

# UPSIDE DOWN DRAWING

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*\*The Green Dragon Inn is referenced in both scripts, and Stravinsky is referenced in the “more information” script, so if you have your own visual sources you’d rather use, you may still want to print these out.*

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- -Paper
- -Pencils
- -Visuals for class, whether drawn from this tutorial or supplemented by you or your director.
- 9” x 12” Envelopes (OPTIONAL-See Exercises: Helpful Hints” pages 6-9) (Can be substituted by another sheet of paper heavy enough to not see through, and/or construction paper)

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<sup>1</sup> Both scripts are very similar to last year-most of the differences are found in the last bits, plus the exercises.

## Upside Down Image: streamlined

*Drawing not only develops hand-eye coordination, it teaches one to really observe, to see, as nothing else ever will.* -Nancy Marculewicz, printmaker and artist

**Tutor:** So, in Week 1, we learned about OiLS. What does this stand for?

*[Class: Ovals, dots, lines, angles, curves, while you put the OiLS poster on the board, table, whatever works best for your class.]*

**Tutor:** Last week, we did mirror image drawing which was one way to help break down what sort of simplified mind pattern?

*[Class: Breaking down mental icon patterns]*

Tutor: Learning anything, including drawing, is about...

*[Process and progress, not necessarily product]*

**Tutor:** This week, we are going to draw something upside down. The drawing you will be copying will be upside down and your drawing of it will be upside down too. Only when you are done will you turn both right side up again.

This is another technique you can use to break your brain's icon making machine inside your head, so you can more easily see the OiLS which actually build an image.

*<Show the Green Dragon Inn.>*

Take this image, for example. This is a painting of the Green Dragon Inn, "The Headquarters of the Revolution": While it's right-side-up, your brain sees a couple of buildings, a few trees, and the writing under the Inn. But flip it upside down, and your brain can't "see" the image as quickly or simply—just like reading the words below might have been fairly easy up-side-up, but takes more time and concentration to read upside-down.

Doing exercises like this forces us, like last week, to be more observant, but drawing upside down also increases our problem solving and spatial reasoning. How long *is* that line? What *is* the space between this area, and that one? Drawing also, if practiced, increases our ability to concentrate for long periods of time.

So select your image, and place it, upside down, next to your paper so you can easily see it while drawing, then draw. Chose where you want to start: some people prefer to start in an upper corner, some in the upper edge, some, in the middle of the paper! But instead of drawing "something" copy each line or shape in the original image (if you choose Richard I's seal, you can skip the writing if you want!). Try to make each OiLS element to match as closely as you can.

And if you make (what you think is) a mistake, don't panic. Just think of this guy-one of the most well-known painting instructors of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:

*“There are no mistakes, only happy accidents.” -Bob Ross*

<Do Exercise>

**Review time:** <Last 2-3 minutes during clean up>

What are OiLS and what do they stand for? <Building blocks of art, Ovals, Dots, [straight] lines, angled lines, curves>

Learning anything, including drawing, is about? <Process and Progress, not Product>

# UPSIDE DOWN DRAWING

Level: More Information

*Drawing not only develops hand-eye coordination, it teaches one to really observe, to see, as nothing else ever will.* -Nancy Marculewicz, printmaker and artist

**Tutor:** So, in Week 1, we learned about OiLS. What does this stand for?

*[Class: Ovals, dots, lines, angles, curves, while you put the OiLS poster on the board, table, whatever]*

Last week, we did mirror image drawing which was one way to help break down what sort of simplified mind pattern?

*[Class: Breaking down mental icon patterns]*

**Tutor:**

This week, we are going to draw something upside down. The drawing you will be copying will be upside down and your drawing of it will be upside down too. Only when you are done will you turn both right side up again.

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*<Show the Green Dragon Inn image>*

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Doing exercises like this forces us, like last week, to be more observant, but drawing upside down also increases our problem solving and spatial reasoning. How long *is* that line? What *is* the space between this area, and that one?

