

Art Club Assignments for 2026

A Year of 10(ish)-Minute Drawing Prompts

(Inspired by Our 2025 Year Together—Repetition is Good!)

JANUARY

Assignment #1 - Drawing Faces

Find a photograph of someone you think would be fun to draw. Then, set a timer for three minutes for each of the following three drawings:

1. Blind Contour
2. Wrong-Hand Drawing
3. A Stylized Drawing using the results from the first two drawings as inspiration.

Total time: 9 minutes

Assignment #2 - Drawing Animals

Find references of two different animals and set your timers for two minutes for each of the following drawings:

1. Regular SLOW blind contour.
2. Faster blind contour
3. Contour drawing

Total time: 12 minutes

FEBRUARY

Assignment #3 - Two Picasso Drawings

Make two “Picasso Drawings” ... one of a human face, and one of a porcupine. Divide your paper in half, and on the top half, draw the following things one after another, turning your page 90 degrees clockwise after each feature:

HUMAN FACE

eye
another eye, 2x bigger than the first
a nose
lips
an ear
some hair

Then, go to the bottom half of your page and drawing the following things, turning your page 90 degrees clockwise after each feature:

PORCUPINE

eye
another eye, 2x bigger than the first
nose or snout
paw or leg
a bunch of prickly prickles
an ear

Now, look at your two drawings, and connect lines, add something (anything) to “finish” what you started.

Sometimes these turn out great and other times, not so great. But keep it fun and let them be inspiration for future drawings!

Total time: 10 minutes

FEBRUARY (cont.)

Assignment #4 - Quiet Time

Get a large piece of paper and gather a pencil some chunky drawing materials, such oil pastels or crayons.

Set your timer for 12 minutes and let yourself slow down and draw the following things from your imagination. Switch your colors and drawing utensils often. Try not to worry, just draw like you did as a kid!

Cover your whole page with the following things, not worrying about composition or anything like that... just fill the paper!

- a woman
- a child
- an animal
- a bird
- a tree
- some flower bushes

Total time: 12 minutes

MARCH

Assignment #5 - Button Flowers

In this assignment you will basically be taking “notes” for some flower shapes, using vintage buttons as inspiration. Go to a site like etsy.com and search for “vintage buttons.”

Take about 1 minute per image to sketch out flower shapes, filling your page with loose contour drawings of flowers.

Total time: 10 minutes

Assignment #6 - Lazy Line Flower Bouquet

Now, using the vintage button flower drawings as inspiration, we’ll do an abstracted bouquet, starting with some “lazy lines.”

Gather about 8-10 drawing utensils of different weights, colors & values. So for example, you might choose a pencil, a fine point marker or two, some crayons, some colored pencils, and an acrylic marker. Choose some very light colors and dark colors.

Spend a few moments with your eyes closed, just drawing slow crooked lines up and down the middle of the paper. Change your drawing utensil at least three times.

Finally, looking at your drawings from assignment #5, and add in some flowers to your abstracted bouquet.

Total time: About 12 minutes.

APRIL

Assignment #7 - Textured Cat Drawings

For this assignment you will need a pencil, an eraser and a ballpoint pen. Start by drawing the outlines of two cats on your paper.

Inside the first cat, with ballpoint pen, scribble. Seriously. Just fill in the cat with scribbles like you were a little kid.

Inside the second cat, use your pencil to fill in the space. It’s up to you how “dense” you want to make it this first layer. Once filled in, use a sharp eraser to erase, or “draw out” some fur marks.

Total time: About 12 minutes

APRIL (cont.)

□ Assignment #8 - Go Blob Hunting

Look around the room right now, and find a shape to outline. It can be a stain on your carpet, a crumpled up piece of paper, a piece of food, whatever. It doesn't need to "be" anything... just an abstract shape.

Then, using whatever media you wish, "finish." Turn the shape around and see if something pops out at you. Add eyes, noses, legs, fur, scales, hair... whatever you need to finish your blob shape into something else.

Total time: 10 minutes

MAY

□ Assignment #9 - One-Liner Drawings

Do a series of one-line drawings... meaning, once you put your pen to paper, don't lift it again until the drawing is complete. Think "loops" as you work quickly (or not! You can be scribbly or jaggedy or ?). Spend about one minute on each of the following prompts:

vase of flowers
human face
horse
elephant
violin
man walking down the street with hat
pair of boots
mermaid
toilet

Total time: 9 minutes

□ Assignment #10 - Eyes-Closed Drawings

Using ballpoint pen or your favorite writing utensil, do two 4-minute eyes-closed drawings. Set the timer if you like, but the idea is that you will make a couple of complicated drawings with your eyes closed.

(It might be harder than you think to keep your eyes closed for the duration!)

Set a four-minute timer, close your eyes, and draw a bird on top of an elephant who is swimming in a lake with more birds around it. If you get all of these things drawn and there is still time, still keep your eyes closed and add other details to the scene that you see in your mind's eye (clouds, etc.). Timer goes off? Open your eyes.

Repeat the above, only this time draw at least three musicians up on the stage playing their guitars, violins, drumsets, etc. Don't open your eyes until the timer goes off, but keep drawing!

Don't forget to breathe normally during this exercise... it's easy to hold your breath.

Total time: About 9 minutes

JUNE

□ Assignment #11 - Mini Comic Strip

Set your timer to 4 minutes and write your thoughts to the following question, "Is everything an experiment?" This can be just stream of consciousness writing... don't worry!

