

Expressive Line

Draw these exercises in your handmade book

Problem:

Part A: Think up four emotions of the human condition. For each emotion, use half a page to visually express the emotion with non-objective mark-making in black and white media. No color please. Use line quality and composition to express your intent. Label each section with the emotion.

Part B: Choose one of the line qualities from Part A and do a mass gesture drawing of a person, place, or thing. Use a full page to make this drawing and include a foreground and background in the composition. It is fine if the background is merely a hint of environment that supports the focal point.

Objectives:

- To explore the expressive nature of line and the potential of non-traditional drawing tools.
- To consider the spatial context of presentation.

Strategy: Line quality has expressive content. For example, think of looking at a handwritten signature and how well it relates to that person's temperament. The mark-making can be controlled, carefully crafted, tense with perfection, or at the other extreme gestural, emotionally-charged, breathy, sloppy...

We have studied associations with line orientation -- horizontal, vertical, and diagonal. Each direction conveys expectations. For example, if you were to express "excitement" as your emotion, you would want to consider diagonals, for their energy, and avoid horizontals, for their calming influence.

Combine your knowledge of line orientation with experiments in mark making. Use familiar tools of brush and pen as well as found objects like a Q-tip, a stick, a tissue, etc. A simple composition is suggested, with no distracting components.