Now, take a look at this portrait *[you may have to wait until the laughter subsides]*. This is a *very* famous portrait of Igor Stravinsky, who we will meet in Week 22 later this year, by Pablo Picasso.<sup>2</sup> This portrait is probably the single-most famous "draw-upside-down-model" in the

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<sup>2</sup> If you have Cycle 3's Artists and Composer cards, you might want to show the Stravinsky Card (Card #39)

world. Art students have done this in schools all over for decades. If you're interested in this model, give it a try! <sup>3</sup>

So select your image, and place it, upside down, next to your paper so you can easily see it while drawing, then draw. Chose where you want to start: some people prefer to start in an upper corner, some in the upper edge, some, in the middle of the paper! But instead of drawing "something" copy each line or shape in the original image (if you choose Richard I's seal, you can skip the writing if you want!). Try to make each OiLS element to match as closely as you can.

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Review time:

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Learning anything, including drawing, is about? <Process and Progress, not Product>

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<sup>3</sup> **Please note**, this portrait is in the public domain in the United States ONLY. If you are teaching outside US jurisdiction, this portrait may need to be shown from a book which acquired permission to print it. Students can then use the book's example in their own exercise.)

## **Exercise:**

(There're really no exercise 1 and 2, since the only difference between any exercise is the source material, the procedure is identical)

These images are themed, partially or wholly on the Boston Tea Party, including:

- The Floral Motif on the "Robinson" tea chest, one of the tea chests hurled overboard during the party
- The Robison Chest, on display at the Boston Tea Party Museum
- The Green Dragon Inn, drawn in 1773
- Detail from the "Edes Punch Bowl"
- Detail from the side of the DAR Boston Tea Party chest
- The Stravinsky drawing

If you'd rather use your own patterns, anything will do, but the best patterns for this exercise will be black-and-white drawings with minimum shading. (In fact, coloring pages from any coloring book would be ideal!)

There are also detailed images of the Boston Tea Party in engravings starting in 1783 to the present.

Hand out, or have students select their pattern. Some sources suggest taping the model upside down so the drawing student is not tempted to turn it right side up to "correct" it.

Unlike most techniques, where blocking out the entire composition before filling in the details is recommended, this technique is not generally recommended for this exercise. (Just like week 2, you want to avoid saying "the flower/hand/tree goes here..." you want, instead, to think to yourself "this straight line goes here...this one starts half way long the line and curves this way...")

Proportional distortion can (and will) happen. (If you're doing the Picasso portrait-at least distortion is built in!) Since you are filling the canvas with "random" lines and shapes, it frequently helps to start in one location and work out from there.

The point to this exercise is to exercise looking at lines, curves, and proportions, which will, surprisingly, frequently lead to a better-than-you'd-expect result!

Also recommended: keeping the model and the canvas the same size, so the student doesn't have to translate size as well as location.

### **Helpful Hints:**

This exercise can be altered slightly by either inserting the original image into a large manila envelope, and/or covering the image with another sheet of paper. Pull out (or uncover) only the top 2-3" of the original image, then sketch only those lines onto the blank paper. (see Figure 1 below).

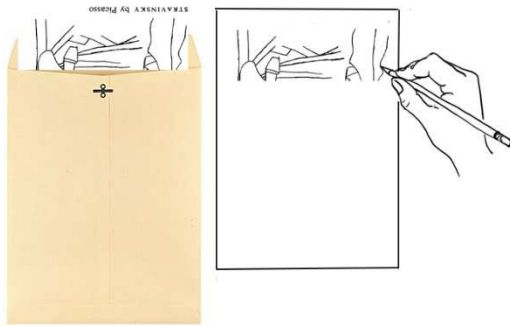


Figure 1 First Stage

When you've transferred all those lines, uncover the next 2-3". (See Figure 2) (Left handers will have to set this up in a mirror image, see Figure 3)

This further forces the brain to break the whole image into even more non-sensical parts, which force-breaks the icon-patterns, and your brain cannot help BUT see the OiLS of these images.