Then, set a time for 8 minutes and sketch out a cartoon strip using your writing as a guide. Your drawings can be stick figures... just try to find a flow and some kind of story in that 8 minutes.

Total time: 12 minutes

June cont.

Assignment #12 - Comic Strip #2

Start by writing down three things that you've done today. For example, 1. Coffee with cat; 2. Walk to mailbox; 3. Call with sister.

Next, set your timer for about 10 minutes and draw the three little scenes on a single sheet of paper. I like to stagger them right to left.

Finally, add some speech bubbles and fill them in!

Total time: About 12 minutes

JULY

Assignment #13 - My Left Foot

Gather a variety of drawing supplies that you like to use... crayons, markers, pens, colored pencils, etc.

Next write down as many things as you can think of about your left foot. For example, "stubbed my big toe going up stairs yesterday," "broke pinky toe in 1996," or "horse stepped on it when I was 11 years old," etc.

Draw an outline of your foot in the media of your choice and annotate your foot "history" with words, arrows, color or little illustrations... a map of your left foot!

Total time: 12+ minutes

Assignment #14 - Artist Inspiration

Find an artist whose work you like and spend a few minutes taking visual "notes" of some of their signature marks. Does the artist like curved lines? Use a lot of black? Use contrasting colors?

Then, find an object in your house to draw (a mask, a clay sculpture, a plant) and try to incorporate some of your chosen artist's sensibilities into your drawing (kind of like trying on another artist's coat to see if it fits).

Have fun!

Total time: 12+ minutes

AUGUST

Assignment #15 - One-by-One Drawing

Using pencil, draw the following things on your paper, but do them one at a time. In other words, draw an entire frog (the first prompt) anywhere on your paper, any size. Once you have the frog in place, THEN move to the next item on the list and incorporate that fully into your drawing.

Here are the list of things to incorporate into your final drawing:

frog
flowers
child's swing set
a tree with many branches
water of some kind
a bold line
a person

Total time: 10 minutes

August cont.

Assignment #16 - Thumbnail Sketches

Draw six horizontal boxes on a sheet of paper, about 3"x2" each.

Then, gather three things to draw from around your house. Examples can be a small sculpture or knick-knack, a house plant, a dog toy... just three items with different textures and of different sizes.

Place the items on the table in an arrangement you like. Sketch it into your first box. Change the composition of the items, and then draw that composition in box #2. Repeat four more times.

Total time: About 10 minutes

SEPTEMBER

Assignment #17 - One-Panel Comics

Set your timer for two minutes and write about some things that have happened to you this past week. Anything goes!

Next, draw two small horizontal boxes on your page. Then set the timer for 10 minutes and sketch out two one-panel comics of one or two of the experiences you wrote about. In the first comic, do not use any words. In the second one, you can use words and speech bubbles.

Total Time: 12 minutes

Extra credit: Pick your favorite sketch and render it bigger!

Assignment #18 - Draw a Mouse Five Ways

Gather a variety of drawing supplies.

Find some reference photos of some mice. (If you don't like mice, try looking for "baby mice" or you can substitute a mouse for a hamster or other furry creature.)

Then, set your time for 10 minutes and fill a sketchbook page or two with different kinds of drawings of mice. Big, small, scribbly, accurate, silly... mix and match your supplies and have fun!

Total time: 10 minutes

OCTOBER

Assignment #19 - Draw a Tree Three Ways

Find a photo reference of a tree (or look outside!) and draw it three times using any materials you like:

1. Blind Contour Drawing - 2 minutes
2. Cheater Blind Drawing - 2 minutes
3. Mixed-Media Drawing - 6 minutes

Total time: 10 minutes

Assignment #20 - Composition from Photos

Find a photo reference of a scene where you like the composition. Then, using the photo as reference for COMPOSITION, create a drawing from your imagination. So for example, if the photograph has three people in it, you might replace the three people with a horse, a tree and a little girl.

Total time: 12 minutes

NOVEMBER

Assignment #21 - An Imperfect Grid

Gather your mixed-media drawing supplies and set a timer for 10 minutes. Then, make a drawing incorporating the following into your drawing:

1. A loose grid format.
2. Imperfect drawings.
3. Organic outline shape to drawing.

Total time: 10 minutes

Assignment #22 - Contour Flowers

Treat yourself and get some fresh flowers! (Or, alternatively, search for flower bouquet images online... still a treat!)

Gather a few sheets of paper and a pen and spend 10 minutes drawing loose contour drawings of flowers. You can look at your paper as much as you like, but try to spend more time looking at the flower shapes than at your paper.

Don't forget to breathe!

Total time: 10 minutes

DECEMBER

□ Assignment #23 - Let's Draw Friends

The next time you are on a Zoom call, ask your friends if it's okay to draw them... or ask for permission to take a screen shot of the "Hollywood Squares" that you can use for reference later.

Then, draw four horizontal squares and spend 10 minutes drawing your friends in their environments!

Total time: 10 minutes

□ Assignment #24 - Let's Draw Friends 2!

Using any drawing utensil, draw six circles of random sizes and shapes on the page. They should be small-ish, about the size of a walnut in its shell (or slightly bigger).

Then, using photos of your friends or family as references, "finish" the circle-head portraits by adding hair, facial features and clothing. Mix your media for more interest!

Total time: About 10 minutes

Thank you so much for being a part
of Carla's 2025 Art Club!

xo Carla

(Email me anytime! carla@carlasonheim.com)