

# Curt Cloninger

## Creativity & Inspiration Notes

(aka Things Too Cumbersome to Put on the Overhead)

### **Exploratory Sketching Materials:**

#### **For Drawing With:**

Fine-point black fiber tip pen

Medium black ballpoint pen

Three nylon-tip pens in grayscale range

Three felt-tip markers in grayscale range

Black charcoal stick

No. 2 pencil

Three prismacolor pencils in your choice of colors

#### **For Drawing On:**

5" X 8" moleskin notebook with plain pages

18" X 24" newsprint pad

Roll of newsprint or shelf paper (18" or however wide you can get it)

Roll of tracing paper (however wide you can get it)

### **Ways to Launch Sketches**

1. launch from #1 theme (or top 3 themes)
2. rephrase themes (happy-go-lucky > devil-may-care)
3. rephrase nouns + adjectives in themes, mix and match
4. sketch from a random word back to the project
5. sketch from old sketchbook sketches in context of new project

### **Ways to Group Sketches (or Anything)**

#### **According To Real World Criteria**

size, shape, weight, hardness, speed, man-made, organic, pretty, ugly, common, rare.

#### **According to Design Synectics (Nicholas Roukes)**

1. Functionally: according to what they do.
2. Structurally: according to how they are built.
3. Kinetically: according to how they move.
4. Irrationally: according to your intuitive feelings, not a rational scheme.
5. Randomly: according to chance. Shuffle a bunch of your sketch sections and deal them out randomly into groups.

### **According to Thinking Hats (Edward de Bono)**

1. white hat (blank sheet): look at the objective facts
2. red hat (fire): involve your subjective opinions
3. yellow hat (sun): be affirming; look at the positive aspects
4. black hat (judge's robe): be critical; look at the negative aspects
5. green hat (plant): ask "what if?"; speculate; use your intuition
6. blue hat (sky): get the big picture

## **Ways to Integrate Sketches (or Anything)**

### **According to Synectic Trigger Mechanisms (Nicholas Roukes)**

subtract, repeat, combine, add, transfer, empathize, animate, superimpose, change scale, substitute, fragment, isolate, distort, disguise, contradict, parody, prevaricate, analogize, hybridize, metamorphose, symbolize, mythologize, fantasize.

### **According to SCAMPERR (Bob Eberle)**

substitute/simplify, combine, adapt, modify/magnify, put to other uses, eliminate, rearrange/reverse.

## **Formal Design Elements**

### **Wassily Kandinsky**

point, line, plane

### **Paul Klee**

line, tone, color

### **Armin Hoffman**

letterforms

### **Elemental Shapes**

square, circle, triangle

"The triangle came into being when a point entered into a relation of tension with a line and, following the command of its Eros, discharged this tension." (Paul Klee)

### **Opposites**

thick/thin, long/short, straight/curved, rectangle/circle/triangle, flat/textured, figure/ground, big/small, much/little, negative/positive, light/heavy, falling/rising, stable/unstable, front/back, pointed/blunt, smooth/rough, hard/soft, opaque/transparent, overstated/subtle, simple/complex