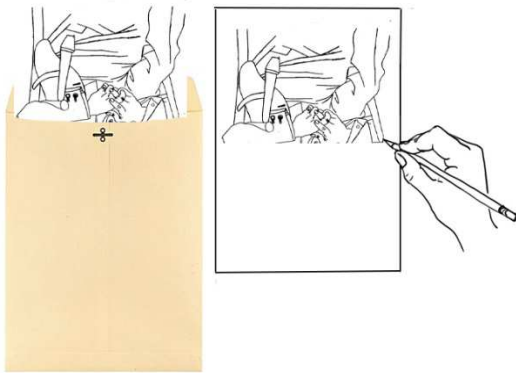


Figure 2

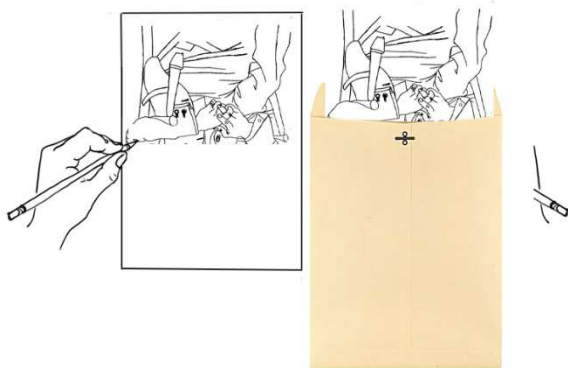


Figure3: The left-handed student set up

You can also use this technique with a blank sheet of paper (it needs to be thick enough you cannot see the hidden lines through it) and you can also move the paper to the right or the left as well as up and down. (See figures 4-6)

Be sure to align your blank sheet to the same size as your handedness, so you do not cover the original image while you copy it.

The only reason to do any of these is to force your brain to stop picking out the pre-set images and see instead the actual lines that make up the image.

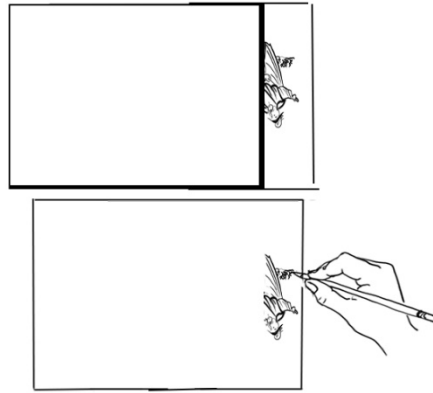


Figure 4: One way to use the blank sheet of paper and move it over sideways as you draw.. This is also how you would use an envelope in conjunction with a horizontal image. Edes Punch Bowl shown. (For this example, it might work even better to only uncover half of a figure at a time, rather than a whole figure, simply to keep the revealed section more abstract, and thus easier to draw line-by-line.

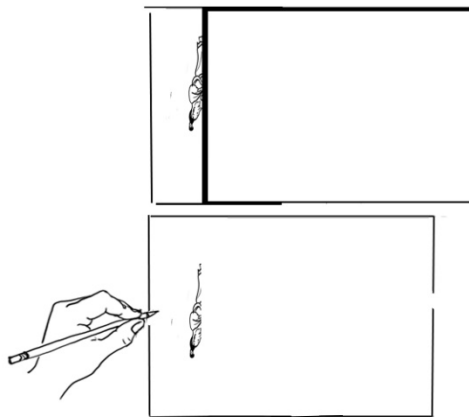


Figure 5: For left-handers with a horizontal image and a blank sheet of paper they can move sideways, this would be the set-up. Again, this is a good set up for using an envelope with a horizontal original with a left-handed student.

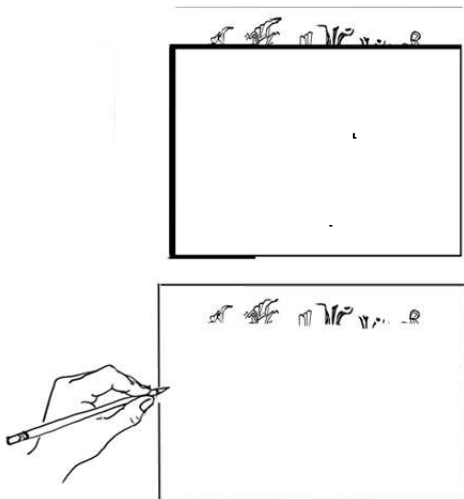


Figure 6 This is how you can set up a blank sheet of paper and reveal the image from the top (bottom of the original) and move the blank sheet down. You can set it up vertically as shown for either a left or right-handed student, or you can move the original to the side opposite the student's drawing hand, and lower the blank sheet as they complete the sections of the image.



