

Walter Foster



# creative \* Doodling & Beyond

Inspiring exercises, prompts, and  
projects for turning simple doodles  
into beautiful works of art

BY STEPHANIE CORFEE

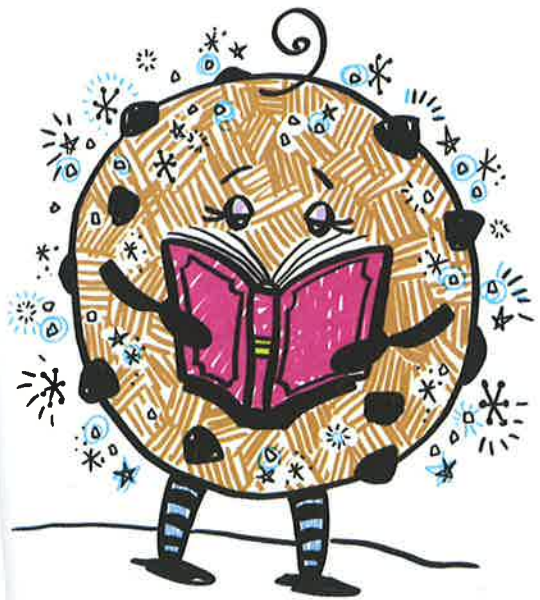


# Sparking Creativity \*

Some days, the creativity sparks fly; other days, the sparks are nowhere to be found. When that happens, turn to these fun exercises for endless ideas and inspiration!

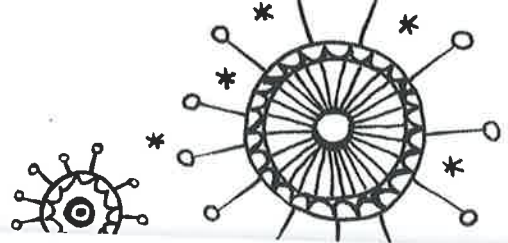
## The Mix n Match

On the opposite page, write an adjective, a verb, and a noun on the numbered lines under the appropriate columns. (I've added a few to get you started.) Then select three random numbers, which will be your key to unlocking a doodling prompt. For example, if your numbers are 7, 2, and 6, select the adjective on line 7, the verb on line 2, and the noun on line 6. Your doodling prompt? "Sparkly reading cookie!" If you select 5, 1, and 3, you get a "tiny singing tree." How lovely!



### TIP

Doodling inspiration can come from the things you see or imagine. Doodles should be a spontaneous outward manifestation of what's on your mind. So draw when the spirit moves you, allowing your thoughts to guide you.



Adjective	Verb + "ing"	Noun
1. giant	singing	bird
2. green	reading	house
3. fuzzy	glowing	tree
4. shiny	sleeping	baby
5. tiny	painting	ball
6. yummy	swinging	cookie
7. sparkly	dancing	angel
8.		
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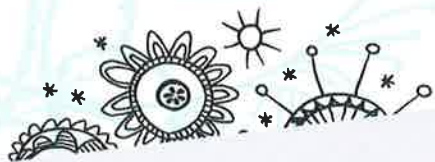




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\*  
Creativity Prompt

# Random Doodle

- \* Grab the nearest book or magazine and open to a random page. Choose the first item or word you see and then challenge yourself to find inventive ways to doodle it on the opposite page. Be creative! The idea is to be spontaneous and to get comfortable with your doodling style.
- \*



I opened a dessert cookbook, so no surprise that my subject is cupcakes—swirly cupcakes, heavenly cupcakes, and cherry-on-top cupcakes. Yum!





