



snow city arts  
virtual  
learning

# VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Workshop:

## **Exquisite Corpse**

Learn a drawing game inspired by the Surrealist art movement, and explore artworks created by Tarsila do Amaral, Frida Kahlo, Kendario La’Pierre & Remedios Varo.

Teaching Artist:  
Dan Kerr-Hobert

Workshop duration:  
25 - 45 minutes



# Transcript

**Dan:** Hi, my name is Dan. My pronouns are he and him. I am a teaching artist at Snow City Arts. Today, I am doing a drawing game. All right, are you ready?

So today, we're all going to be **Surrealists**. At the turn of the century, there was this group of artists that were called the Surrealists, and they were from all different art forms: they were painters and sculptors, visual artists, writers, filmmakers, and all of these Surrealists were really interested in dreams.

See, at the time, there was this famous psychologist whose name was **Sigmund Freud**. Sigmund Freud had just released some theories that had really excited the world and talked a lot about dreams and the importance of dreams. Freud said that dreams were important to helping us to understand ourselves and that they were meaningful. So these Surrealists started making work about dreams and about the space in between our waking lives and our dream lives. A lot of really beautiful and weird stuff came out of it. They came up with all sorts of processes for helping them to create art without using their awake minds, and a lot of them really liked to work together to make art, **collaborating** on pieces together. These Surrealists came up with a lot of tricks and techniques and processes to help them make work without using their awake minds. A lot of them were working together, collaborating on works of art using creative games.

Probably the most famous of these games is what we're going to learn today; it's called the **Exquisite Corpse**. It's a kind of weird name, huh?

In order to play this surreal drawing game, each player is going to need a piece of paper and something to write with. In this game, I like to draw with a plain pen or pencil, and then add color after the whole drawing is done, I'll come back to that later.

To get started, you should have received a paper that is already folded into three parts with two pairs of little lines drawn here, and here, where the paper folds. I'm going to show you how I did that now, in case you want to play again later. What is great about this game is that all you need is a pen and paper to play.

All right, now that we have our paper folded with a pair of lines here and a pair of lines here, we're ready to start drawing. Now, what are we going to draw, you might ask yourselves? That's a very good question that you might ask

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yourselves, and the answer is: today, we are going to make an exquisite corpse of a creature, a surreal creature. And your surreal creature is going to have a head, a body, and legs.

We're all going to start on the head. But the head could be anything you want it to be. It doesn't have to be a head like any head you've ever seen before. It could be a smiley face, a cat's head, a light bulb, or whatever you saw the last time you has a dream. The only rule is that the lines of the neck here and here must connect to these two lines we drew earlier, where the paper folds. Does that make sense? Here, I'll show you. And then you can pause the video and it'll be your turn to draw.

I'm going to draw a dog's head. But my dog is going to wear glasses and a hat. A dog with a hat is definitely something I might see in one of my dreams.

All right, see how the line from this side of the dog's neck connects to the line I drew before, and how this other side of the dream dog's neck connects to this other line I drew before. That's going to be important later. It's going to make it so that all of the parts of our drawing blend together as one drawing in the end.

Okay, now it's time to pause me. I want you to draw now. Just draw the head of your creature, nothing else. And I want you to focus on texture. I want you to focus on details. Make sure you get a lot of texture and details. I want you to take all the time you need. And when you're ready to keep going, just unpause me and I'll tell you the next step.

Are you pausing me? Did you pause me? It's time to pause me. I'm ready to be paused. Please pause me. Pause me in this position. Pause me like this. Yeah, this is good - pause me like this.

**[Pause the video to draw your creature's head.]**

Great! Okay. All right. Did you do it? Are you done? Excellent! Excellent work, great. Can I see it? Hold it up to the screen. Let me see it. Yeah! Awesome! Rad! Okay, cool. I think we're ready to move forward.

So, without letting anyone else see what you've drawn, we're going to fold up the head we drew inside of the paper. So the middle of the paper is facing up. It should be the blank middle of the paper with the two necklines here at the top, and the two waistlines down here at the bottom. And now that the first part of our drawing is hidden away, I'm going to pass my paper over here to my

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collaborator, Jon. I'm going to be super careful to make sure Jon can't see what I drew.

**Dan:** Hey Jon. Can you see what I have drawn?

**Jon:** No, I can't. Excellent.

**Dan:** Great, and Jon, would you like to walk them through the next step in the exercise?

**Jon:** I do.

**Dan:** Thanks, Jon.

**Jon:** Hi, I'm Jon and I use he/him pronouns. Everybody playing the game should watch the whole video, so you know what is going on. The second person to draw should have just received a piece of paper that is folded up so that you can't see the drawing of the head. What you should see on your paper is two lines up above here. Those are the necklines. And two lines down here. Those are the waistlines.