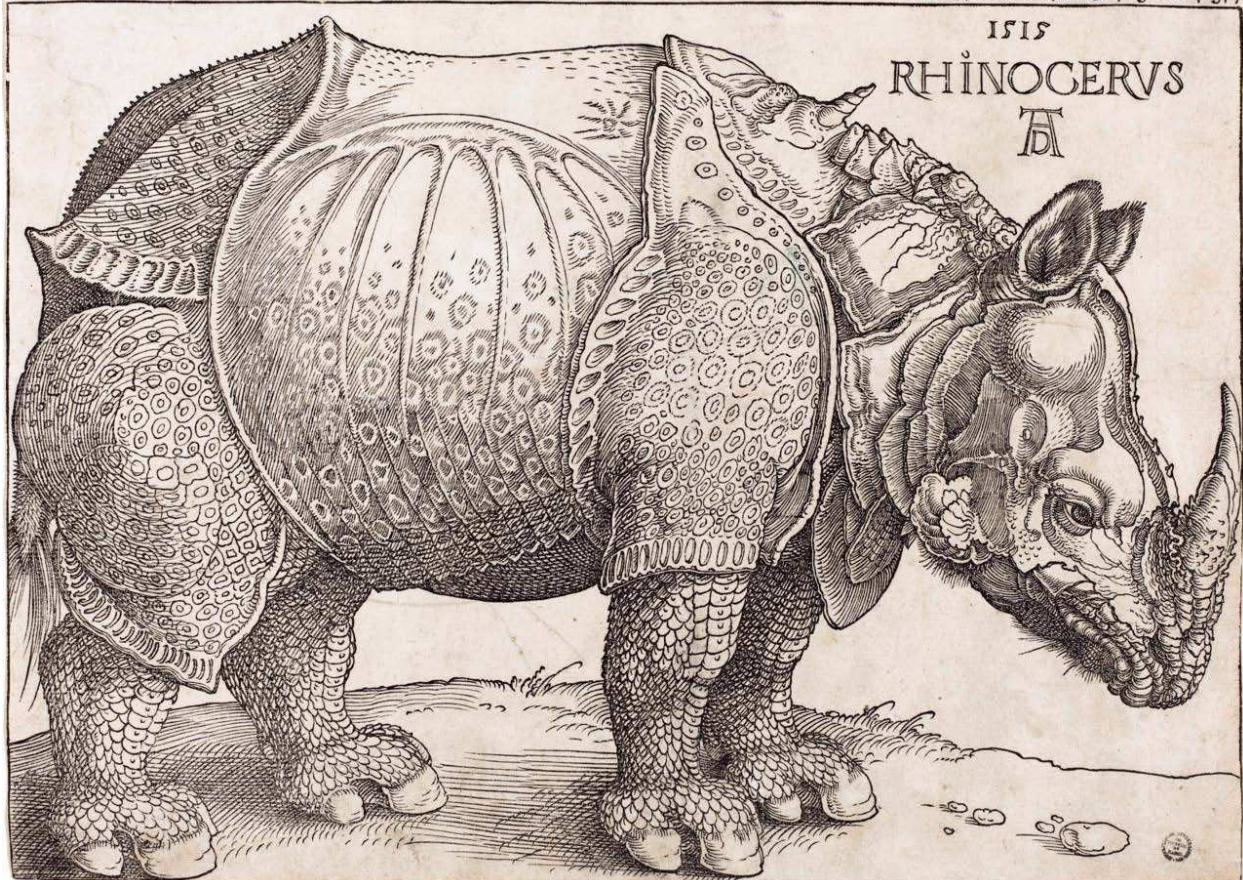


## Additional Resources

This sort of drawing really tests your spatial measuring. No one gets it perfect without practice (and even then, we all have bad days!)

Engravers like Durer, who we studied in Cycle 1, have to do a variation of this whenever they make a plate. Any words have to be reversed, and they have to engrave the plate the reverse of how they want it to turn out (ex. Durer's rhinoceros (see below) faces to the right, and the words are formed in the upper right hand corner. Durer had to think all the OILS out BACKWARDS and write the word Rhinocerus in the upper left hand corner, forming each letter mirrored to its correct orientation.

Nach Christus gepurt. 1513. Jar. Abt. i. May. Hat man dem grosmechtigen Kunig von Portugall Emanuel gen Lysabona pracht auß India ein sollich lebendig Thier. Das nennen sie Rhinocerus. Das ist hie mit aller feiner gest. als Absonderet. Es hat ein farb wie ein gepueckte Schildkrot. Vnd ist vñ dicken Schalen vberlegt fast fest. Vnd ist in der grös als der selbende Aber nyderreichtiger von paynen vnd fast wehafftig. Es hat ein scharff starck Horn vorn auff der nase. Das begynde es alweg zu wegen wo es bey staynen ist. Das dösfig Thier ist des selb fang todt seynde. Der selbende fürcht es fast vbel/dann wo es In ankumde/so laufft In das Thier mit dem kopff zwischen dyc seidenem payn vnd reyst den selbende vnden am pauch auff vñ erwürgt. In des mag er sich nit erweem. Dann das Thier ist also gewapent/das In der selbende nichts kan thun. Sie sagen auch das der Rhynocerus Schnell/kraydig vnd Listig sey.



