



ARTS PLUS

The Sunny Pages

At home art activities to brighten your day

“Exquisite Corpse”



- This activity is appropriate for ages 8 and up.
- This activity requires 2 or more people.
- Time from start to finish = 30-45 minutes
depending on difficulty level or variation

You will need the following materials:

- A piece of paper (larger is better but any size can work)
- Pencil
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons

Brief project description:

- The Exquisite Corpse is a drawing exercise that has been used by groups of artists to generate interesting images and encourage spontaneity and creativity through collaboration. This activity is a great way to create art with other family members in a humorous and free-form way.
- If you try it once and like it, and are interested in continuing the project, just search for “Exquisite Corpse” online and you will find a wide variety of images and project variations.

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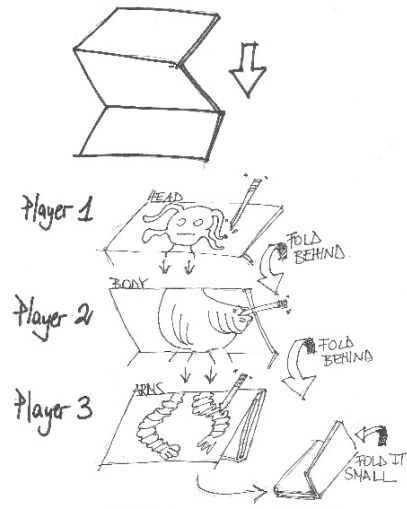
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Steps

- **#1:** Choose your piece of paper and fold it into 3 equal sections (like a pamphlet). At the end of the drawing exercise, every participant will have drawn on the same, shared piece of paper, so you can choose to either work on one piece and take turns or have several pieces going at once.

Keeping the paper folded so only one section is visible at a time, start your drawing on the top section of the paper. Limit yourself to a specific amount of time (2 minutes, 5 minutes, etc.) You should fill the first section of the paper with the top portion of a figure (head and shoulders). Be creative and don't limit yourself as you interpret what "head and shoulders" might be for this first section.



- **#2:** After your time limit is up, the first person should extend two lines from the drawing on the first section of paper across the fold and onto the second section of paper. This will indicate where the drawing is situated on the page and create a starting point for the next artist. Fold the paper so that the next person can only see the second section with the starter lines and no other parts of the drawing. Now it's time for the second artist to draw the torso portion of the figure. They should have the same amount of time as the first artist. Again, be imaginative when you consider what constitutes a torso. (It could be a refrigerator, a rock, a lizard, or anything else you can think of!)
- **#3:** After your time limit is up, this second artist should again extend two lines from the drawing on the second section of paper across the fold and onto the third section of paper. Then fold the paper so that the next person can only see the third section with the starter lines and no other parts of the drawing. If you have only two people doing this exercise, simply pass the drawing back and forth. Now draw the final section (legs and feet) of the figure. Try to think of fun footwear or other fantasy forms, such as roller skates, a mermaid tail, wheels, or anything else that might serve as 'feet'.
- **#4:** After your time limit is up, you can finally unveil your crazy creation! The combinations are often strange and humorous, and I find it fun to try to name or invent a background story for the creature that your group has just created. To extend the Exquisite Corpse activity, pass the page around again and color in each section. If you're feeling really ambitious, this activity can be repeated with longer paper folded into even more sections!

*** If you really want to extend the Exquisite Corpse project, this activity can be passed among friends via mail or dropped off from house to house, following safe social distancing protocols.

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