

Learning from Children

WORKSHOPS & INTERACTION WITH CHILDREN
WITH GUIDELINES FROM K. B. JINAN.

A sneak peak to today's art education

Recently The government of Kerala introduced a new text book to teach art. I had a look at those books. Here the art becomes like a subject like Physics or mathematics. In the curriculum it is mentioned that art teacher should conduct an exam for these art topics (drawing, music, dance and drama).

Here the question comes, what is the purpose of art?

According to my thinking it makes oneself more sensitive towards his/her living environment. Here I am not considering, one with the artistic skills. Looking more towards majority of students, who might not take art as a serious topic of learning.

Does these kinds of compulsory theoretical art teaching make children, sensitive towards their environment?

With K. B. Jinan

I have done my internship with K.B. Jinan. He lives in a village named Oluvakkodu, near Nilambur in Malappuram District, Kerala.

I met him at his house. He gave me some samples of previous workshops.

1st day we went to some of the near by houses to inform the children about the workshop.

Most of the children were poor. They couldn't afford the expenses of drawing materials. So Jinan sir asked them to come without anything. We will provide the materials.

From next day onwards the workshop started. I purchased the drawing materials from the town.

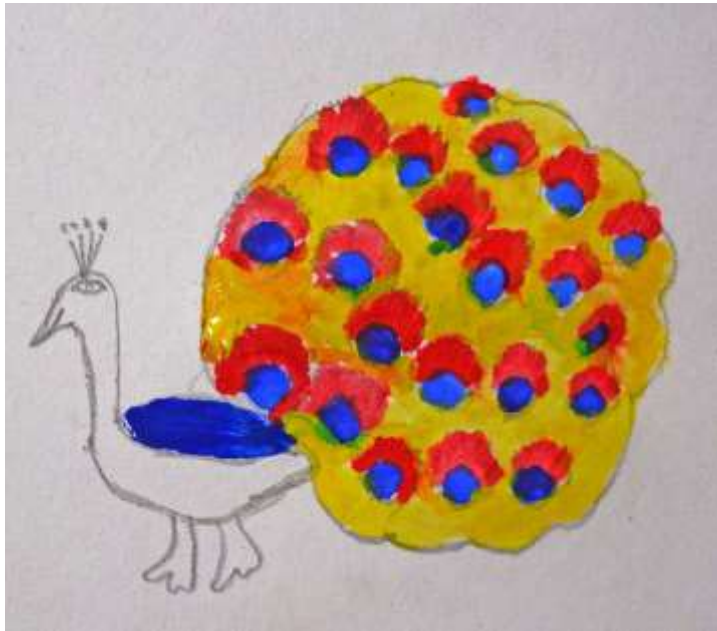
3 weeks of workshop

At the beginning I had the tendency of judging children's drawings. But after hearing some of it Jinan sir said don't come to conclusions at this stage. It is too early. Just observe, what the children are doing and learn from them. We are conducting this workshop to learn from the children. The children might not get anything from us! Don't give advise or guidance. Let them draw.



Workshops samples

At the beginning children drew objects like house, trees, flowers etc. What ever is familiar with them. Some of them drew peacocks. That bird was familiar to them.



Workshop samples

Then we slowly introduced real life objects and sometimes asked them to draw from their memory.



