

UNION

***“You make my heart smile but you also make my eyes cry”
Thalia Rodgers, 2020***



Rodgers' world swirls with color and psychedelic forms. Figures emerge from chaotic voids. Fierce and joyous energies wrestle for place within the frame. A strange and urgent naturalism. The work pours fourth on top of lines echoing notebook paper like oversized doodles in the margin. Rodger's artwork features imagined, dreamy landscapes reflecting her own wanderlust. The art becomes insight into an imaginative mind, operating on instinctual impulses of color and form. "...Almost everything I do within my work is because it's satisfying."

“Being me is one of the hardest, most amazing things I've ever done”



Meet the Artist!

Thalia Rodgers is an artist based in Omaha, NE. She loves eating good food, making Trillers, and Tik Toks, tweeting, posting on her Instagram, browsing the web, crying, and laughing. She received her BFA from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has won the Dan and Barbara Howard Award for Creative Achievement 2 years in a row, and the Wendy Jane Bantam Outlook Award. She wants you all have a great day and to have lots of fun.

Free Drawing Exercises

Rodgers' artwork is wildly free, imaginative and loose. This activity invites you to experiment with drawing techniques and challenges designed to loosen up your skills.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/you-make-my-heart-smile-but-you-also-make-my-eyes-cry>

Drawing Techniques

Make random dots on your paper and connect them to find the outline of your drawing.

Draw random lines and color in shapes all over the paper, challenge yourself to transform these markings into images.

Draw the same shape several times then add details to make each shape look different from each other.

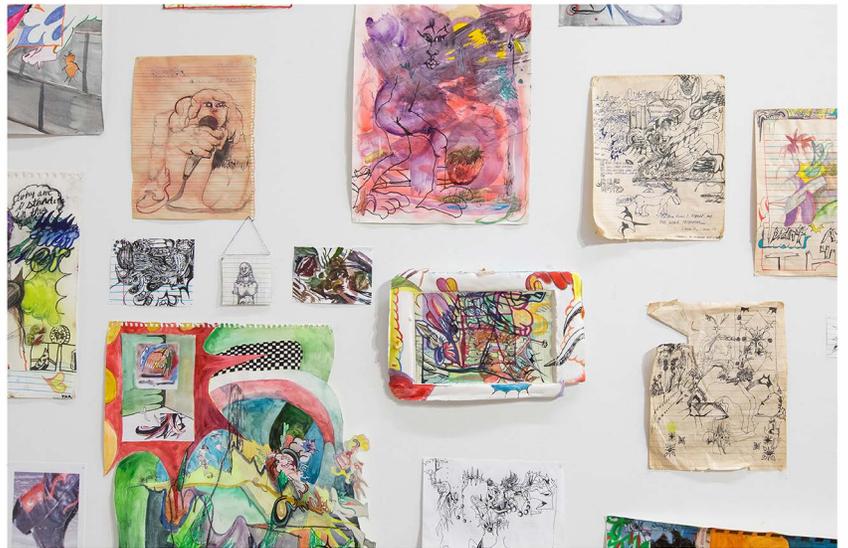
Close your eyes and pick 3 different colors and try to use them in your drawing.

Fold your paper, or cover it with a scrap piece so you can only see a few small parts at a time to draw on.

Try drawing with your non-dominant hand, or with your eyes closed, or continuously without picking your pencil off the paper

Draw directly on top of something you've already drawn and try to connect the two images.

Have a partner add to your drawing, swap papers with them.



1. Feel free to use lined notebook paper, or recycle scrap papers to mimic the look of Rodgers' paintings.
2. Gather your favorite mark making materials, pencils, markers, crayons, paint, etc.
3. Experiment with the techniques listed on the left. You can try all or some, or invent your own ideas.
4. When you've finished share your experiments with family and friends and discuss these essential questions:
 - What was the most fun technique you tried?
 - What was the most challenging technique you tried?
 - How was working on this drawing different from your usual process?
 - What do you think of your finished work?