

DrawAble: Straight Line Drawings with Lorna Rose

[By Lorna Rose](#)

Lorna's art explores mark-making and lines, made by pen and stitch. As part of the [DrawAble](#) series of resources for learning at home or school, this resource inspires children and teenagers to create drawings of indoor or outdoor environments, using straight lines.

A child's drawing of a room interior. The drawing is composed of straight lines and red color. On the left, there is a tall bookshelf filled with books. In the center, there is a doorway or a large window. On the right, there is a window with a frame. The floor is represented by a series of parallel lines. The walls are also represented by straight lines. The drawing is simple and uses only straight lines and red color.

Notes for Teachers

What is the aim of this exercise?

This resource allows children and teenagers to develop their observational drawing and mark-making skills.

As the children are encouraged to only use straight lines, it may promote a different way of looking and seeing objects and environments. The addition of mark-making, collage and/or stitching allows children to expand and personalise their drawings.

What age can this exercise be used with?

This resource is easily adaptable and can be used with children aged 6-13 and beyond.

How long does this exercise take?

This exercise will take between 30 minutes and 2 hours. The length of this activity will depend on the complexity of children's chosen environment, the amount of detail in the drawings, and whether any additional materials are used.

How do I measure success?

Encourage children to look closely at their drawings, and talk about the challenges they encountered

How engaged were the children by the activity? Did they enjoy the restriction of making a drawing using only straight lines?

How did using a straight edge to build the drawing feel different from other drawings they have made? What difference did adding the stitch marks make to their drawings – did they like the additional textures and colour the materials contributed to the drawing?

Were they able to identify the dark and light values from their environment and build up areas of tone in their drawings using a variety of shading techniques ? How confident did they feel about using these drawing methods?

More able children may want to experiment with different mark-making in their drawings (or use their previous knowledge of mark-making) and including more experimental hand stitching, increasing the complexity of their drawings.

Demonstrating different mark-making techniques (or

practising them before starting this activity) may be beneficial for less confident students. If children are adding stitching to their drawings, they may want to punch holes in the paper before adding stitches.

Drawings could be made with other media to explore colour using coloured pencils, ink, watercolour or thinned acrylic paint (so that the surface is not too thick to sew through) and introducing coloured threads and papers.

To extend the activity, children could make drawings on a larger scale (A1 or rolls of paper) either on their own or collaboratively and experience the challenges of scaling up marks and materials (use tape, wool, or thicker threads and found collage papers or papers previously decorated with mark making)

What can we try after this exercise?

These projects use stitch, drawing and collage:

[Filling a Sketchbook: Ruler Drawings](#)

[Make a Stitched Drawing of your House in an Hour](#)

[Draw your Home: Collage, Stitch and Fabric Crayons](#)

Try other [DrawAble](#) exercises and projects.

Which artists might we look at?

[Sue Stone](#) creates stitched, figurative compositions.

[Rosie James](#) draws with stitch on the sewing machine.

