

The Drawn Identity

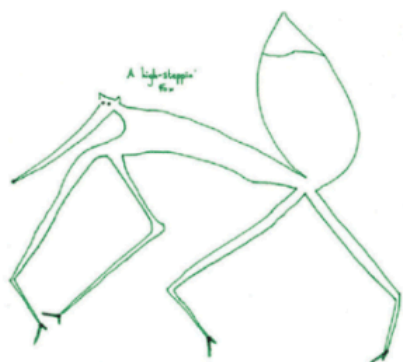
Jessie Mathewson and Lauren Geall

Have you ever drifted off in an editorial meeting? Found yourself scribbling in the margin of your notebook as your editor drones on? Your doodles might not be popular with your boss, but they could be more useful than you think.

Tracey Trussell (www.handright.co.uk) is an expert in handwriting and doodle analysis with four years training at the British Institute of Graphologists. To her, doodling doesn't signify a lack of thought at all. "Doodles are usually produced on autopilot, as a by-product of another activity, while you're busy concentrating on something else," she explains.

So what do our absent-minded jottings reveal about us? We asked journalists to share their doodles and asked Trussell to take a look and tell us what insights are lurking in their absent-minded scribbles.

Image: Oliver Stratford



The Creative

Oliver Stratford, *Disegno* magazine

"The fox is deftly tiptoeing on the baseline of reality, and the feet have heavy retracing: the doodler is attempting to stay grounded, but this is causing some anxiety. The green ink is also relevant, telling us that the doodler has an intense desire to be unique. The fox itself is huge, taking up most of the page, which shows an outward appearance of confidence and a strong desire to get involved with everything that's going on."

The Broadcaster

Cole Moreton, BBC & *The Mail on Sunday*

"People who doodle faces are interested in personalities: they are people's people. The triangular shapes in the face relate to resourcefulness. This means there is abundant creative potential hoisted by a determined, adventurous nature. Spirals are also to do with thinking outside the box. The doodler is likely to be highly individualistic AND doesn't want to be perceived as 'normal'. They thrive on variety, creativity, and change."



Image: Cole Moreton

The Podcaster

Alice Fordham, *The Economist*

"The lion reveals a strong, courageous personality with a secret lust for power. It's the symbol of an independent and enterprising thinker, someone who is strong-willed, with big dreams, bags of energy, and a desire to have authority and command respect. The doodler needs plenty of social stimulation. They love being involved in everything that's going on, and they can usually keep their head under pressure."

Image: Alice Fordham



The Sports Journalist

John Ashdown, *The Guardian* sport

"Doodling a frog reflects a strong desire for personal growth and metamorphosis: this drawing suggests the need for a complete change of image. The doodler tends to make jokes at their own expense, effectively hiding their shortcomings and complexes behind humour. The large size of the image and the positioning on the centre of the page suggests a fun-loving showman." ■



Image: John Ashdown