making *could represent a particular thing or an idea or a feeling*.

You experienced yet another surge of power. You could now see your ideas on the paper in front of you. Better still, you could show others what your feelings looked like.

You had found another means to examine your experience with the world, another source of experiencing this thing called, “you” and everyone else out there that could now be called - “them”.

Great - but risky.

You were now vulnerable. You could well be providing a visible target for criticism.

“Michael, dear, come and look at this drawing little Johnny has done of you. I reckon the legs are right - skinny as sticks with wobbles in the middle. It’s a scream.”

“And what’s this big scribbly patch over here supposed to be, Johnny? The dog? It’s Bozo? This is Bozo? Oh, dear, looks like you’ve inherited your Mother’s talent, Johnny-oh. Never mind, you might improve when you go to school. ... It’s very nice, love.”

Too late, love.

Luckily, Nature has also often provided offspring with built-in systems of forgiveness. Or else ... maybe we never drew again.