[Izziyana Suhaimi](#) combines drawing on paper with

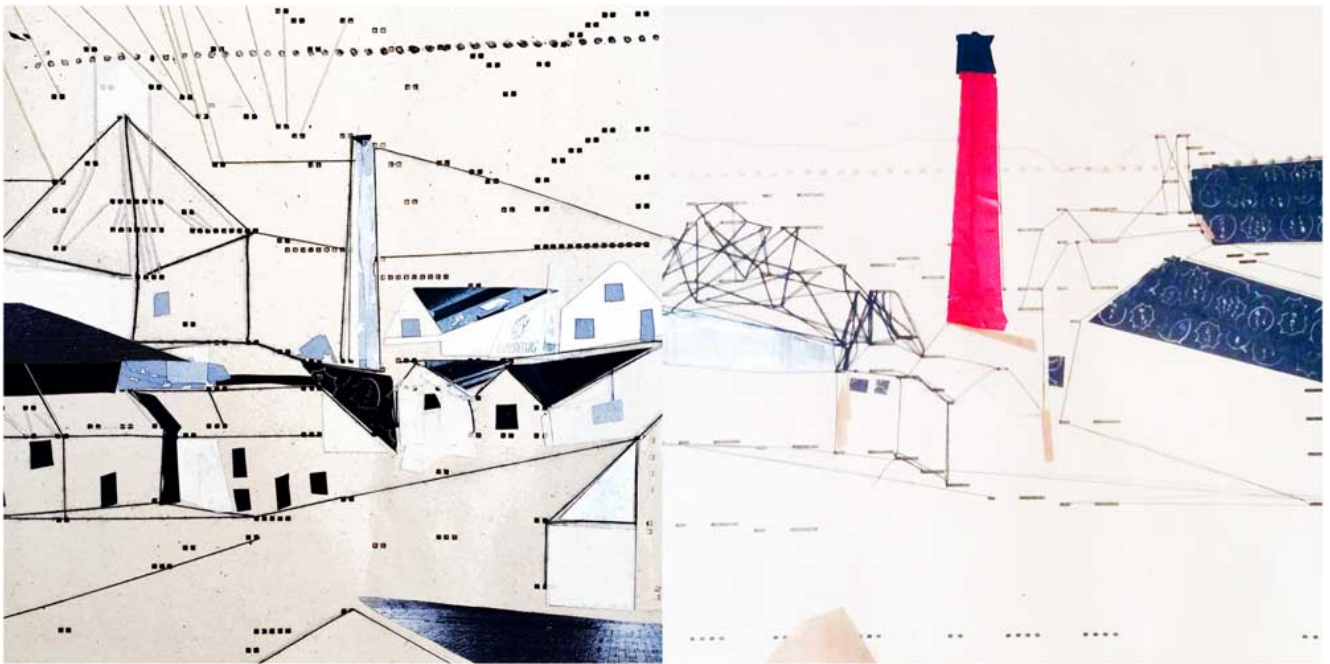
hand stitching

[Jason Kriegler](#) explores paper, sumi ink and hand embroidery

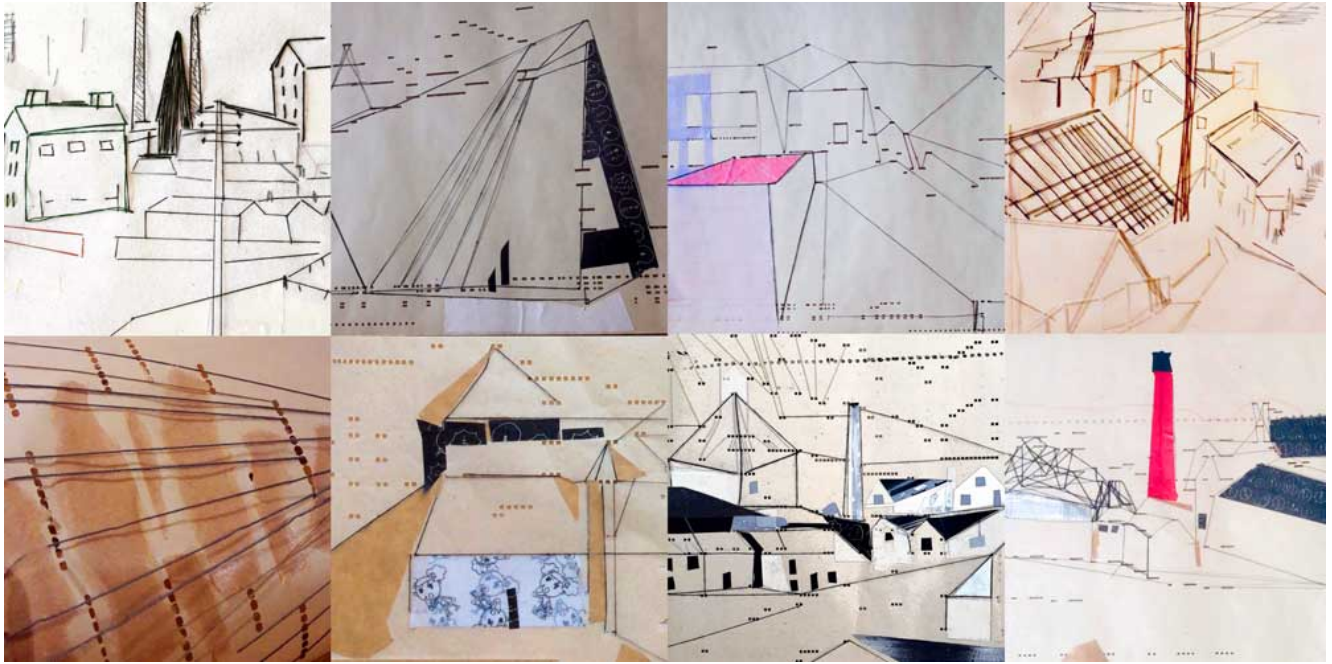
You may also want to look at [Lorna Rose's website](#).