\*  
\*  
Doodling  
Exercise

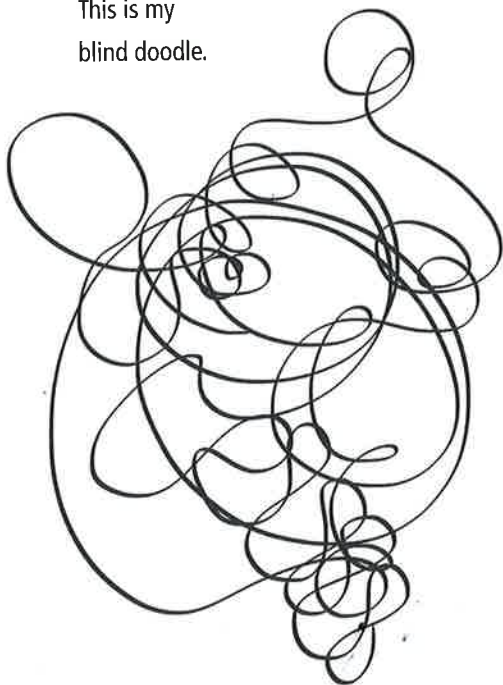
# Blind Doodles

For this exercise, you'll be doodling with your eyes closed. The objective is to keep a loose hand and "feel" your way through the doodle. This is a great way to start a drawing if you're having artist's block. I've never been disappointed with the results of an illustration that began as a blind doodle. (There's something to be said for happy accidents and unplanned ideas!) These drawings will be quirky and fun every time.

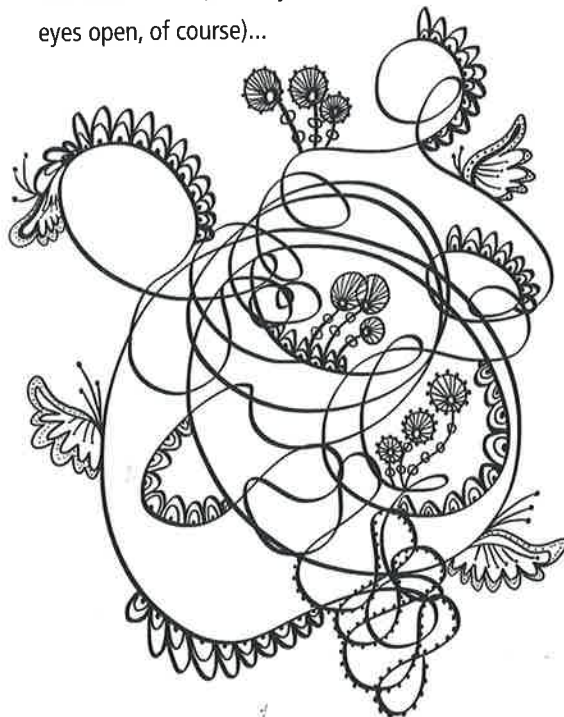
## Dominant Hand

Using your dominant hand and a medium-point pen, draw a looping, freeform, curvy line without lifting the pen from the page. Stop whenever it feels right to stop. Open your eyes and take a look at what you've created. It might seem messy, but use your creative eye to transform it into an interesting design. Take a look at my blind doodle and then turn to pages 50-51 to practice your own.

This is my  
blind doodle.



I started adding  
embellishments (with my  
eyes open, of course)...

