

Artful Doodles Inspired by Robert Sund

A HANDS-ON ART
ACTIVITY DESIGNED BY
MONA EDUCATION



Image: Educator Sample

Description

This is a fun letter writing practice warm-up inspired by Robert Sund's work. It's important to have time to reflect on the feelings students had while they were doodling away.



Materials

- Large blank paper (white or colored)
- Writing tools (crayons or markers)
- Watercolors
- Small paintbrush
- Small cup of water
- Optional: newsprint

Instructions:

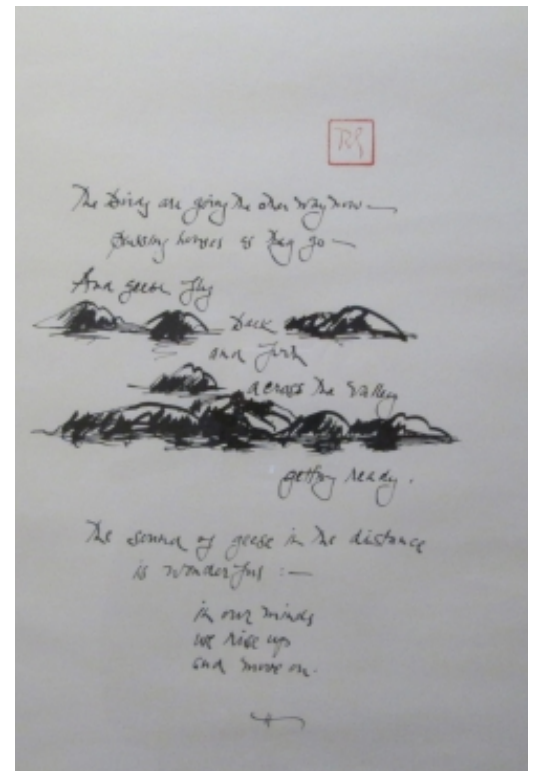
Optional: You might start with a discussion using these questions: How does the visual effect of the brush or pen Robert used, rather than the words or letters, form an expression of the emotions? Does anyone know what calligraphy is? Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing. It is admired for the brushwork, the composition, the style, and the spirit. It not only reveals the writer's skill but it is also believed to communicate the writer's inner character.

1) Look at Robert Sund's painting, *Spirit Blowing*, and share his biography information

- His biography and an image of Spirit Blowing are included at the end of this lesson.

2) Share these artful doodle techniques with your students:

- Hold your brush (or marker) straight up.
- Load your brush with paint, press into the paper then lift away at an angle or straight.
- "Dance" with the brush on the paper; twist and pull strokes that you like to make.
- Load your brush (or marker) and hold at an angle to the paper and make strokes in "C" shapes. Make "O" strokes. Make "T" strokes.
- Make a letter in your name fast or slow. Repeat as many times as you can to fill your paper. Then try to make your letter thick or thin.
- Change the color of your paint (or marker) and add a new kind of stroke.



3) If you're not ready to stop painting try:

- Make strokes that make loops like cursive writing.
- Make strokes that cross over and under.
- Pretend to write your name with brush strokes.
- Try using your other hand.
- Make peaceful strokes, then try confusing strokes.
- Make joyful strokes.

Image credit: Robert Sund, Original Caligraphic Poem

Image source:

<http://www.gallerydeigratia.com/component/joomgallery/cat-book-post-misc>

About the Artist:

Robert Sund



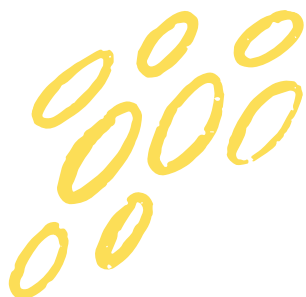
Robert Sund

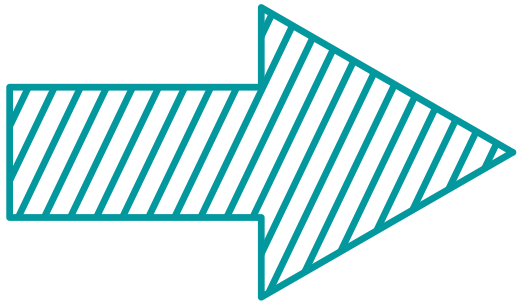
Image credit: <https://www.robertsund.org/bio.cfm>

Robert Sund was born in Olympia, Washington in 1929 and grew up on a family farm called "Swede Hill." Sund was fluent in Swedish his whole life!

In college Sund began studying medicine. However, he soon met his teacher Theodore Roethke who sparked his interest in poetry and the arts.

