Line as Movement

Simple, single lines amassed in intriguing movements across a page can be a very rich drawing. Intricate rivulets of various sizes and curvilinear swings surprise and please the eye. This is an excellent drawing scheme to develop line drawing control. Here are a few rules to follow:

The first line begins from any edge and moves in a flowing manner to exit at another side. Additional lines are added from a new side or from an existing curve.

The third rule is most important as this achieves the soft, gliding movements of ebb and flow as line movement begins and merges away. All beginning and ending lines must MERGE with each other, just as cars merge from ramps to the expressway. No right angles allowed! Beginning lines start behind the area from where it will eventually emerge, and continue to blend with the line a few millimeters after it is joined. This guarantees a curvilinear blend.

Last, a variety of small, intricate movements are not only a challenge but also affect the surprise element of compact design in a sea of long, overflowing lines with varied open spaces.

Of course, several practices for seeing how lines can move, blend and flow, are a must. Here are 3 small sketches from a page of 12 that helped a student get started.