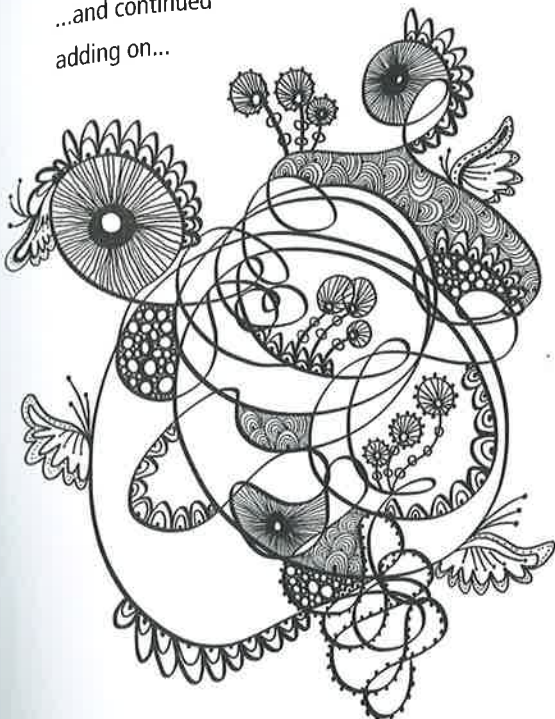




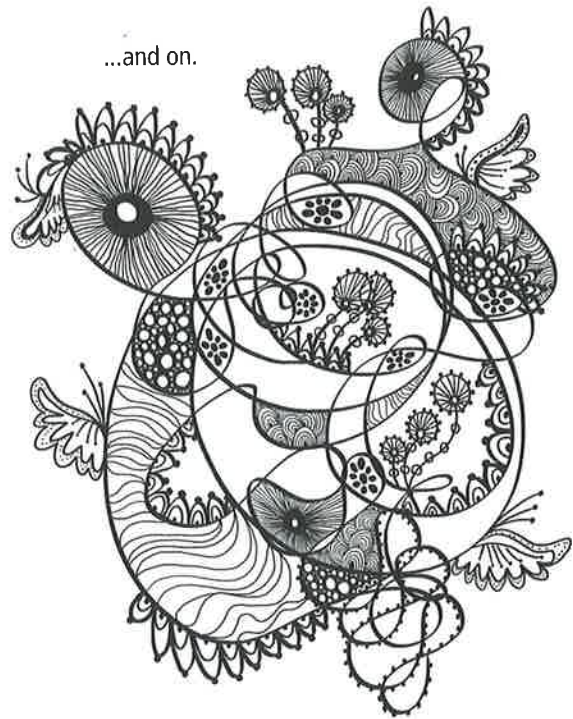
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been dis-  
