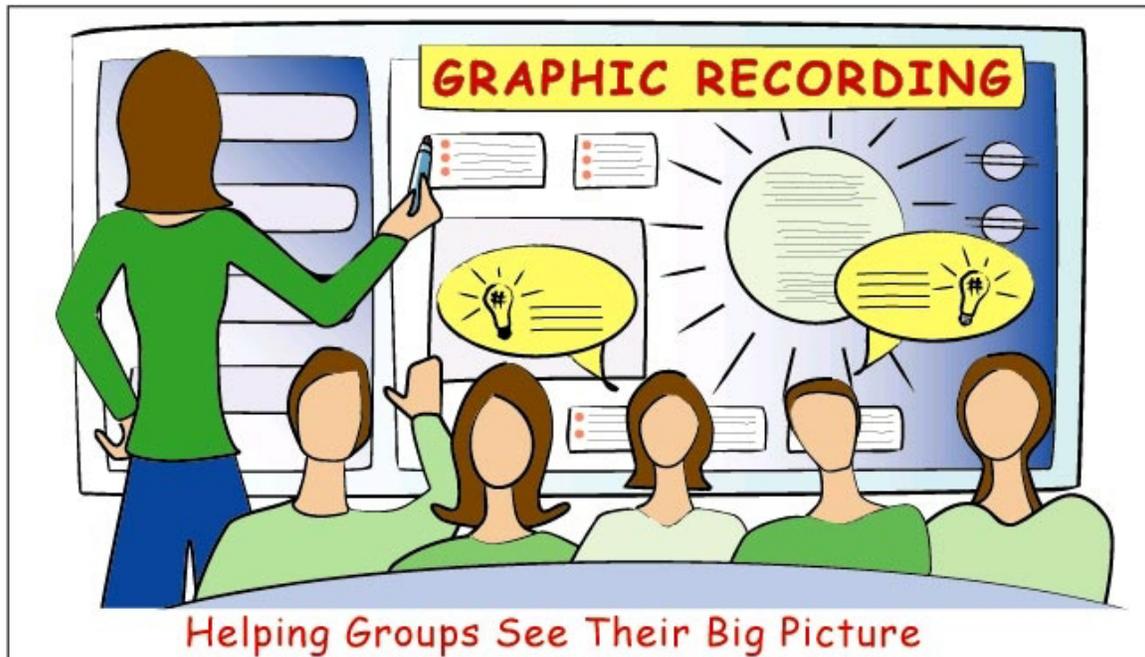


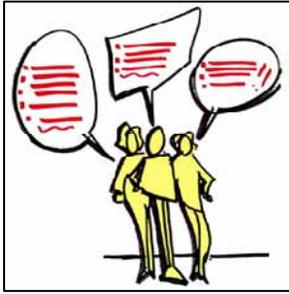
22 TIPS FOR PRACTICING YOUR GRAPHIC RECORDING / GRAPHIC FACILITATION SKILLS:



Are you new to Graphic Recording? Are you a facilitator who wants to add graphics to your toolkit? If so, below are a few tips and techniques to help you develop your new graphic skills.

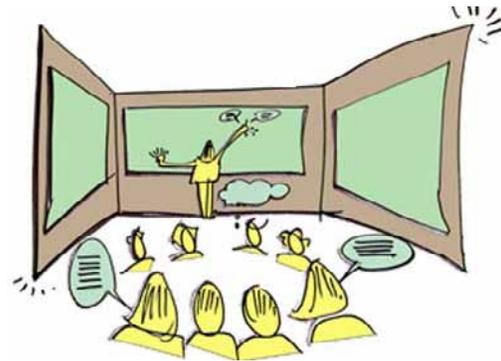
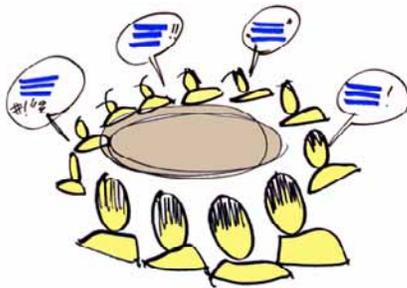
1. Create a practice space by hanging some of the big poster paper on a wall in your home or office. If space is limited, a sheet of flipchart paper on the back of a door is a start.
2. Go exploring in art stores / stationary shops / office supply store and treat yourself to some fun markers, pastels and other tools of the trade. Or raid your kid's toy box 😊
3. Put some music on and repeat the "Body Wisdom" exercise of the workshop. Practice finding the lines, circles and shapes that your body inherently knows.
4. Play with the music, dancing around, warming your body up, and start to throw in some words by capturing some of the lyrics of the song you are listening to.
5. Keep going with the music, adding in highlight colors and perhaps using pastels. Just play around and see what effects you get. This is play but it is also a way to train your body and mind about what it can achieve. Stand back after a play session at the wall and marvel at what you are capable of creating. Remember: Center, Focus, Draw, and Accept.