House

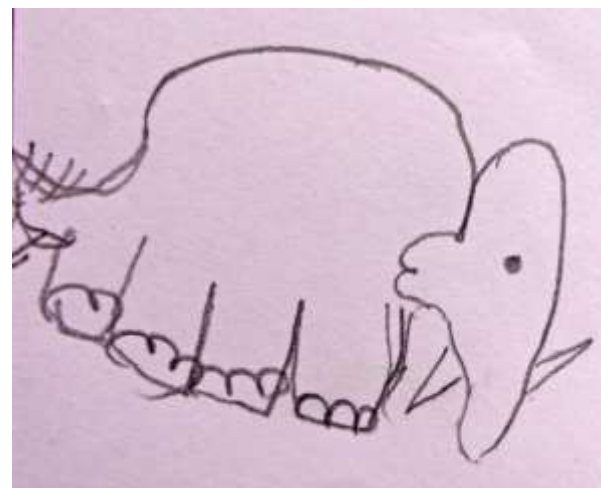


Van



Beetle





Cut and paste



Characters in human



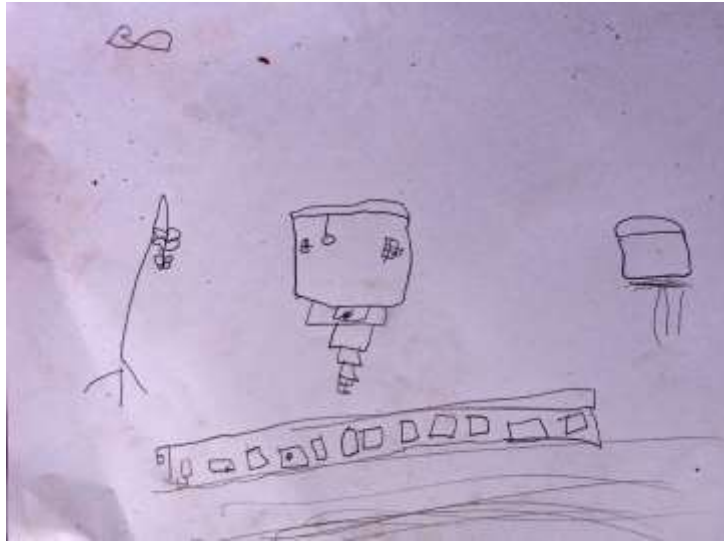
From photo to family



Onam



Marriage depiction



These are drawings by 2 children. First one doesn't have any people. When I asked him what is the reason behind it, he said ,that is grooms house. So all the people are inside the bus to go the brides house. Then he pointed to the next drawing by his friend. Hearing what he said