



Getting Griddy with Agnes Martin

EPISODE LENGTH: 10:56 (CLICK FOR DIRECT LINK)

SUMMARY: In this episode, we explore the work of legendary artist Agnes Martin and then draw with a similar technique she used in many of her paintings: the grid.

Agnes Martin’s large, square abstract paintings (which are often drawings) appear simple and clean. They’re just criss-crossing lines on a canvas, right? But somehow they hold our attention and vibrate with a calm energy. They are filled with beauty and joy. And while they might not be a drawing *of* something, they *feel* like something.

Perhaps what goes into a painting determines what comes out... (Yup, we talk about this in the podcast.)

Agnes Martin said, “There’s no such thing as a perfect painting.” Perhaps that is what makes her work — and our drawing exercise this week — so satisfying. It is the impossibility of perfection, and the way each of our drawings end up becoming uniquely our own. If you’re doing this exercise with kids or a classroom, this is a great opportunity to continue to refute fussiness and embrace mistakes. The imperfections are truly what make this simple drawing special. Also, deep breaths, shaking out extra energy, and sound effects never hurt.



SUPPLIES: paper, pen/pencil, colors

OTHER DRAWTOGETHER RESOURCES: Watch video Episode 10, “Clubhouse” for more ways of observing and capturing the feeling of the world around us.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING: focus, embracing mistakes, letting go of perfectionism

CREATIVE SKILLS: gross motor skills, fine motor skills, lines and perspective, abstraction

Guiding Questions:

- What lines and shapes do you see in nature around you? How could you draw something in nature using just lines?
- What do you do when you get frustrated trying to draw perfect lines and they don’t work out as you hoped?