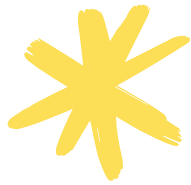
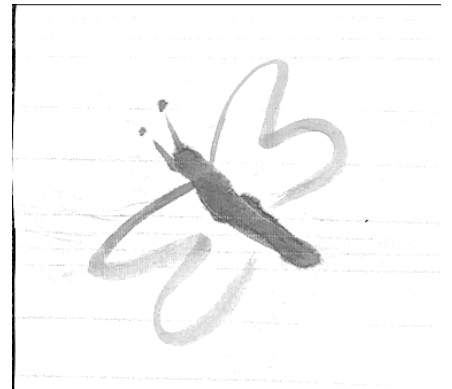
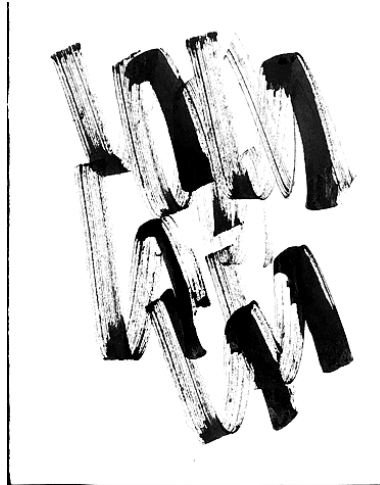
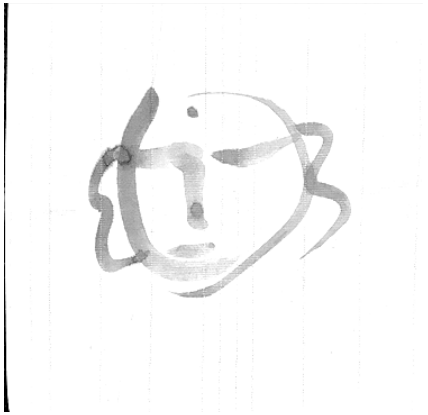
Today, we remember Sund as an iconic painter and poet of the Pacific Northwest. Sund had many homes by the water: Fish Town in La Conner, a house boat in Seattle, and a cottage in an Anacortes Boat Yard. He continued to write poems and create artworks inspired by the area till the end of his life. To read more about Sund, visit his website.





VOCABULARY

- Brushstroke
- Doodle
- Writing



Learning and State Standards



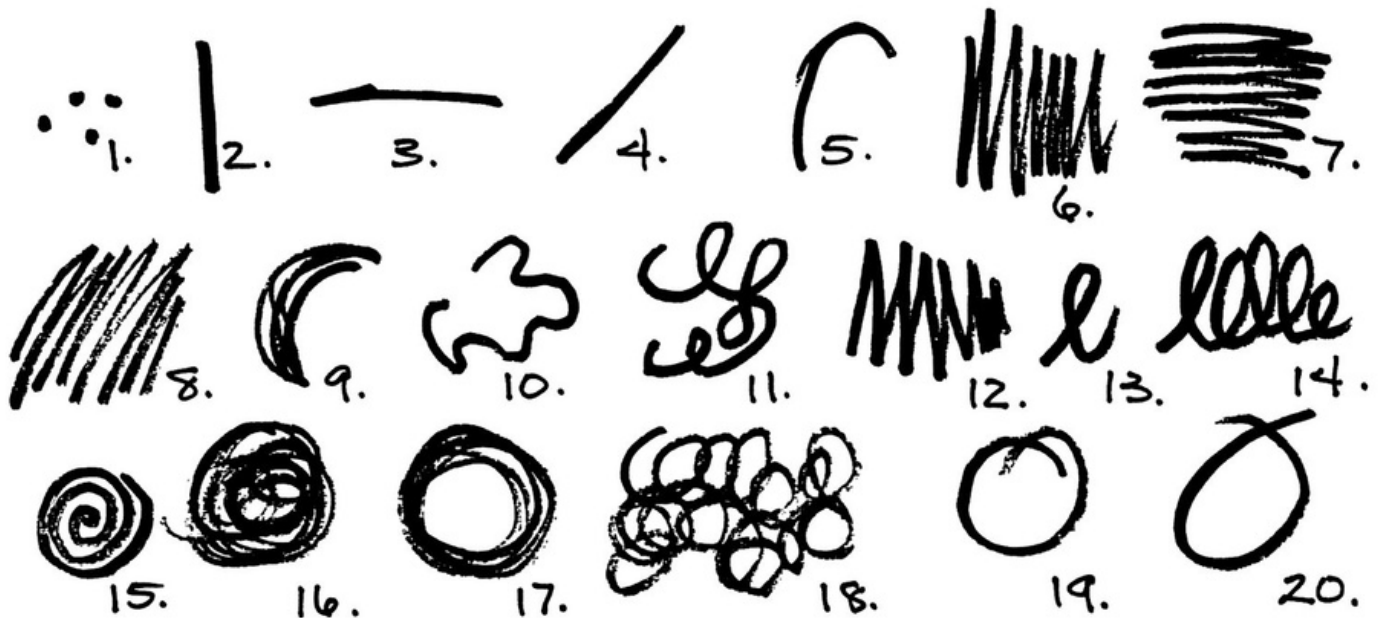
Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards](#):

- VA:Cn101.K Explore the world using descriptive and expressive word and art-making.
- VA:Cr1.1.K Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials.
- VA:Cr.2.1.K Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to art-making.