Introduction

My name is Lorna Rose, and I'm an artist. I love drawing and I'm always spotting new things I'd like to draw, on holiday, in my garden, or even on the bus coming home from work, I make quick sketches to capture the moment. This is some of my work where I used stitch to make marks:



Today, we're going to explore how to make a drawing in our houses or outdoors using just straight lines. These pieces of artwork are great by themselves, but you can also develop them using other art forms, such as collage or stitch.



How to create your drawing

To start off any drawing you need to look. I tell all of my students, look a hundred times and then look some more. Look around you – what can you see that is made up of straight lines?

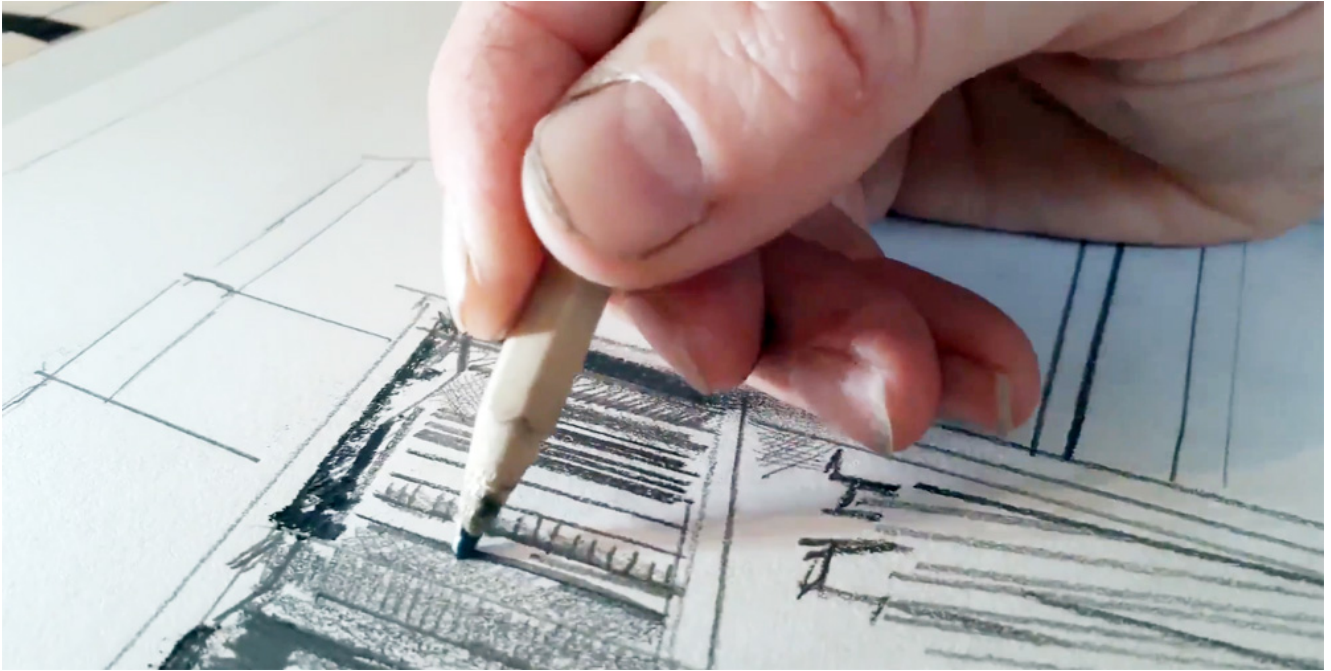




Don't forget that you will only be using straight lines. This can be quite challenging, but there's always a way to work around it. You can use a ruler to create the shapes in your picture with straight lines. If you don't have a ruler, anything with a straight edge is good, like a lollipop stick or an edge of a book.