doodle.  
leas!)

curvy  
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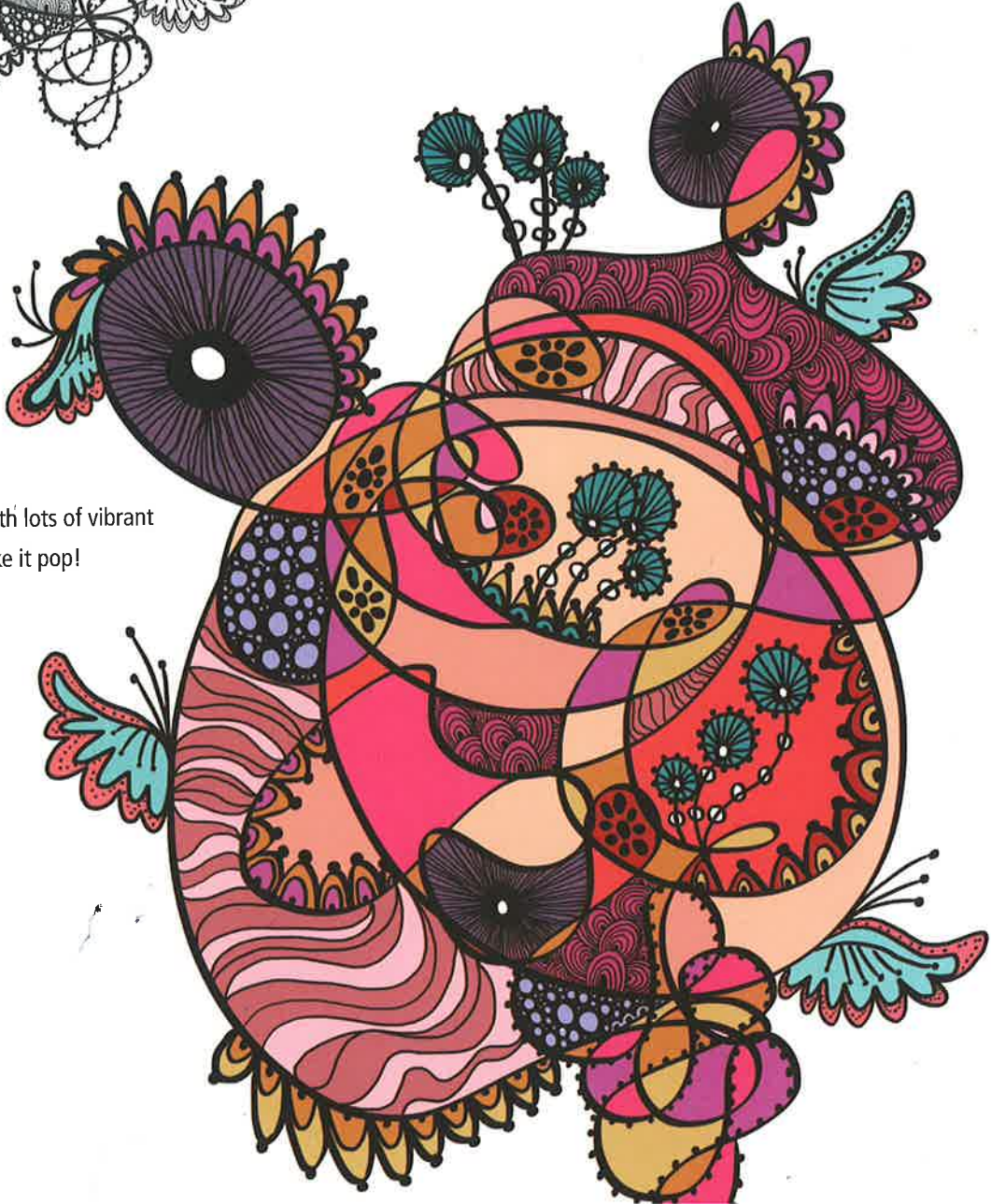
...and continued  
adding on...