she made one more drawing in another paper and attached to her drawing.



Another marriage



After the workshop

It is a very short time period to observe and coming up with a conclusion. Jinan sir told me it will take some months to see some patterns in their drawing.

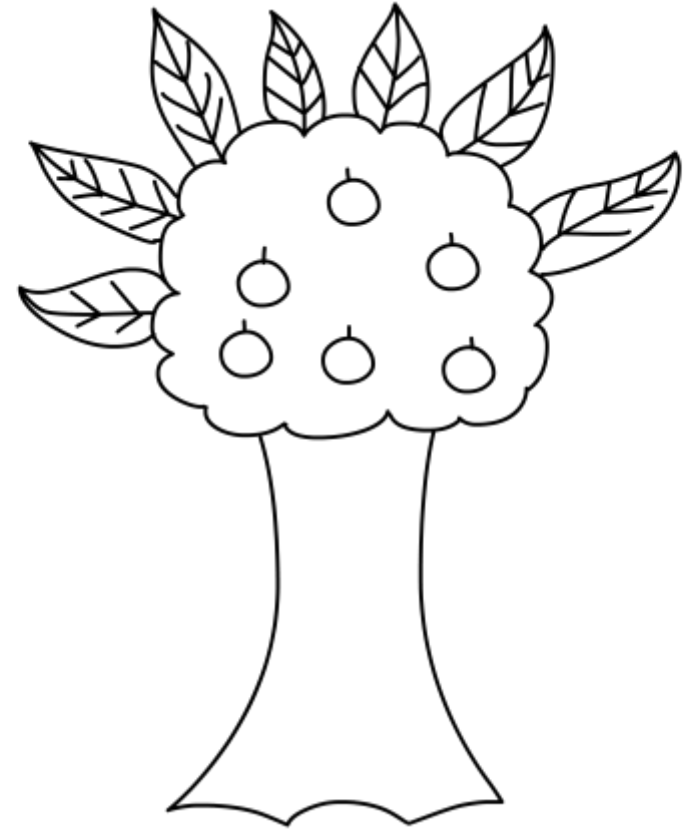
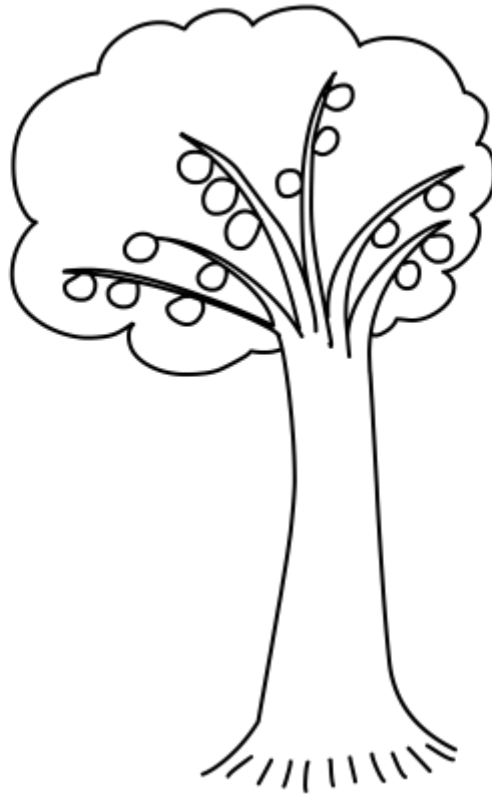
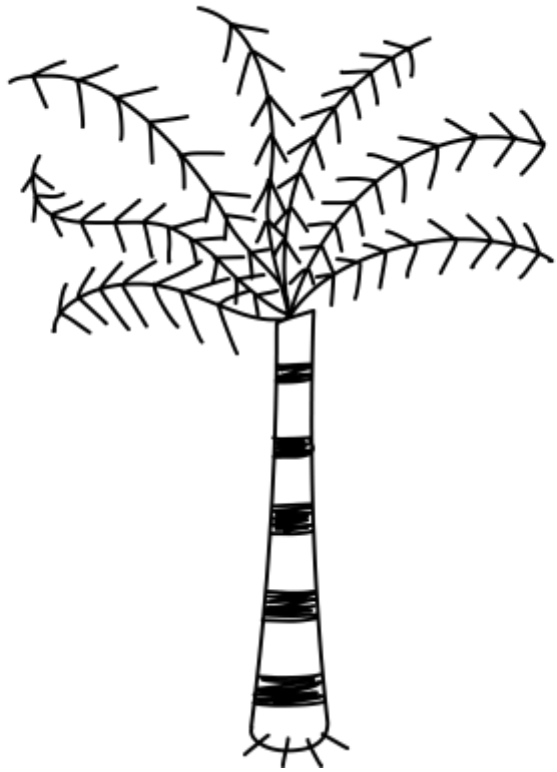
Also I was lucky enough to read his rough draft of the book- ' Seeing through Hands!'

