

by Carollyne Hutter

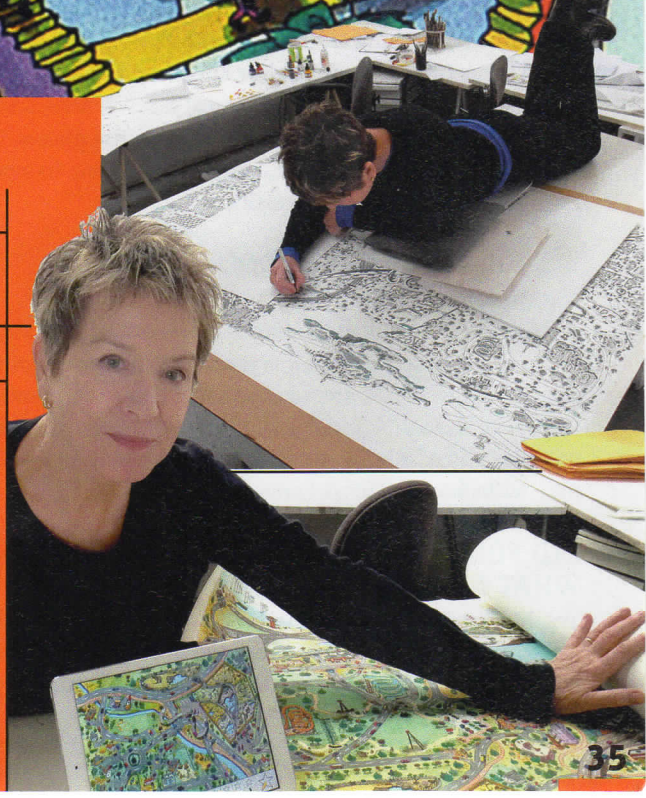
# ROXIE MUNRO

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

**Roxie Munro** loves art. She is always busy creating different types of art. She draws and paints oil and watercolor works that hang in galleries, homes, and museums. She illustrates many, many children's books. And she creates fun apps for phones and tablets, such as "Roxie's a-MAZE-ing Vacation Adventure."

Munro recently published *Masterpiece Mix*, a book about art. It focuses on how and where famous artists get their creativity.

Turns out Munro is also a keen doodler. *Muse* chatted with her about doodling and how it helps with her artistic process.





### WHEN DO YOU DOODLE, AND WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO CREATE?

I doodle **CONSTANTLY**. I fill at least 20 Post-it sheets a day, plus

several others on a small clipboard with scratch paper.

I doodle mainly while on the phone in the studio. Or listening to an interview or a podcast. Or sometimes waiting for something, like the subway. I almost always do organic, abstract mazes. Once in a while, I doodle architectural shapes.

Sometimes if I'm on the phone discussing a project, I'll sketch or doodle something associated with the project. Like yesterday—while I was talking to an author about a book with engineering themes, I sketched a couple of metal screws. Also, sometimes while I'm being presented with a verbal idea on the phone, I'll sketch it out, just the immediate idea, before I have time to worry over it. It may become the final composition.

### WHY DO YOU LIKE TO DOODLE?

It is relaxing and diverting.

It's neat to see form or shapes come out of nothing on the paper. I also work quite fast and it is totally intuitive—no plan, no real reason. I have total control over a little inconsequential creation. Primarily though, I find it fun. Like a game. Maybe someone else will play solitaire or do a crossword puzzle or Sudoku, but I like to play with shapes and pictures.

### DID YOU DOODLE AS A CHILD? AND IF YOU DID, WHAT AND WHEN DID YOU DOODLE?

Yes. My sister, Ann Munro Wood, is also a professional working artist. We were given paper and crayons as soon as our little fingers could hold them. I was also doodling throughout my younger

school years, but in college I doodled less and filled notebooks with actual drawings, because I needed to learn the craft.

### DID YOUR TEACHERS AND THE ADULTS IN YOUR LIFE TELL YOU NOT TO DOODLE?

No. However, my teachers caught me daydreaming or not paying attention sometimes. If anything, my parents encouraged me to doodle—at least at home.

