VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION
STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

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.

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Workshop duration: 25 - 45 min
1. **Introduction**: today, we’re all going to be Surrealists. At the turn of the century, there was this group of artists called the Surrealists, and they were from all different art forms. The Surrealists were really interested in dreams.

2. We are going to play a drawing game created by the Surrealists called Exquisite Corpse and the drawing you create will be inspired by something you have seen in one of your dreams. Your surreal creature is going to have a head, a body, and legs.

3. This game can be played with one, two, or three people. Each player will be asked to think about a creature you have seen in a dream.

4. **Prepare your materials**: take a piece of paper and fold it into 3-equally divided parts.

5. Unfold your paper. You will see that it is now divided by 2 lines, into 3 equal parts.

6. On one line, make two \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch lines, 1 inch apart, at the top of the middle section. These will be your necklines.

7. On the second line, make two \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch lines, 3 inches apart, at the bottom of the middle section. These will be your waistlines.

8. **Draw the head**: fold your paper back again on the two fold lines you created. Turn the paper so the top part is facing you. You will see the two small lines you made, one inch apart, at the bottom of this section. These are your neck lines.

9. Begin drawing your creature’s head, keeping in mind that the head will need to connect to the necklines. Your head could be anything you would like 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 dreamed. The only rule is that the lines of the neck must connect to your two necklines.

10. Next, turn your paper so the middle section is facing you.
11. If you are playing with multiple people, this is the point at which you will pass your drawing to the left, to the next player, with the middle section facing up. Be sure that the head is completely hidden.

12. If you are playing alone, set the paper to the side until you forget what you have drawn. You can even draw a whole stack of heads on multiple pieces of folded paper and set them to the side together, shuffled up. That way you won’t know what’s on the page when you move on to the next steps.

13. **Draw the body of your creature:** now that the middle section is facing up, you will see the necklines at the top of the section and the waistlines at the bottom of the section.

14. Begin drawing the creature’s body. Include as many details as you like. Play with different textures. Draw patches of small short lines, or long flowing lines. Scribble. Make dots. Shade in areas. Anything to give your body personality and texture.

15. Make sure to connect the body to the necklines at the top of the section and the waistlines at the bottom of the page.

16. Once everyone is finished with the body of their creature, fold your paper again so that both the body and the head are hidden. Turn your paper so all anyone can see is the waistlines.

17. **Draw your creature’s legs:** once again, these “legs” can be whatever you want. Just be sure that the lines at the top of the page (the waistlines) connect to the two far sides of the legs you draw.

18. Once you’ve completed your legs, the drawing is complete.

19. **Reveal your work:** unfold the drawing. Observe and/or tell each other what you see. Observe and/or talk about your favorite details.

20. Now it’s time to give your creature a name. You can also include word bubbles revealing what your creature might say or think.

21. **Color your creature:** once you’ve revealed and discussed each drawing, you can go one step further if you like. Using colored pencils or markers, use color and shading to bring the piece together to look like one seamless creation.
22. Excellent work!

I want to thank you so much creating art today.

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See you soon!
If you are interested in receiving school credit for the work you have completed in this workshop, please [have parent or guardian if under 18] contact Nakyung Rhee via email at rhee@snowcityarts.org.

If you would like to have the work you created displayed in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery, please [have a parent or guardian if under 18] contact Nakyung Rhee via email at rhee@snowcityarts.org.

Contact Chi Achebe, Snow City Arts Program Manager at chi@snowcityarts.org if you would like to continue working virtually with one of our Teaching Artists, if you have questions, or would like to offer feedback.

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