...and on.



I finished with lots of vibrant  
color to make it pop!

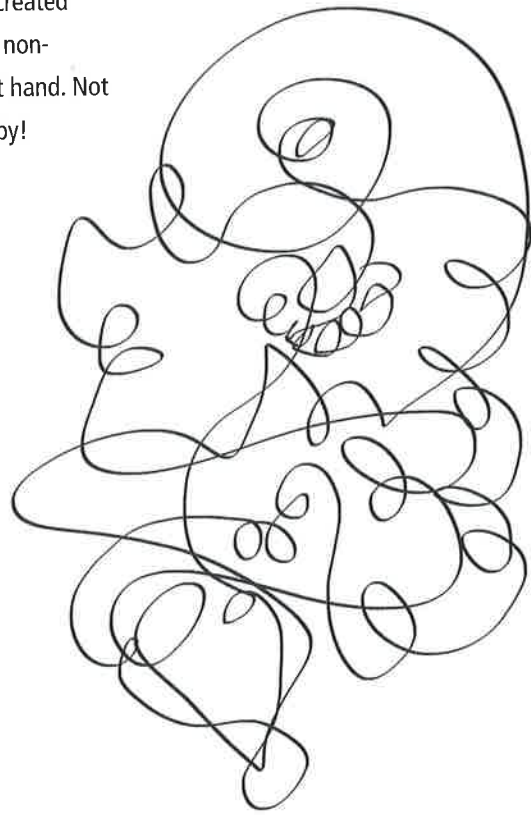




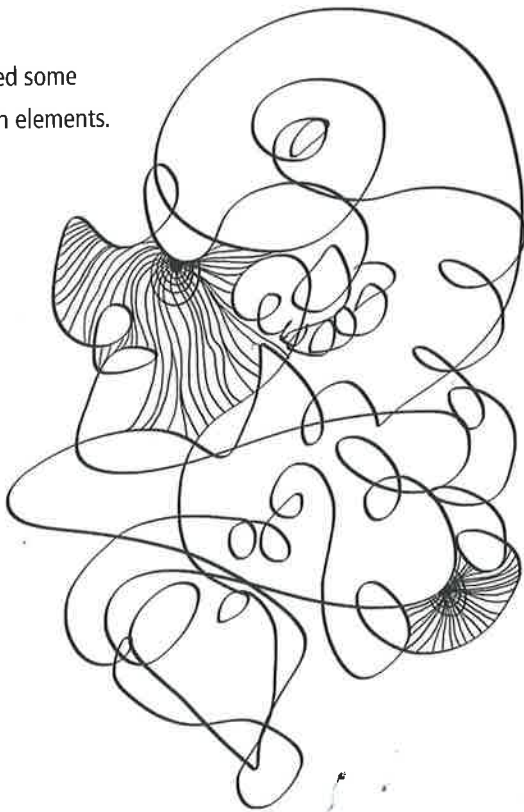
## Non-Dominant Hand

Now create a blind doodle with your non-dominant hand, but use your dominant hand to embellish the design. You might find that drawing with your less-trained hand yields more spontaneous and unique results. That's ok. There are no rules, only creative outcomes! Check out my blind doodle, and then turn to pages 54-55 to try it out for yourself.

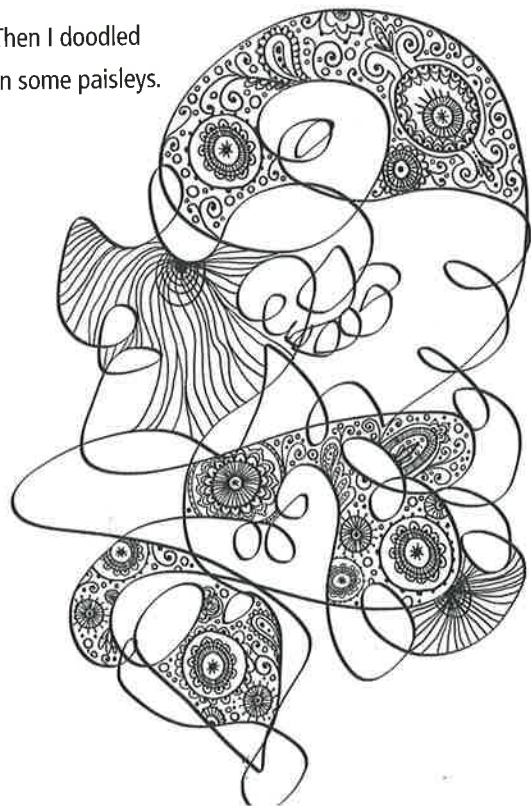
This is the blind doodle I created using my non-dominant hand. Not too shabby!



I added some design elements.

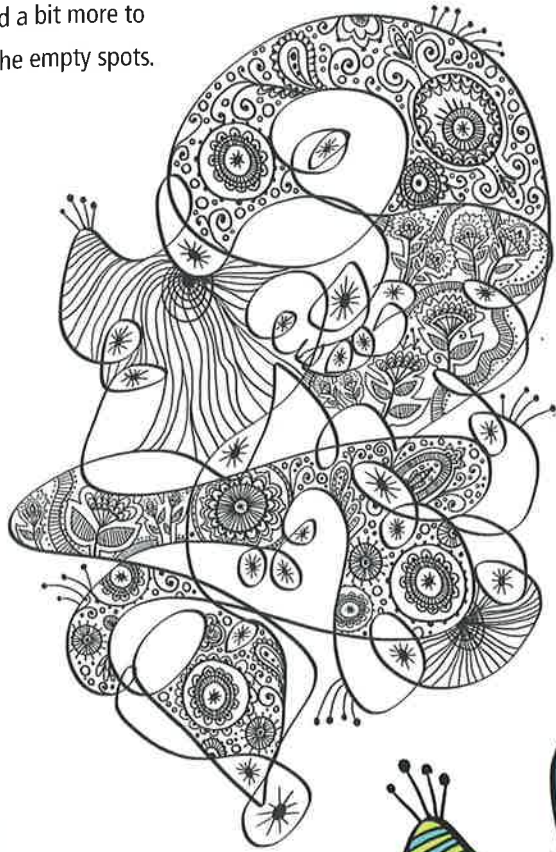


Then I doodled in some paisleys.