### HOW DOES DOODLING HELP WITH YOUR VARIOUS CREATIVE PROJECTS?

Doodling is not the same thing as drawing. Drawing has a purpose—even a simple rough sketch has a focus, an idea, an objective. To me, doodling is a visual rambling—a wandering through two dimensions. Like vaguely daydreaming on paper.

It's very freeing—there is no judgment, no editor, no grading. I never erase a part or edit or add to it later. . . . I try to do the doodles fast and intuitively.

Lots of times I start with one continuous line that goes on and on till it curves back and meets itself again, never lifting the pencil from paper, and then I fill in blank spaces left by the convoluted original shape.

### HAS A DOODLE EVER DIRECTLY LED TO AN ART PROJECT?

Actually, one time in particular that I remember, I was asked to contribute to a book called *Take a Line for a Walk*, by Robin Landa, about prompts for creativity. My



published piece was quite like many of my abstract line doodles. Some of my art projects, particularly many of the mazes in the books, reflect the kind of doodles I make. I've had six maze books published, which I LOVE to do, and two interactive iPad apps with mazes. In addition, my other books, on architecture, nature, and so on, use a lot of pattern and detail.

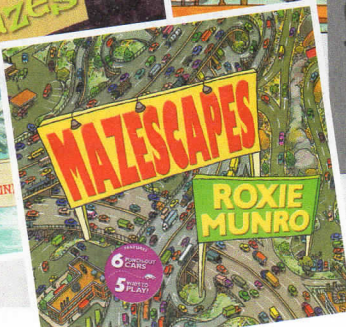
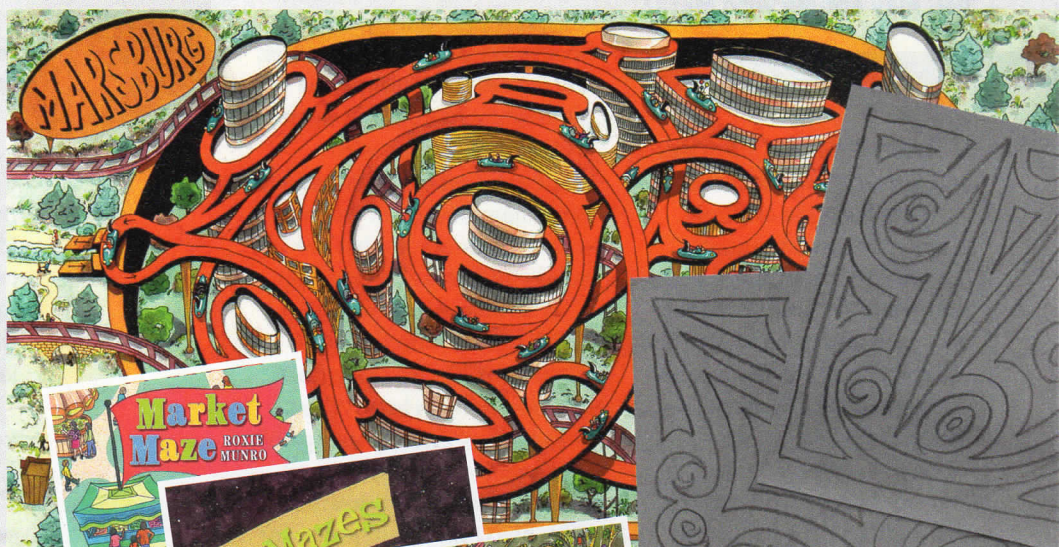
### WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU DOODLE WITH?

Pencil or a black ink pen or Sharpie on Post-its or pieces of white scrap paper, sometimes attached to a mini-clipboard. Almost always in black and white—no color.

### DO YOU EVER DOODLE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, USING DOODLE BUDDY OR SIMILAR SOFTWARE?

No, only with ink or a pencil on paper.

**Carollyne Hutter** loves to doodle. She's a big fan of Roxie Munro's artwork and was pleased to discover that Munro is a keen doodler. There's more at [hutterwriter.com](http://hutterwriter.com).



Do you see similarities between Roxie Munro's doodles and her final artwork?