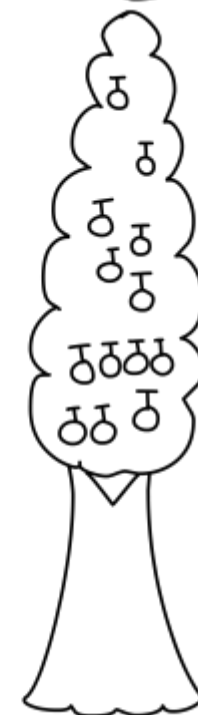
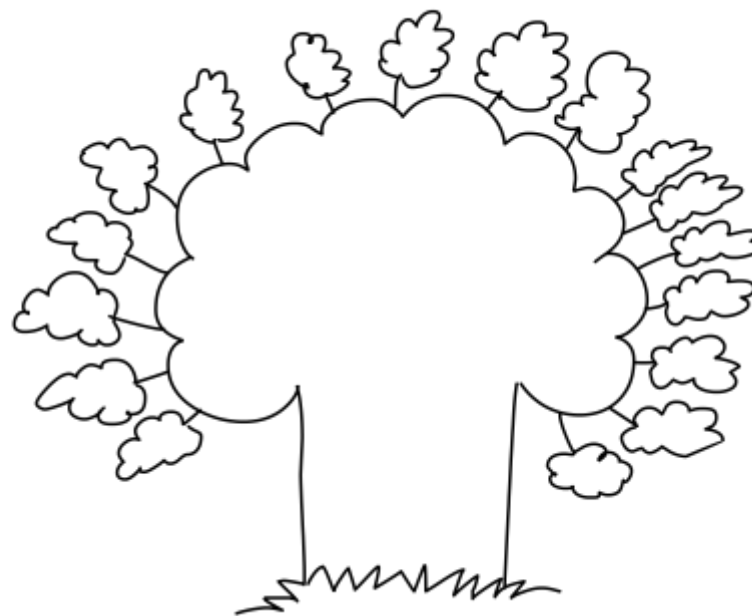
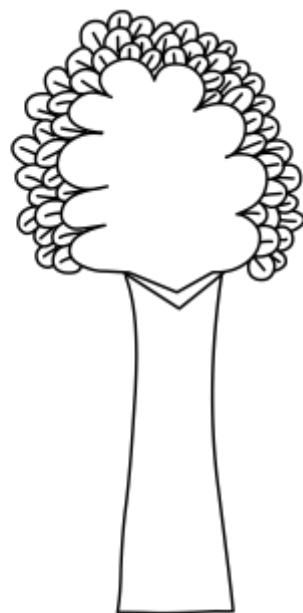
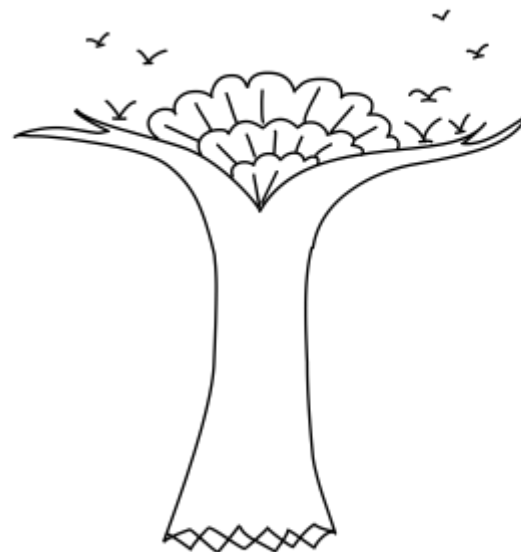
In that book he has observed some of the common patterns in children's drawings.