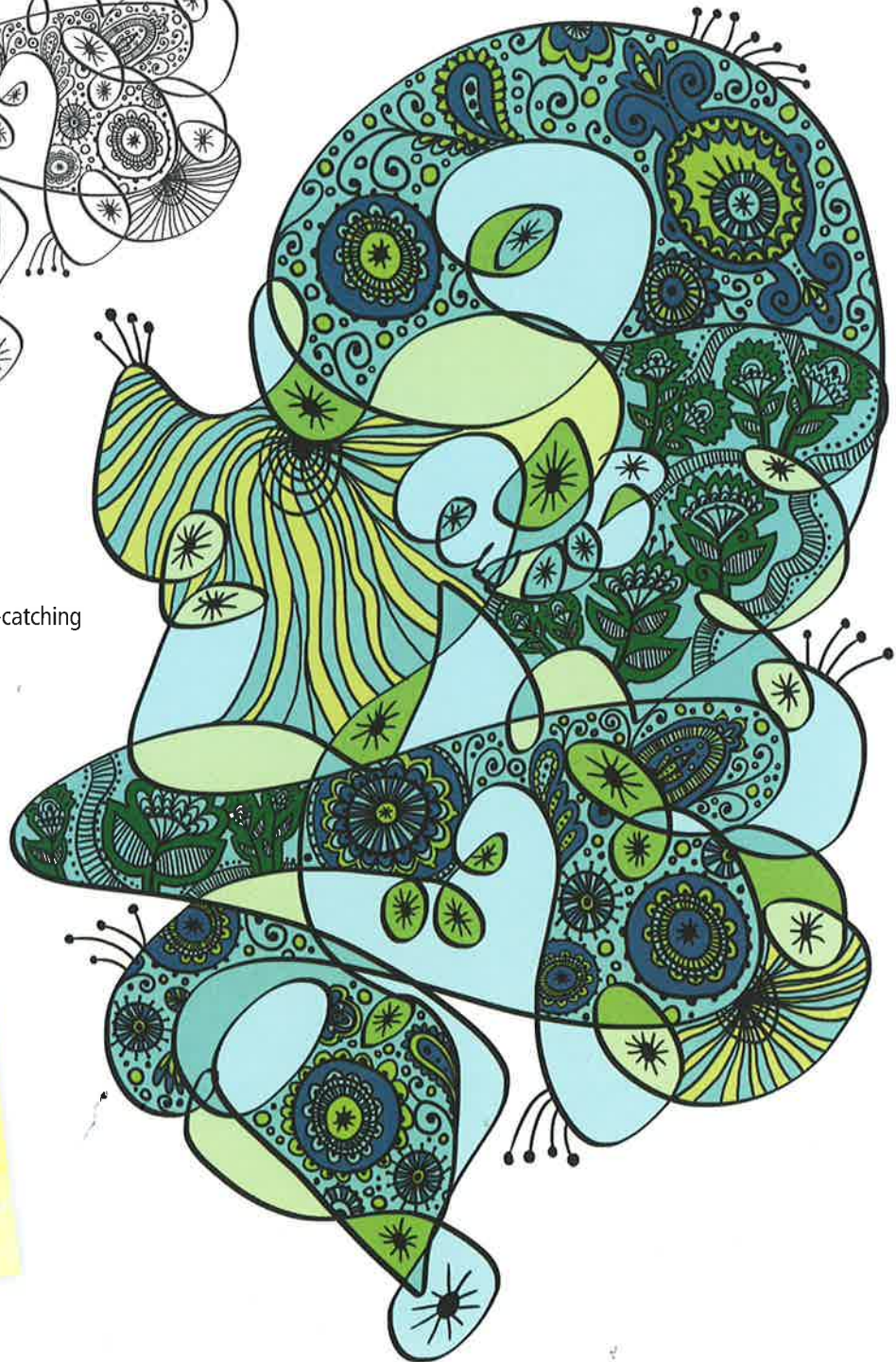




I added a bit more to fill in the empty spots.