Weeks 2 and 3 are two different techniques which help do the same thing: help your brain to divorce the parts of an image from the whole so you can put it back together on paper.

## Take Home Suggestions:

If this technique really worked for you and your students, they can continue during the week.

Some of the best and easiest sources for the drawing upside down technique is coloring books, approximately 8.5 X 11 (You want to keep the blank page approximately the same size as the original image so if you're using printer paper (or printer sized paper) to draw on, you want to find original images that are the same approximate size.

When doing the upside down image, try not to think in terms of objects, like "the nose goes here, the house goes there" because your brain will try to use its "icon patterns" to fill that in, and you may not look as closely at the actual marks which make up the original image.

## Write Upside down!

Writing is actually just one form of drawing (and in fact, it's a perfect example of icon-pattern drawing used in a good way!)

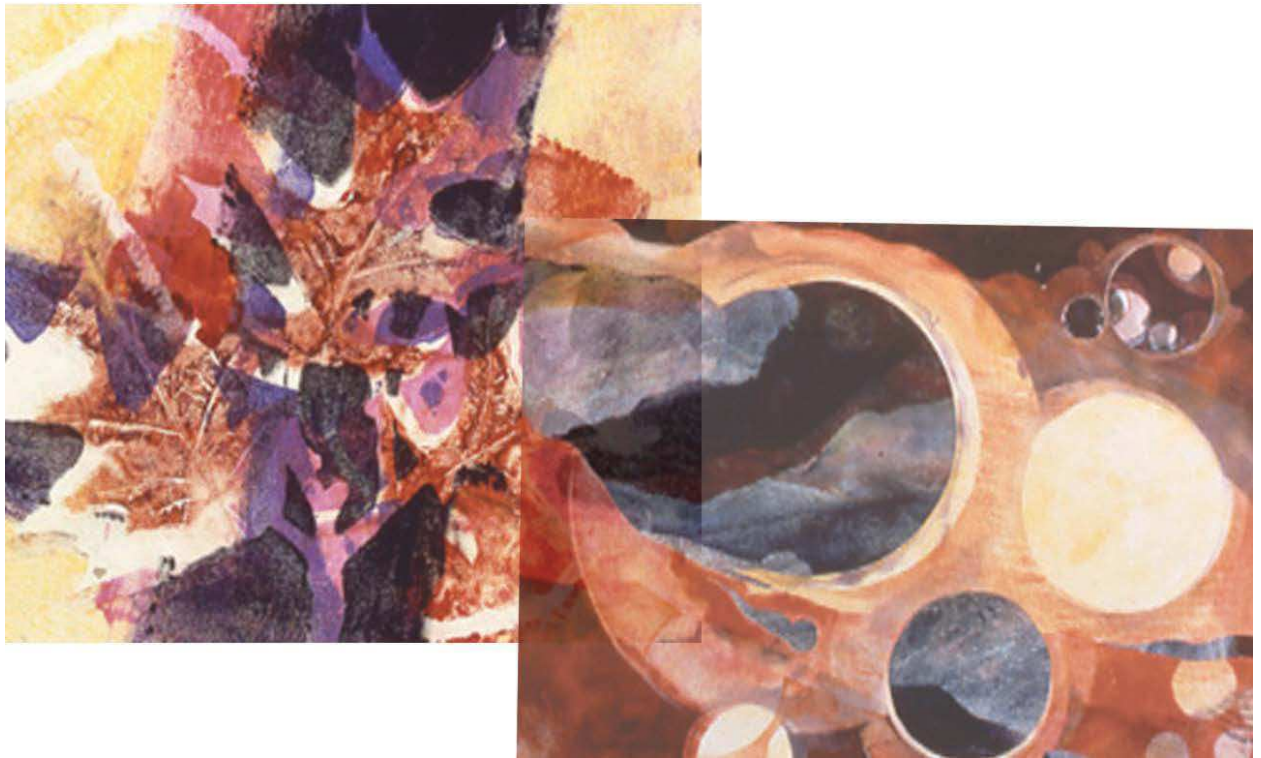
Write something in large letters on a sheet of paper (or print off some large-sized quotations) and flip it upside down. Then try to match the writing, stroke for stroke, upside down. This will have the same impact on your brain as drawing an image upside down.