20 Basic Scribbles

All children draw 20 basic scribbles and scrawl happily with lines that are vertical, horizontal, diagonal, circular, curves and waving. Scribbles can include patterns of dots.



For more information refer to
[The Psychology of Children's Art](#)
by Rhoda Kellogg

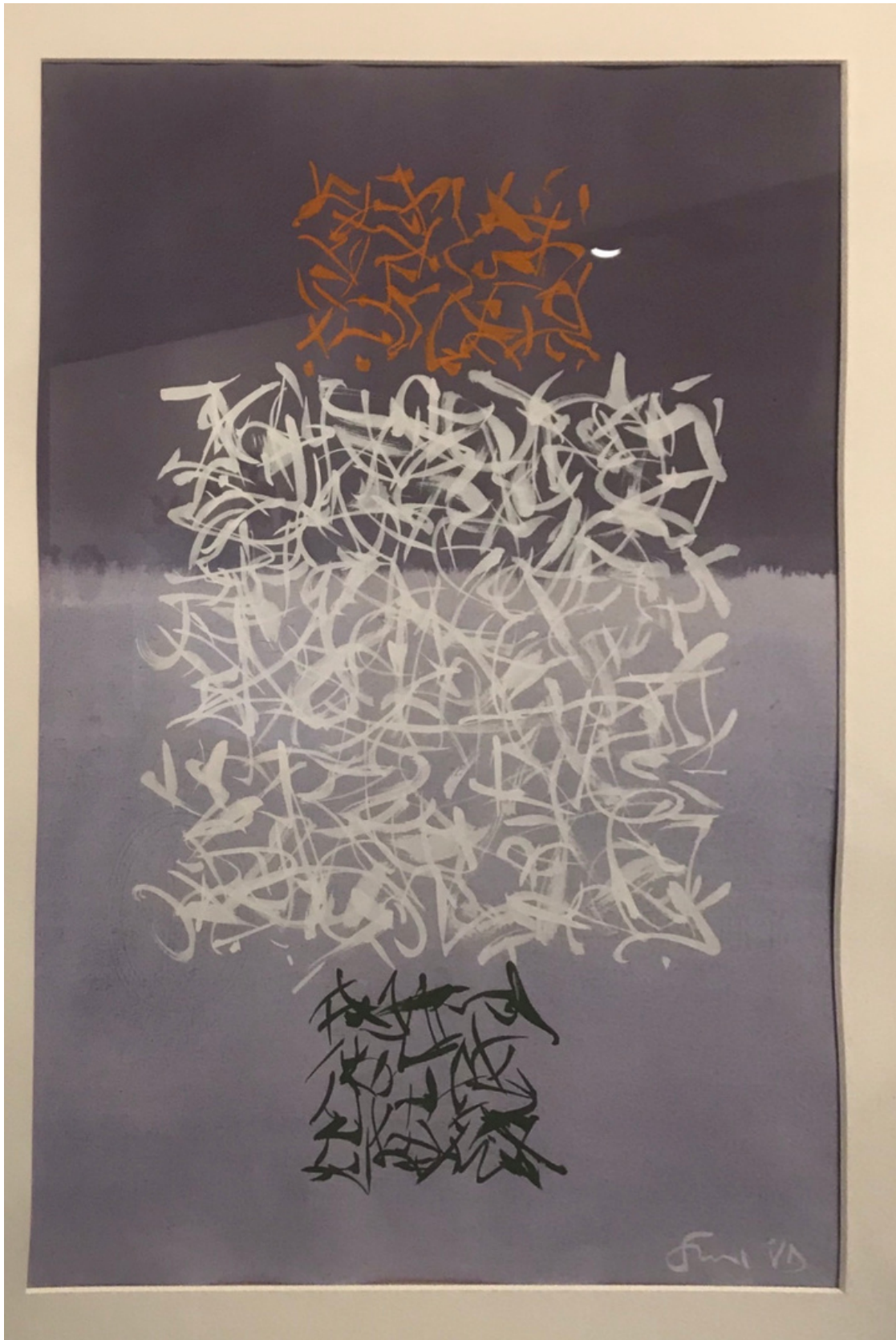


Image credit: Robert Sund, Spirit Blowing