

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