

DRAW TOGETHER STRANGERS

The Toolkit

Script

Here is what to say. The most important parts are in **bold**.

[Introduce yourself and the strangers. Then introduce them to each other.]

X and Y, you are going to draw each other.

Don't worry! I promise it will NOT be a good drawing, in fact it's going to be terrible, so you don't even have to worry about that.

There are two rules:

- 1) Use one continuous line. Do not lift your pen off the paper.**
- 2) Never ever look down at the paper you are drawing on. You can only look at your partner, never at the paper you're drawing on. No cheating.**

I'm going to set a stopwatch for 60 seconds. Get your pens ready. Look at your partner and decide where you are going to start on their face.

Let's take a deep breath together. Inhale... Exhale... And begin drawing.

Now GO SLOW. You'll feel tempted to go fast, but this is about really slowing down and looking and drawing what you SEE, not what you think you see.

If you lose your place on the page, don't worry. Just keep drawing. Remember this isn't about doing a good drawing, this is about paying attention and looking closely. The slower you draw, the more you'll see... See if you notice one more thing that you didn't see before. [Keep kindly encouraging your drawing strangers until...]

Okay five more seconds. 3...2...1... And STOP. Put down your pens and look down at your masterpieces.

[Inevitable side-splitting laughter]
So great right!?! GOOD JOB! They are so wonderful right? SO great.

Here's why: Not only are these portraits funny and unexpected, they are evidence of you LOOKING AT ONE ANOTHER FOR ONE MINUTE. You just slowed down and gave your unbroken attention to a stranger for 60 seconds. And moreover, you let a stranger look at YOU. When do we ever do that? NEVER. Good job. Imagine how things would be different if we started to look at one another.

Now if you don't mind, write "X by Y" on yours. And "Y by X" on yours. You are welcome to keep your drawing OR you can leave them with me and they might end up in an exhibition. And if you want to take a photo and share it online please tag #DrawTogetherStrangers.

Thank you!

WHO

YOU + Strangers!

WHAT

Your supplies don't need to be fancy, just safe & sturdy.

- Table and two chairs
- Paper
- Pens
- Paperweights
- Handmade sign
- A cart to carry it all
- Phone/camera to document & share

WHERE

Ideally a public space with a lot of foot traffic and different kinds of people:

libraries, parks, public transportation hubs, museums, city centers, schools, fairs, community events, etc...

Safety first!

Be sure you are in a well-lit, highly visible place that you are familiar with.

HOW

Create a comfortable, casual table. Make sure your sign is visible. Put a stack of paper in front of each seat with a pen on top—ready for people. You might want to bring a paperweight.

Getting people to sit down and draw can be challenging at first.

Everyone engages with strangers in their own way, but you will have to be outgoing.

Remember, you are offering people an awesome experience they will love.

Thank you for joining the movement to use drawing as a vehicle for connection, and helping people see one another, two strangers at a time.

More tips, troubleshooting and longer suggested script at bit.ly/DTStrangers

Submit Art

Online

With people's permission, post any photos of people or their drawings on Instagram tagging #DrawTogetherStrangers

Please add date and location in the caption.

Snail Mail

And/or put drawings into a envelope and send to:

**Wendy MacNaughton
1459 18th Street, #333
San Francisco, CA 94107**

Please include date, location and your personal contact info.