Chance Drawing
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Artists have been using chance as a tool to help them create work throughout art history. Some artists randomly drop cut out shapes onto their canvas and glue them down where they land and other artists roll a dice to determine what color to use. Follow this packet to learn more about these artists and make your own chance drawings! Each project will take about 10 minutes to complete.

Project Set Up
Start by clearing off a large flat surface where you can do this project. A table will work just fine!

Chance Drawing Activity One Materials
- Paper
- Pencil
- Dice

Chance Drawing Activity Two Materials
- Coloring materials like markers or crayons
- 10 notecards or pieces of paper cut into notecard sized rectangles
- Two small bowls to place the notecards in
- Graph paper (If graph paper is unavailable, use a blank piece of paper and randomly draw at least 30 squares on your paper. The squares can be all different sizes, but should be spread out on your paper.)
Rivane Neuenschwander (b. 1967) is a Brazilian artist known for creating works that explore social interactions and the passing of time. She explores these ideas using subjects found in nature, geography, and language. Take a look at the artwork above. These two works are part of a larger series by Rivane Neuenschwander. She used the idea of chance to create these works.

Talk it out:
- What do they remind you of?
- How do you think the artist used the idea of chance?

When the snails were done, the artist took the pieces of paper that were left behind and mounted them onto brown paper-board. Neuenschwander did not know what kind of patterns the snails would leave before creating this artwork, she left the design up to chance. The Walker has seven works from this series. What do you think the other pieces look like? Why?
The artist Pierre Huyghe created an artwork called *Wind Chime (after Dream)* that was inspired by composer John Cage’s song Dream. If you visit the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, you can listen to the wind “playing” different songs on the wind chimes depending on the direction and how hard the wind is blowing.

Artist Jennifer Bartlett used steel plates with grids (similar to graph paper) and a set of rules she developed for herself to create *Series VIII (Parabolas)*.

**Talk it out:**
- Do you notice any patterns?
- What shapes do you see?
Chance Drawing Activity One

Now it’s your turn to use chance to create your own work of art. Incorporating chance is a practice that relies on an outside factor to determine how the artwork will look.

1. Roll your dice on a flat surface. Read the number the dice lands on.

2. Find the number on the chart below to determine what you will be drawing.
   - 1 = straight line
   - 2 = wavy line
   - 3 = zigzag line
   - 4 = dashed line
   - 5 = long line
   - 6 = short line

3. Draw the line on your paper. You can draw the line anywhere you would like.

4. Roll the dice again and use the chart above to determine what type of line you will be drawing. Draw the line on your paper.

5. Continue this process until you have filled in your entire paper.
Repeat this activity by coming up with your own drawing rules for each number on the dice. Try incorporating different ways to draw. For example, if you roll a three you might have to draw with your eyes closed!

- What happens when you roll each number?

1: Draw with your opposite hand
2: Draw a pattern
3: Draw with your eyes closed
4: Draw/create a texture
5: Erase something
6: Draw without lifting up your pencil

Share your artwork with us by using @walkerartcenter and #walkerartcenter, or email a photo of artwork to freefirstsaturday@walkerart.org. Check out #walkerartcenter to see what other families are making!
Chance Drawing Activity Two

Now it’s your turn to use chance to create your own work of art. Incorporating chance is a practice that relies on an outside factor to determine how the artwork will look.

1. On five of the notecards, write a random number between 0-20 on each card. Place these cards in one of the bowls.

2. On the remaining five notecards, write the name of a color. Place these cards in the second bowl.

3. Draw one card from the numbers bowl and one card from the colors bowl.

Find a crayon or marker matching the color on the card you picked. Fill in squares on your piece of paper using this color. The amount of squares you fill in is determined by the number on the card you drew from the number bowl.

4. Continue drawing cards and filling in squares on your graph paper until you are satisfied with the results.
Keep Exploring

- How did it feel to give up some control in your artwork?

- How might your work look different if you got to choose what colors to use and how many squares to fill in?

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