For young children, drawing is a performance: the marks they make are accompanied by gestures, sound effects, narratives, and movements that attract the attention of others, adults and children, who become audiences to evolving works. This active and social process reveals ideas and images in the making, and a sense of the imaginative capacity of children.

Dr. Christine Marmé Thompson is Professor of Art Education in the School of Visual Arts at Penn State. Professor Thompson earned her Ph.D. in Art Education at The University of Iowa in 1985, and taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1985-2001. Her research focuses on issues of children’s culture and art learning. Professor Thompson’s writings have appeared in national and international journals in art and early childhood education, and in numerous edited collections.