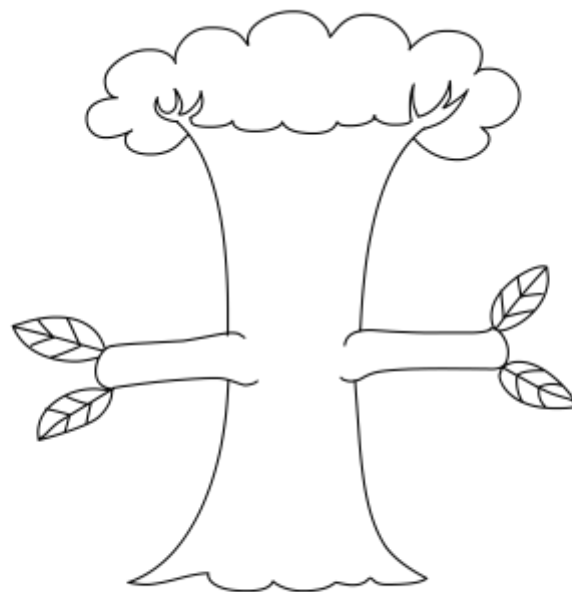
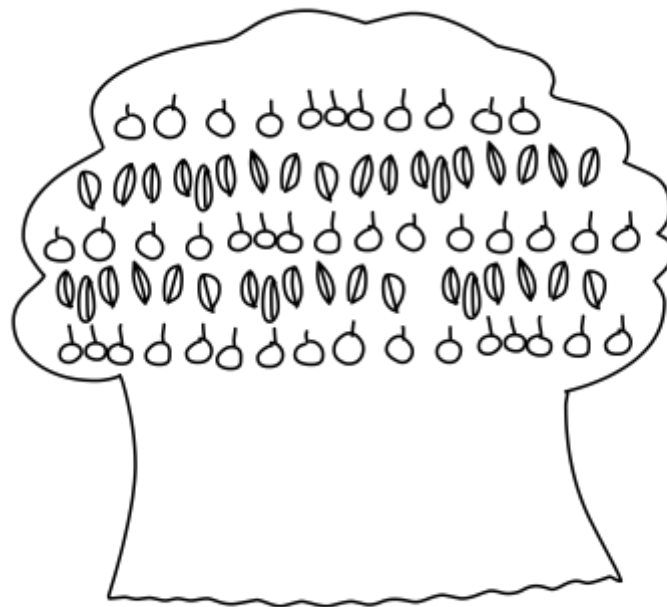
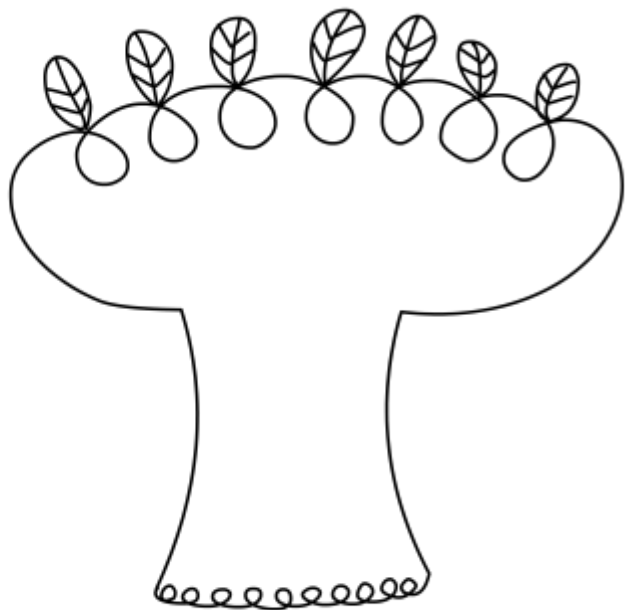
After the workshop, I went back home and helped him for his book. I have done the colour correction and clean up of the drawings. Also done a rough compilation for the book.