*Voilà!* An eye-catching doodle!



### TIP

Keeping to a somewhat monochromatic color scheme can result in a designer look to accent a room of coordinating color, whereas using a variety of wild colors can create a kitschy, eclectic-looking piece that can add a splash to any ho-hum space.





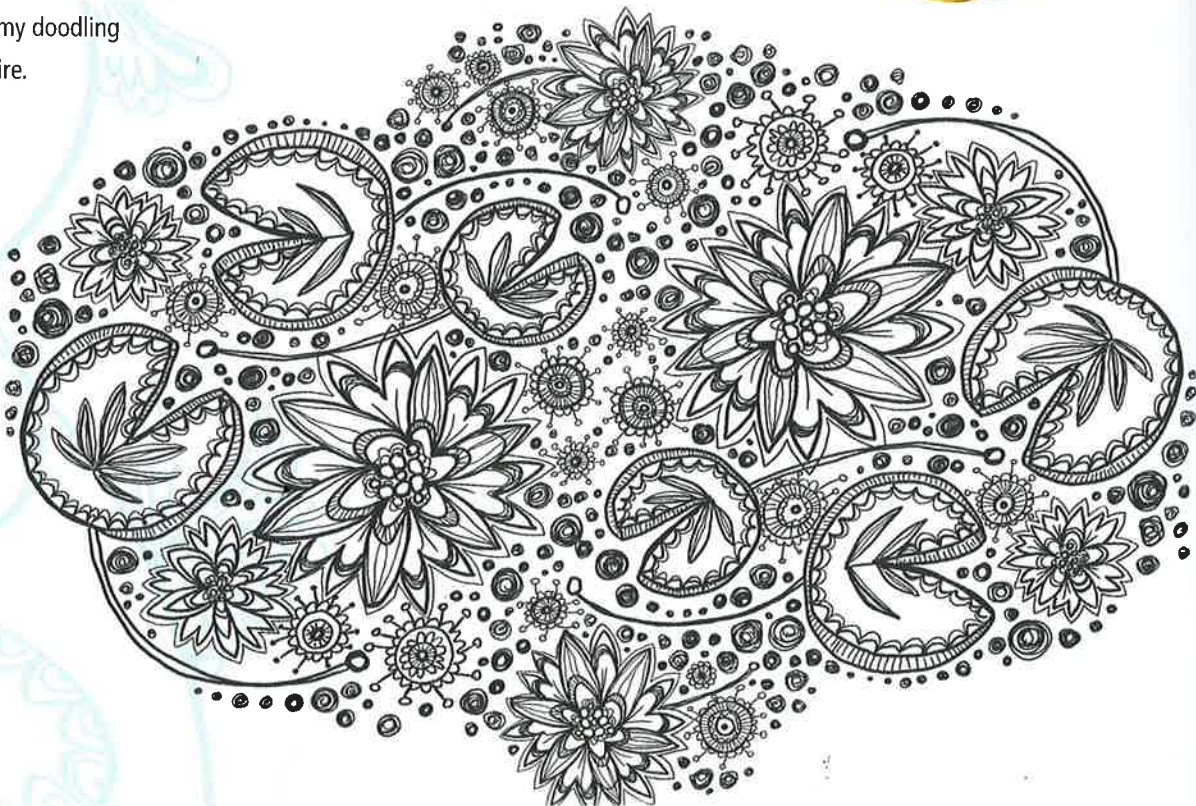
\*  
\*  
Creativity  
Prompt

# Nature Doodles

\* Select an item or scene from nature, such as a flower, plant, or meadow. Examine the shapes that make up your selected item and use them as inspiration to create a doodle on the opposite page.

\* Whenever I find myself in a doodling rut, I look to the outdoors for inspiring bits of all-natural eye candy.

