

Week 1

What moves you?

During this first week or module, we will be putting our art materials to a side for a bit. Let's start this journey by exploring the source of our creativity: **what inspires us.**

We are constantly being influenced by everything around us, sometimes we are very aware of these influences, we even choose them, and sometimes they are more unconscious.

I think you can all relate to seeing an image that you really like, maybe even getting obsessed with an artist, and wanting to emulate what they do. And somehow, your results do not bring that instant excitement, or they don't feel like you.

I will stop here in a short cliffhanger, because I'd like you to do the first assignment before we jump into the second part of this story!

Let's start with some conscious awareness!



Side Note: *It is possible you have done these exercises before, but I would like to encourage you to do them again with a fresh perspective. And if you want an extra push, you can find an extra task every week at the end of the PDF handouts.*

Task 2

Fabuloso! You made a mood board! Let's now grab our coffee/tea, our favourite pen and a piece of paper and look at the printable page (scroll down to page 5). Let's analyse your choices in a few basic steps:

Description

It's important to take a step back and analyse what we have in front of us before we jump into conclusions of what we really like or don't like.

I have made a list of things you can consider, but these are suggestions, add as many notes as you see fit!

So, let's take our inner researcher out for a spin ;)

- **Line:** What type of line work do your images have? Are they thick and bold? or maybe clean and simple?
- **Texture:** Can you see brushstrokes? Are there patterns? or flat colours?
- **Movement:** Do the images show movement or are they static like a portrait?
- **Colours:** How would you describe the colours?
- **Category:** If you would have to choose standard categories, which ones would fit your images? (You can have multiple!)

The Why

Now that we have a general description of your choices, let's now dive into **why** you choose these images.

Pick 5 images and write down the reason why you like them:

- it can be how you feel about them,
- what they represent,
- or something simple like a colour combination.

Try to find at **least 3 reasons** per image. (*Are you starting to see a pattern?*)

My Choices

Even though we like everything on our board, it does **not** mean that this is what we should be making!

Huh?

Stay with me! Make a **short list of 5** drawings or illustrations you **really like** from your board, (or choose the ones from the previous exercise).

If you could **recreate one thing** from these images, what would it be?
(1 per image) - *Please try to avoid going into a negative mentality of what you can or can't, we are currently dreaming big!*

Well done!

That's a wrap for week 1! You've earned your first super badge!!!
This is the perfect place to continue next week.



“The artist is a collector... Your job is to collect good ideas. The more good ideas you collect, the more you can choose from to be influenced by.” - Austin Kleon

MY MOOD-BOARD

-DESCRIPTION-



LINE

- BOLD
- SKETCHY
- CLEAN
- SIMPLE

TEXTURE

- ROUGH
- SMOOTH
- FLAT
- BUSY

MOVEMENT

- FLOWING
- SUBTLE
- DRAMATIC
- ACTIVE

COLOURS

- BOLD
- VIBRANT
- PASTELS
- MUTED

CATEGORY

- REALISM
- ABSTRACT
- CARTOON
- EXPRESSIVE

ADD YOUR OWN!

- THE WHY -

CHOOSE 5 IMAGES AND WRITE DOWN (AT LEAST) 3 REASONS WHY YOU LIKE THEM:

(IT CAN BE SIMPLE LIKE A COLOUR COMBINATION, HOW THEY MAKE YOU FEEL, OR WHAT THEY REPRESENT TO YOU.)



-PICKING OUT MY CHOICES-

TAKE A LOOK AGAIN AT YOUR SHORT LIST OF 5 IMAGES.
IF YOU COULD RECREATE ONE THING FROM THESE IMAGES, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
(1 PER IMAGE)











Extra Tasks

These extra exercises are to further help you become more aware of what inspires you. Remember that you can always come back to them!

I have made a small collection of some fun exercises that further help to think about the “what moves you?” question.



For all of these I would recommend to sit down and visualise the answers in your sketchbook. Not (only) because this is a course for illustrators/creators, but also because I want you to enjoy taking the time to think about why they move you.

Home Explorer

Walk around your house and take pictures of your favourite possessions, let's say at least 5. (So yes, we are basically creating a mood board but of objects you already own).

Be creative! This can also be spices for example, I love dried chillies.

Go back to Task 2 - Why did you choose these objects? Draw them out. This exercise makes for a fun spread in your sketchbook!

Secret Obsessions

Grab your sketchbook and draw your secret obsessions, those that you are slightly embarrassed to admit hihi. Don't worry, you do not need to share this with anyone! But please do draw them instead of just writing them down.

Other Creative Outlets

I'd like you to think about other artistic/creative outlets you might enjoy: movies, theatre, dance or even sports. Example: if we say *movies*, which 3 *movies* come to mind that have had an impact on you and why?