Now we're going to start to draw the body, and it can be anything you want as long as it's surreal, something you've seen in your dreams. Here, first, I'll show you how I'll draw my body.

My body is going to be a tree with very thick branches. Then you pause the video, so you can draw your body. I'm going to draw a tree for a body, because I think that it will look pretty surreal.

All right, see how the lines at the top connect to the lines of the body and how the bottom lines connect to these other lines I drew before? That's going to be important later. It's going to make it so that all the parts of our drawing blend together as one drawing in the end.

Okay, now it's time to pause me. I want you to draw a body now. Just draw the body of your creature, nothing else. I want you to take as much time as you like and draw a surreal creature's body. Something dreamy. Oh, and if you're playing with someone else, make sure they can't see what you draw. That's important. All the parts of this drawing should stay a secret until the very end. Ready?

**[Pause the video to draw your creature's body.]**

Okay. Did you finish? Can I see? All right, that's great!

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I think we can keep going now. Let's move forward. So, without letting anyone else see the top or the middle drawings, we're going to turn it over so the final blank rectangle on the bottom of the page is showing. Be careful not to peek. The head is going to be under here somewhere. And I know you may be tempted to take a look, but resist that temptation.

Now the bottom section of the paper is facing up. This is the last part. The two waist lines should be here at the top now. So we're ready to pass it along. You can pass it to a third person so that three people can collaborate on this drawing, or you can hand it back to the person who drew the head, or you can hide it away until you've forgotten what you've drawn, and then come back to complete the third part yourself. No matter what you choose, don't peek. I'm going to pass my paper over to my collaborator Allie now.

**Jon:** Here you go, Allie.

**Allie:** Thanks, Jon.

**Jon:** You see how I was being careful with the paper, so she doesn't see what was drawn before?

**Allie:** Nope.

**Jon:** We want to save that step until the end. It'll be a great surprise. Are you ready to take them through the final step?

**Allie:** I'm on it.

**Jon:** Great.

**Allie:** Hi everybody. I'm Allie. I'm a visual artist. I use the pronoun she/hers, and I'm going to walk you through this last part of the drawing.

Everybody playing the game should have watched the whole video with us because we're pretty much going to do the same thing again. The third person is going to draw legs on the bottom piece of the paper. Remember, we don't want to look at the top two parts because those are secret until the very end.

The third person who is drawing the legs is going to want to make sure that they connect your legs to the two drawing notches that you see at the top of your paper.

All right, I'm going to show you first and then you can do your drawing. Great. I'm going to draw a mermaid tail for legs. I want my mermaid swimming in a

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fish tank with clouds. I'm going to make this extra weird.

Okay. So just to review before you start your own drawing. You want to make sure that your drawing connects to those two top lines on your paper where your drawing space is going to be. This is really really important. And in a bit, you'll see why.

Now it's time to pause the video one last time. I want you to draw your legs now, just the legs. Go ahead and get surreal. Get really weird.

**[Pause the video to draw your creature's legs.]**

All right. Did you finish? I'm going to hand my drawing now back to Dan, and we can all see what we just made. So now that I'm done with my drawing, I'm going to now fold it up so that when I pass it back to Dan, he can't see it until the very end, the big reveal.

**Allie:** Here you go, Dan.

**Dan:** Thanks, Allie.

**Dan:** Great. All right. Is everybody ready to go? I'm going to unfold it now. Okay, great. Drumroll, please.

All right! Great! Wow! Awesome. That's fantastic! It's really surreal. I like all the specifics. I like how surreal these arms are that Jon gave us, and I really love all the details and specifics that Allie gave us with the fish tank legs.

Cool. So, once you have your surreal creatures, you can color them in at the details and backgrounds. You can name your creatures. You can even give them speech bubbles and make them say whatever you want them to say. The character we drew today might say: "Hey, I'm a dog. But look at THESE!!!"

What do you think? It's pretty cool, right?

Hey, thanks for making art with us today. I would love to make some other cool stuff with you later if you are up for it. Have a good one. Bye.

Thanks for making art with me today. We got some other cool workshops, and I hope you check those out, too.

**If you are interested in receiving school credit**

for the work you have completed in this workshop, or if you would like to have your work **displayed in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery:**

Visit <https://snowcityarts.org/consent-releases/> to learn more.

**Contact us at [programs@snowcityarts.org](mailto:programs@snowcityarts.org)** if you have questions, would like to offer feedback, or would like to continue working with us virtually.



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