I chose lily pads and blossoms as inspiration. The curves of the almost heart-shaped leaves against the spiky flowers gave me some new ideas to add to my doodling repertoire.





## Letter Composition

The objective for this exercise is to create a clustered composition using a single letter (or the initial of a special person) and a themed grouping of doodles to embellish it. You might select items that start with that letter or perhaps doodle the favorite things of the person whose initial you choose. Use the opposite page to work out your ideas.



### BONUS

Add color and place in an appropriate-size frame for an adorable gift.



◀ **Step 1** Be creative with the placement of the embellishments, and utilize the shapes and spaces of your base letter.



◀ **Step 2** Start with large primary elements; then add a second layer of mid-sized elements



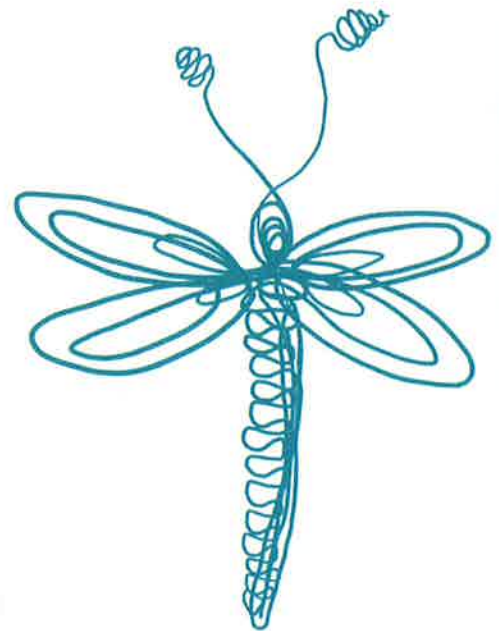
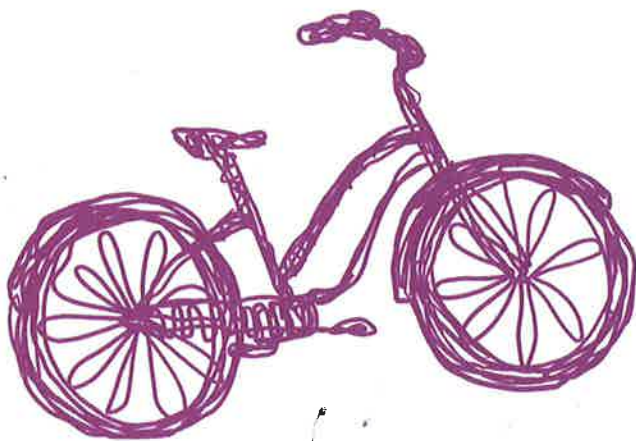
◀ **Step 3** Finish with small details and "filler designs," such as the stars and dots shown in the example.



Creativity  
Prompt

# Continuous-Line Scribbles

Draw some doodles the scribbly way! Keep your pen constantly moving and do not lift it from the page. Your goal is to achieve recognizable forms that are composed completely of scribbles. Use the opposite page to practice your doodles.



## CLEVER IDEA

Create continuous-line scribbles on nice paper. When you have about 100, cut them to similar-sized squares and arrange them in a grid pattern on a poster board or newsprint. The collection makes fun, quirky wall art!





## Creativity Prompt

# Raid Your Closet!

Doodling objects can be lots of fun, and doodling wearable items is the best! For this prompt, you will draw inspiration from your closet, from magazines, from the mall, and anywhere else you might find elements of fashion.

Here are some tips to get your started:

- Don't get caught up in overly detailed patterns, stitching lines, and proportions. Instead, think of a garment and imagine a simplified version.
- Use bold color, and focus on strong shapes and basic styling.
- Draw your dream wardrobe, as well as items you love to wear everyday.
- Doodle costumes, uniforms, and pajamas.



## TIP

With a little planning and the addition of a doodled "person," you could adapt this prompt to create a one-of-a-kind paper-doll collection for your favorite kiddo.