Try it again using print, cursive, or even fancy calligraphic script.



**Drawing not only develops hand-eye coordination, it teaches one to really observe, to see, as nothing else ever will.**

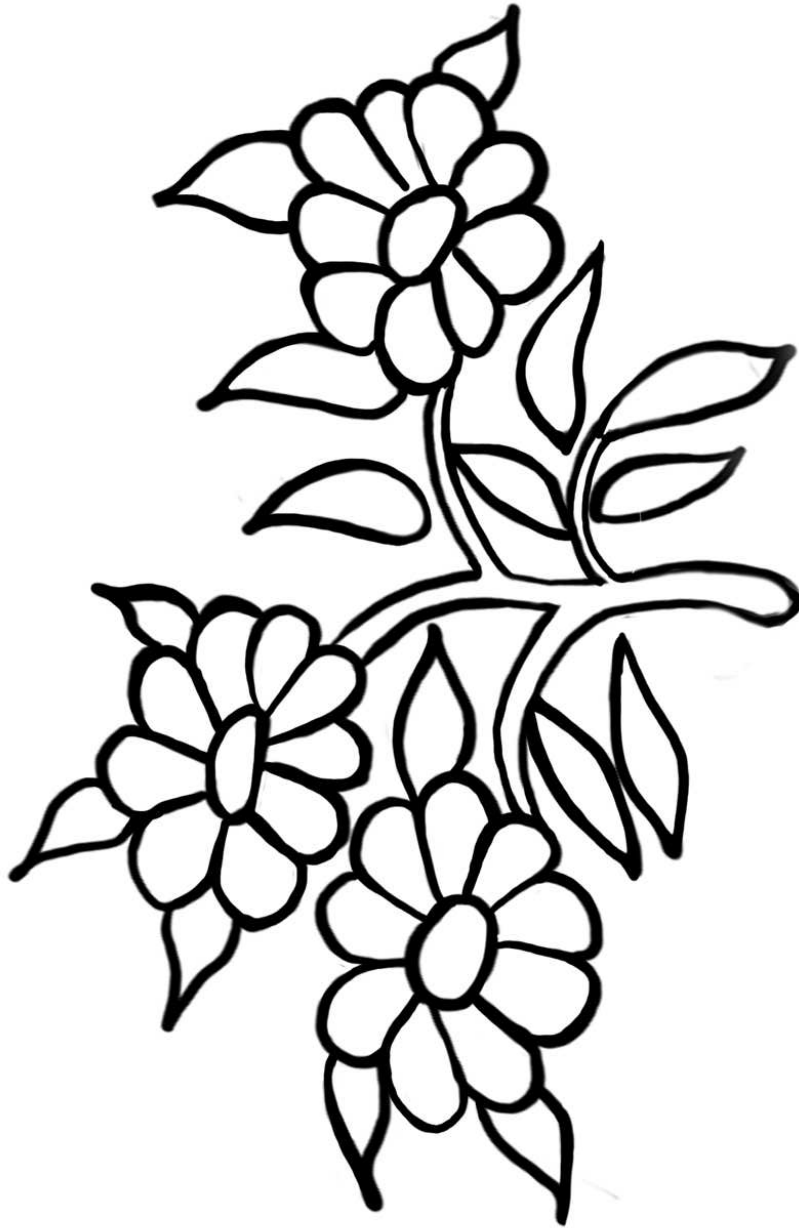
**-Nancy Marculewicz, printmaker, author, and art professor**



There are no  
mistakes, only  
happy  
accidents.