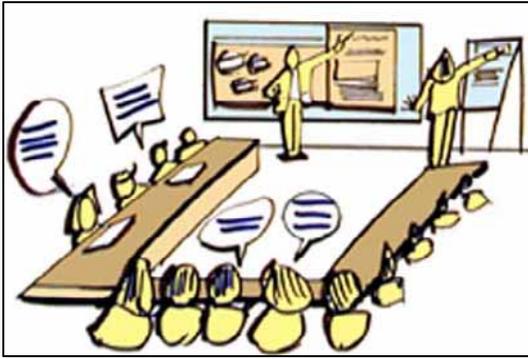


6. Try putting the radio onto a talk station and record what you hear in lists or cluster/freeform style. Try it with just words. Try it with just pictures. Try integrating both words and pictures.
7. Play any spoken word tapes or lecture tapes you might have. You can keep playing the same passages and see how you improve over time.

8. Carry a notepad when out at meetings, conference, etc and practice your recording skills in the smaller format. You now have free license to doodle and people will be curious what you are doing. Don't be surprised if this leads to a good networking opportunity. I've passed many a business card out doing just this, some of which have resulted in work.



9. Start collecting images for your own Icon Library. Rip pictures/images/sketches out of magazines, newspapers, and company publications.
10. Purchase a few of the many clip art programs available and practice drawing some of the simpler images or images that you use a lot in your particular work/practice. Surf the web to find clip art and image sites.
11. Photocopy some images onto transparency sheets and project them up on the wall to trace. Doing this will help lock the images into your muscle memory. Feel free to do this with the icon handouts from the workshop. You'll get the flow of the lines and how they go together this way.
12. Try playing around with the speed of your printing and drawing. Speed up, slow down. See what effects you get by going slow and going fast.
13. Create your own History Map. Make a timeline encompassing our birth date to the present time and add in all milestones, events, significant people, etc. Add in real photos and/or magazine images if you want.
14. Draw out the stories/life maps/ visions of family, friends, and colleagues. Watch the TV show called 'Biography' and map the life of whatever celeb is being featured. MTV's Behind the Music and Where Are They Now are other good programs for life stories.

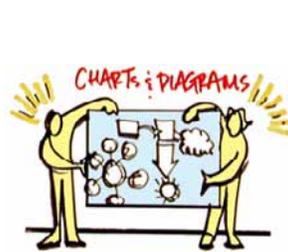


15. Volunteer to record/facilitate meetings that you are a part of. Find a not-for-profit organization that you'd like to support and offer your services. Split the recorder / facilitator role with a colleague or friend. Trade or alternate roles to get the full experience of both.

16. Find low-risk, fun, safe environments to practice your new skills. Remember, with a few star people, some wowie markers, and an icon or two, you are more than a few steps ahead of most of the people you will be working with and they will appreciate your skills (probably more than you do at first ☺).



17. Pre-prepare some charts, posters or templates for a presentation you might be giving or a meeting you might be leading. Make it simple on yourself, have images pre-drawn so you can focus on capturing the information when its flying fast and furious.



18. Check out kid's books, especially kid's art books for tips on basic drawing skills. Mark Kistler's books (Draw Squad) and website are good resources.

19. Review your icon sheets from the workshop and practice drawing them in a notebook. You can do this on airplanes, in cafes, while watching T.V. As you build your icon library, keep practicing the images small, then practice them at the wall. Leave you icons up on the wall for a while so you can consider them, ponder them, obsess over them ☺

20. Let people know what you are learning and how you think you want to use it. Your network wants to help you. Some of my best referrals come from friends and colleagues who know what I want to be doing. Synchronicities happen all the time. Tell people what you want and the universe will conspire to bring it to you.

21. Appreciate yourself! It's not always easy to stick your neck out and learn a new skill. Appreciate your braveness, courage and general chutzpah for trying something new and for expanding your toolkit. Damn you're cool!

22. Keep some of your early work. It will help you appreciate your progress and development. That if you stick with it, you will improve and your own style will emerge.

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About the Author:

Christina Merkley, M.A. is a Graphic Facilitator, Coach and Mapmaker based in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. An expert in the graphic recording and facilitation methodology, Christina uses visual methods to help groups and individuals SEE and ACT on their best thinking. See <http://www.makemark.com> for links, resources and information on her Meeting Graphics 101 Workshop.

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