

## *My Friend and I: Lovable Line Drawing*

**Best for:** grades 1-3

**Description:** learn about different types of lines and shapes while creating a portrait of yourself with an animal friend using crayons and markers.

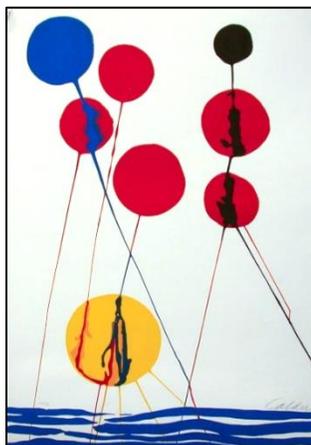
**Vocabulary:** line, shape, self-portrait, straight, wavy, curved, geometric, organic, abstract

### **Required materials**

- one: 9x12" thick white paper
- one: scrap sketching paper
- pencil
- markers

### **Optional materials**

- colored pencils or crayons
- ruler or other straight edge



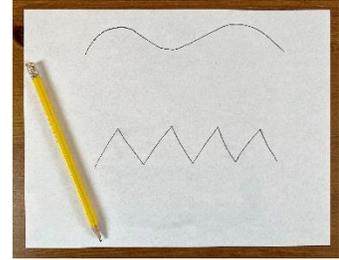
Images:

Alexander Calder (American, 1898—1976), *Balloons*, 1973, lithograph in colors on paper, edition LVII/C. Gift of Argosy Partners and Bond Street Partners. 1980.15  
 Joan Miro (Spanish, 1893—1983), *Personnage et Oiseau*, 1948, lithograph in colors on paper, edition 5/75. Museum purchase with funds provided by the Junior League of Dayton, Inc. 1963.123

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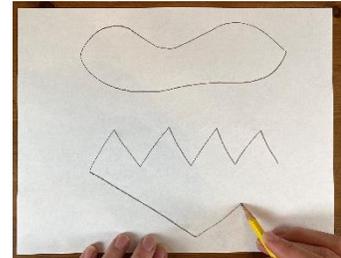
## Instructions

1. With a pencil on scrap paper, let's practice drawing **shapes** and **lines**. What makes a "line" a line and a "shape" a shape?
2. Start with a curvy or zig-zag **line**. Then, connect another line so it is enclosed. Now, the line is a **shape**. Draw a few shapes this way first.

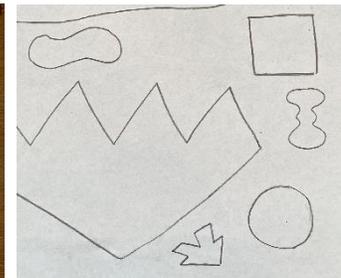
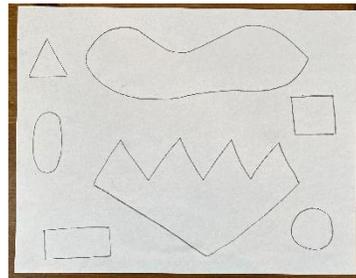


**Helpful hint:** use a ruler or the straight edge of a book to practice drawing lines.

3. Next, we'll draw some **geometric shapes** first (shapes with names like square, circle, triangle.) From here, we can try **organic shapes** (shapes without names—they often have wavy or curvy **lines**.)



4. Now, look at your **shapes**. Which would you use to draw yourself for the **self-portrait**? Maybe try an oval for the head, a triangle for the body, and rectangles for the legs.

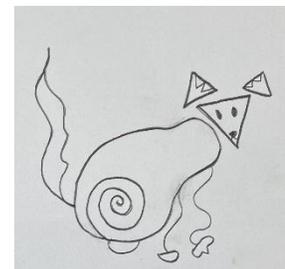
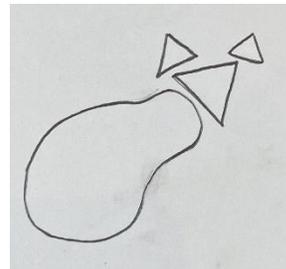


5. After warming up and planning your drawing, begin your final sketch on the thick, 9x12" white paper. Start drawing your body **shapes** in pencil first.



6. What kind of **lines** will you use? Try a straight for the neck, curly for arms, wavy lines for hair and zig-zags for feet!

7. Who else could be in your drawing? Do you have a pal or an animal friend to include? Use **geometric / organic shapes** and different types of **lines** to add a best buddy.



8. Once you have drawn everything in pencil, trace over with markers.



**Helpful hint:** use a black marker and the colors you add later will really pop!

9. Now with markers, find **shapes** to color in.

**Helpful hint:** split larger shapes into smaller ones by adding an interesting line!

10. Add final details to the drawing—are there nighttime stars or a bright sun? Can you add more by designing a border?



## Extensions

### **For a creative spin:**

1. Cut **geometric** and **organic shapes** out of colored construction paper and collage them into your artwork with glue.
2. Use Twisteez or chenille stems for 3-D effect. Wrap around markers to curl or bend them into zig-zag **lines**. Finely glue into place.

### **For extra challenge:**

1. Experiment with **negative** (outside of a **shape**) and **positive** (inside of a **shape**) space by opting to make some shapes purely black.



## Web Resources

[Discover artist Joan Miró Video](#)

[Video: learn how to draw in the style of artist Joan Miró](#)

[Step-by-step shape art activity from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston](#)

[More at-home art activities from the Young at Art Museum](#)