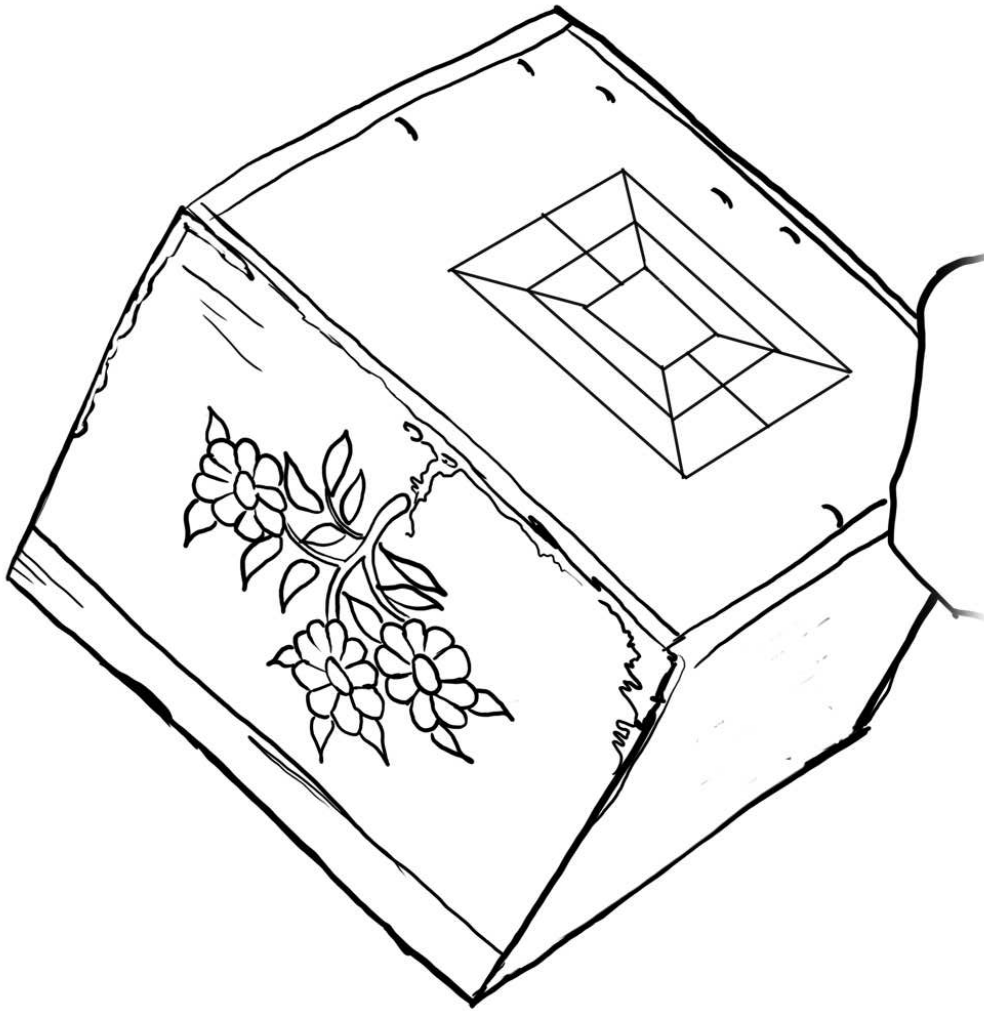
—Bob Ross  
American painter and teacher  
(1942 - 1995)





Floral motif from the Robinson Tea Chest, a chest emptied during the Boston Tea Party in 1773. Recovered on shore by 15-year-old John Robinson the morning after the party, it was handed down through several generations, is now on display at the Boston Tea Party museum in Boston.

Tea Chest dimensions: 10" high, 13-1/16" wide, 11-7/8" high



The Robinson Tea Chest, a chest emptied during the Boston Tea Party in 1773. Recovered on shore by 15-year-old John Robinson the morning after the party, it was handed down through several generations, is now on display at the Boston Tea Party museum in Boston.

