

The Upside-Down Drawing Challenge



Want to know a secret from my Disney days?

Back when I was a cartoonist, not every drawing came out right. In animation, I had to draw 18 images for every single second of film—all by hand. That's a lot of chances to mess up.

Here's what would happen...

1. Mickey's four-fingered hands (cartoon characters usually have three fingers and a thumb) ended up looking like squishy mittens.
2. His eyes were supposed to look curious and full of adventure, but sometimes they just looked angry.
3. And that famous tail? It had a mind of its own.



I'd erase. Redraw. Try again and again, but my hand and pencil just wouldn't cooperate. Then I discovered a creative trick that flipped everything: **I turned my drawing upside down.** It might sound silly, but it worked!

Why This Works:

When I turned a drawing upside down, something magical happened in my brain. I stopped seeing Mickey.

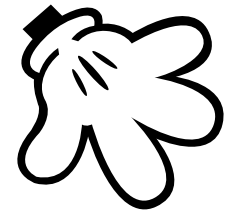
I stopped trying to label everything. Instead of saying, "That's a finger!" or "That's a tail," my brain just started to see what was really there:

- A curved line
- A strange shape
- An angle that connects to something else

Suddenly, I began drawing without judging every pencil stroke. That's when the fun came back. It reminded me of when I first drew cartoons at 5-years-old.

Sometimes I'd finish the whole drawing upside down. And when I flipped it over? Some of my best characters were born!

Now it's your turn.



Your Let Me Fail! Challenge Instructions:

1. Look at the cartoon of a dog on a skateboard.
2. Flip the picture upside down.



3. On a blank sheet of paper, draw exactly what you see—just shapes, lines, and curves.
4. Don't flip it back until you're completely done.
5. When you finish, turn your paper right-side up and take a look.

What Might Happen?

You might:

- Burst out laughing at what you drew
- Be shocked at how good it looks
- See something you never expected

And guess what? All of those reactions are exactly right. You let go of perfection. You took a creative risk. You tried something new.

That's not failure. That's **Let Me Fail** in action.

The Real Magic:

This isn't just about drawing.

The next time you're stuck—on a math problem, a story, a song, or even just a messy room—try looking at it from a different angle.

Some of my favorite Disney characters came from flipped, messy, mistake-filled drawings. And some of your best ideas might come from moments when things feel upside-down.