

Fine Art Workshop

Responding to Instruction

You will need:

- 1 piece of A4 paper cut into 16 pieces
- 3 pieces of paper to draw on
- Range of drawing materials – Pen, Pencil, Felt Tip, Colouring Pencil, Chalk, Charcoal (whatever you can get your hands on!)

Objective:

To create a series of drawings by responding to a set of instructions chosen at chance.

Introduction:

We all respond to instruction in different ways. Artist Sol LeWitt often uses instructions as a way to generate artworks and uses responses from himself as well as others. LeWitt believed the idea itself could be the work of art, and that, like an architect who creates a blueprint for a building and then turns the project over to a construction crew, an artist should be able to conceive of a work and then either delegate its actual production to others or perhaps even never make it at all. LeWitt's work ranged from sculpture, painting, and drawing to almost exclusively conceptual pieces that existed only as ideas or elements of the artistic process itself. Imagine the following: 'A black not straight line is drawn at approximately the centre of the wall horizontally from side to side. Alternate red, yellow, and blue lines are drawn above and below the black line to the top and bottom of the wall.'

Now look at the outcome of the instruction:
Is this what you thought it would be?



Activity:

Step one:

- Divide your 16 pieces of paper into piles of four.
- Take one of your piles of four and write a different drawing tool on each. For example: Pen, Pencil, Colouring pencil, Felt tip. These should be items you have access to! Make sure to keep these pieces in one pile.
- On the next pile of four you will need to write a time frame. For Example 3 mins, 5 mins, 10 mins, 15 mins. These should be realistic! Again keep these pieces in a separate pile.
- On the next four you should write an object: For example: Your hand, something from your kitchen, something you can see, something small. Again these should be something you have access to. Keep these pieces in another pile.
- On the next four write an instruction. For example: without looking at paper, without removing tool from paper, using only lines, normal observational drawing, only drawing the shaded areas.

Here is other way someone has interpreted
the same instruction:



Step Two:

- Pick one piece of paper from each pile.
- You should have a time, a tool, a subject and an instruction for drawing.
- You should then complete your drawing following your instructions.
- You can repeat this process many times to produce a series of drawings.
- You can complete many drawings on the same piece of paper or use separate pieces for each drawing.
- You can even experiment a little with your instructions, by adding new ones!



Felt tip, 1 minute,
Thread spool, without
looking at paper



Biro, 2 minutes, Mug
without removing tool
from paper

Key outcomes:

- Challenging the way you normally make artwork.
- Help you build confidence in your technical ability and find out new effects and explore how your materials can be used.
- Gamify drawing- creating your own rules for making.
- Get an idea of how artists and designers work to multiple briefs in the real world.

Things to think about:

Was the outcome what you expected? If you gave your instruction to someone else to follow, who would own the artwork?

Take a look at some other artists who use instruction in their work:

Tacita Dean: Finding a four leaf clover on a sunny day (2002)

Julius Koller: Instruction (1996)

Careers:

Fine artists create drawings, paintings, sculptures, and moving pictures, using a variety of media, often based on a chosen narrative.

- Commercial Art Gallery Manager
- Community Arts Worker
- Exhibition Designer
- Fine Artist
- Graphic Designer
- Higher Education Lecturer
- Illustrator
- Printmaker
- Secondary School Teacher

More Resources

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Useful Links

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