Tea Chest dimensions: 10" high, 13-1/16" wide, 11-7/8" high





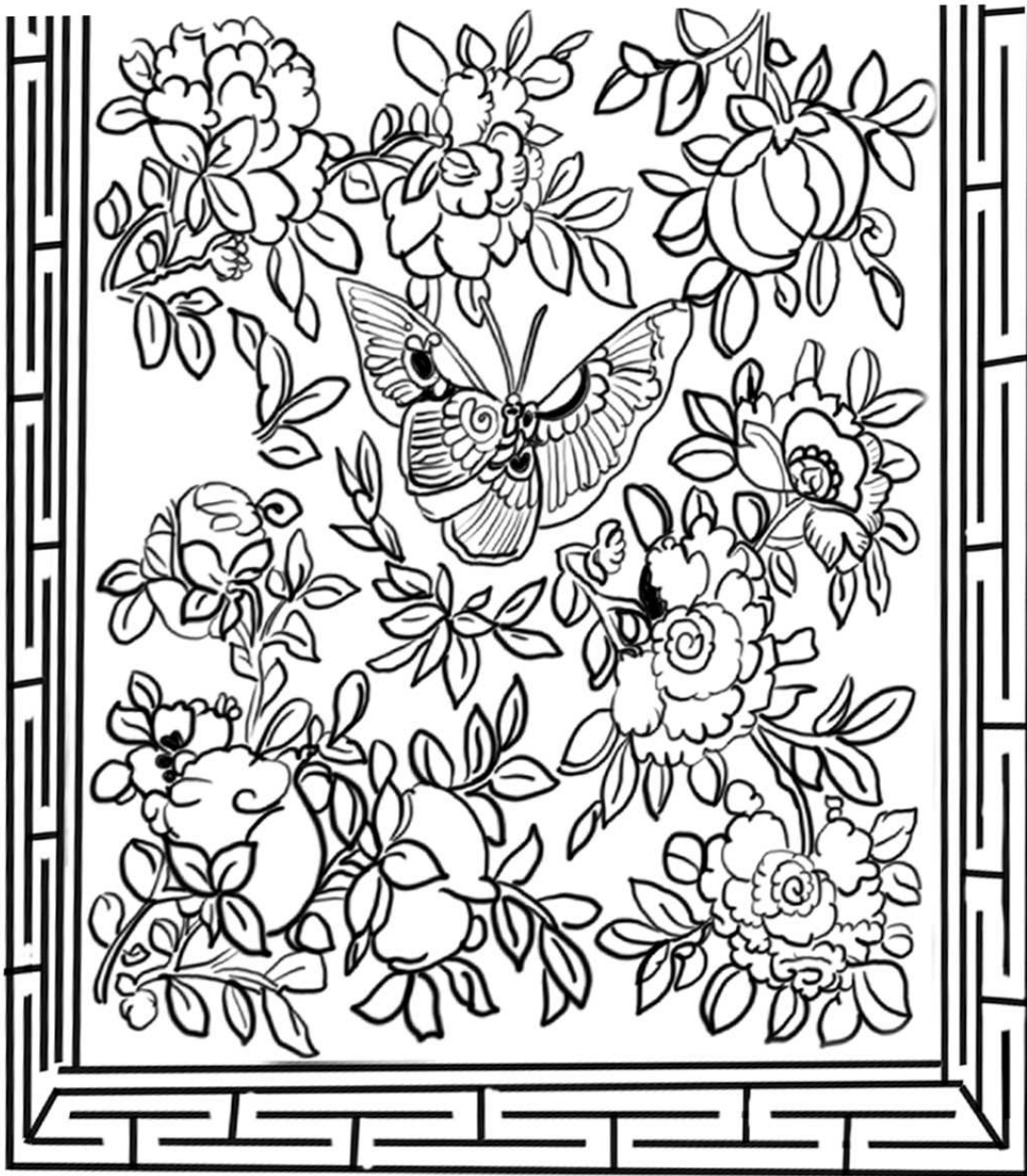
The Green Dragon Inn of Boston, drawn in 1773 by John Johnston (c. 1753-1818). Called "The Headquarters of the Revolution" by many historians, this public house was the headquarters of the Boston Freemasons (with John Hancock as one of the Grand Masters), The Sons of Liberty, and the Boston Caucus. The Boston Tea Party was planned here (note the description in the drawing), and Paul Revere set out on his ride from here. This building was destroyed in 1854-the current Green Dragon Inn is on a different location.



Detail of the decorations on the 'Eades Punch Bowl'. Benjamin Eades was the editor of the Boston Gazette. The day of the Boston Tea Party, several conspirators stayed at the Eades house, and his son Peter, served punch from this bowl several times over the day. In 1836, he wrote a letter to his grandson, describing the day, including a description of this punchbowl. Bowl now in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society.







A detail of the side of a tea chest emptied during the Boston Tea Party, now in possession of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Washington DC. The lid is missing, likely forcibly removed.

Discovered by Hopestill Foster in Boston Harbor the morning after the Boston Tea Party, this chest passed through his family until its donation to the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1902.



**STRAVINSKY by Picasso**

Public domain in the USA. Created and first published ca. 1920