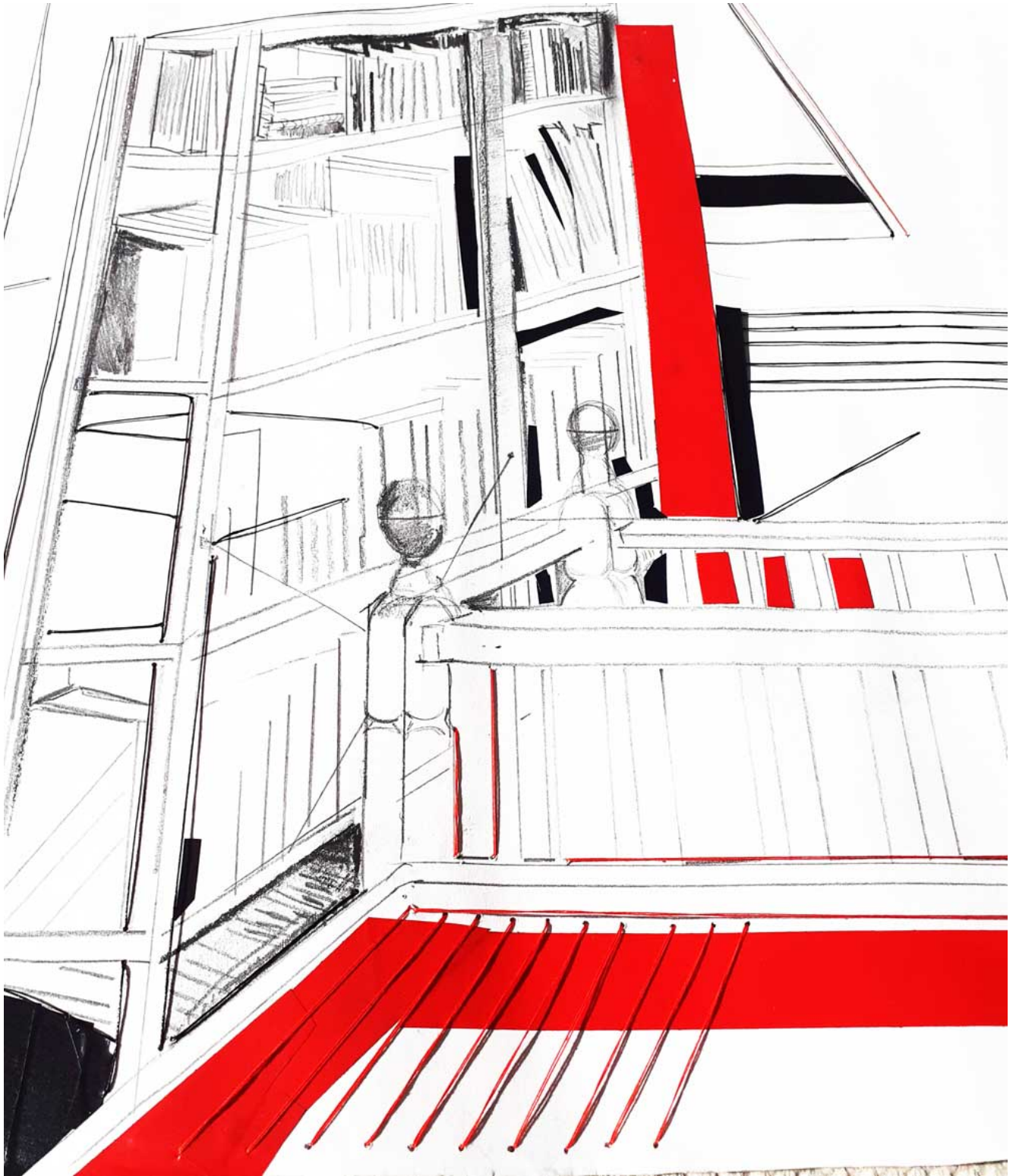
If you have different grade pencils, thick or thin ones, or even pens, these can build up dark and light areas of your picture. Or, you can use a variety of marks such as crosshatching, shading, rubbing, or blending. Sometimes it helps if you close your eyes a little bit, to see where the light and dark areas are. Start by capturing the lines that stand out the most, the dark ones. This will create the structure, and then you can go on to fill in all of the other lines around it.



Adding other media

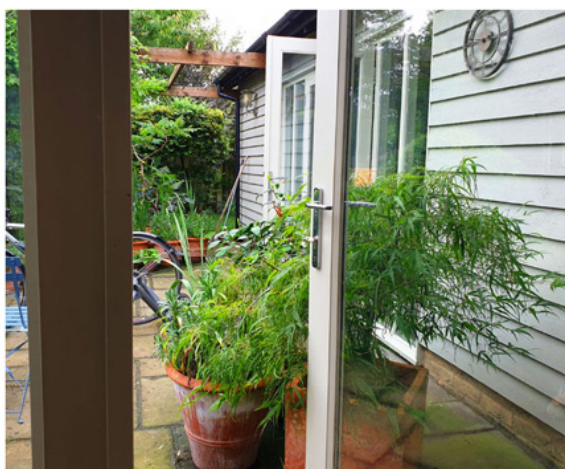
Once you've made your drawing, you can add to it by using stitch like I do, or even different kinds of tape or papers.





Now, it's your turn to have a go!
Find a subject or a scene and notice the major straight lines in it. Look at it as much as you can, before you start drawing. Keep re-looking at your drawing to assess how it's coming on. Are you

happy with it? Does it need anything adding to or tweaking in any way?



Good luck. Enjoy making your drawing and have fun!

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reach their creative potential.