One of the thing inspired me the most is how children simplifies what they see and drawing only the essence of that image. With that thought in my mind I observes children's drawing, especially trees, and made few trees.

'Trees' I wouldn't have drawn without this workshop







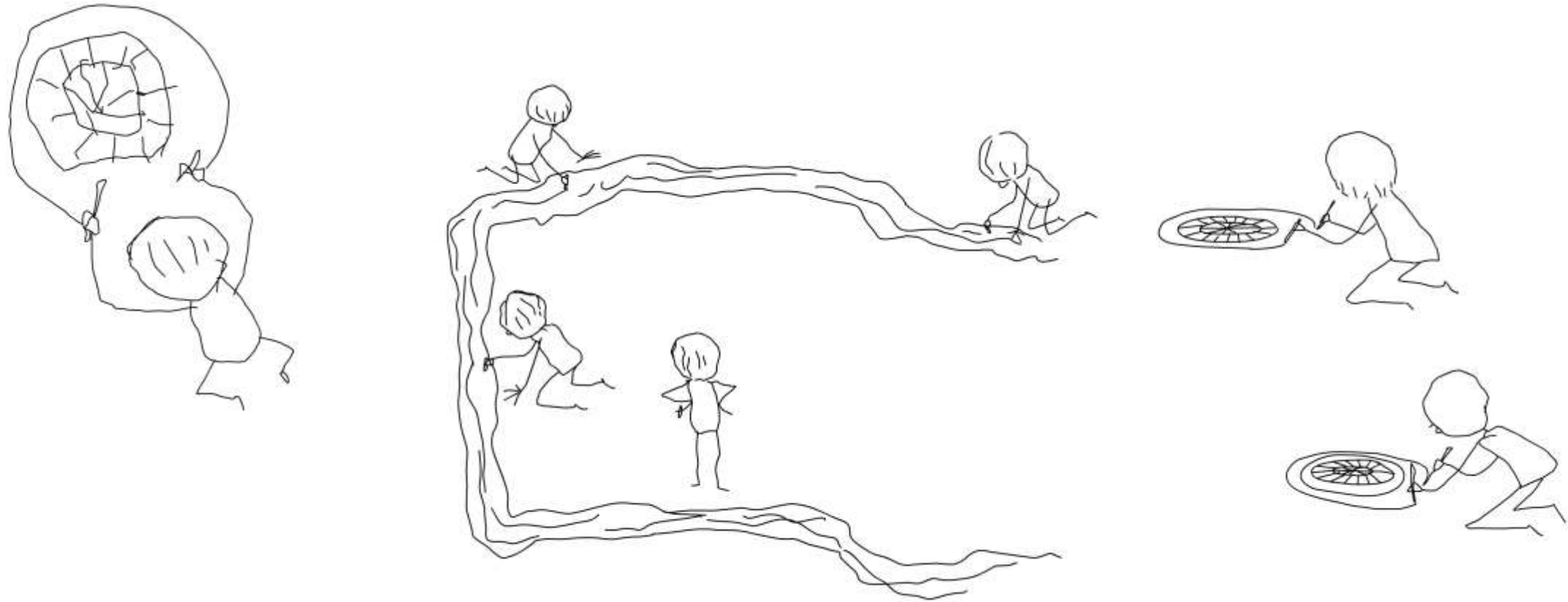
Some thoughts from Jinan sir

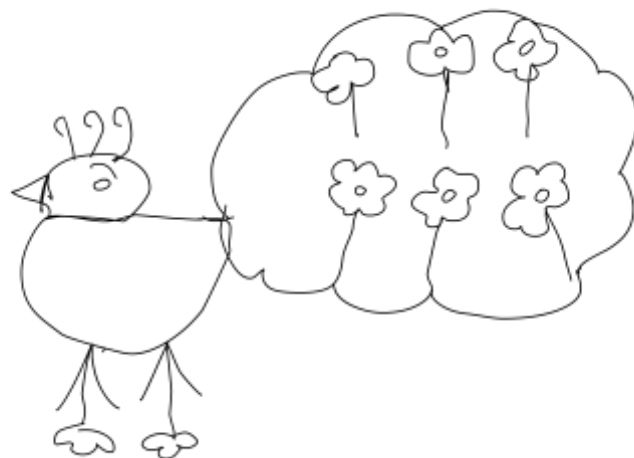
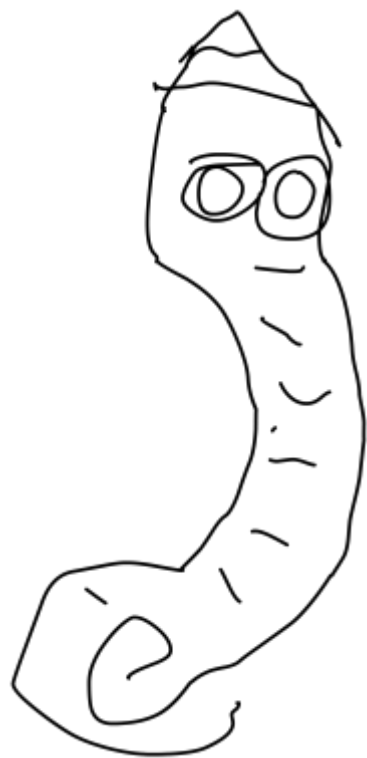
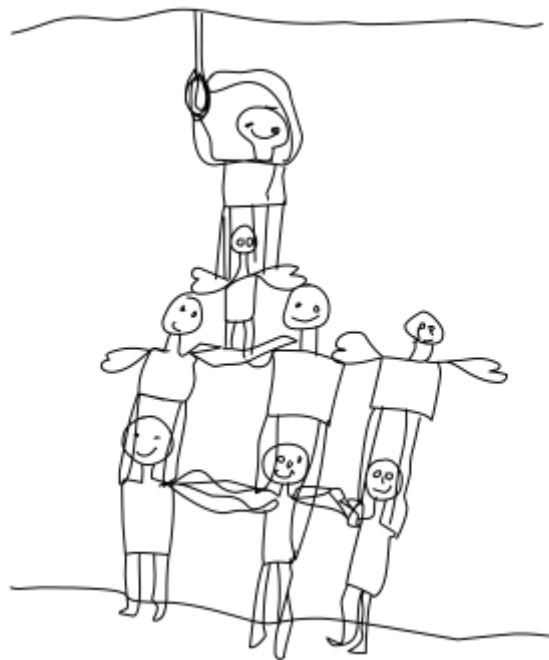
- Human being should learn to represent their observations through drawings rather than writing. We should start using drawing as a cognitive tool rather than writing.
- There is nothing wrong with the bad drawing. Like writing, drawing also will take time to learn.
- There is no deep meaning in art. It is just the appreciation of beauty. It is like a flower blooming. Art shouldn't be constructed.
- Writing is only a documentation tool. Don't depend on it for knowledge. Knowledge comes from the world around us.

Work for K. B. Jinan's book



Drawings with the reference of videos and photos





Book cover explorations





Final Cover- 'Seeing through hands'





Thank you