

# How to Draw Custom Maze Art Like A Pro

(and impress all of your friends)

Gather the materials you'll need to make your beautiful creation.

Plain white paper.

A pencil with an eraser.

Imagination.

Patience.

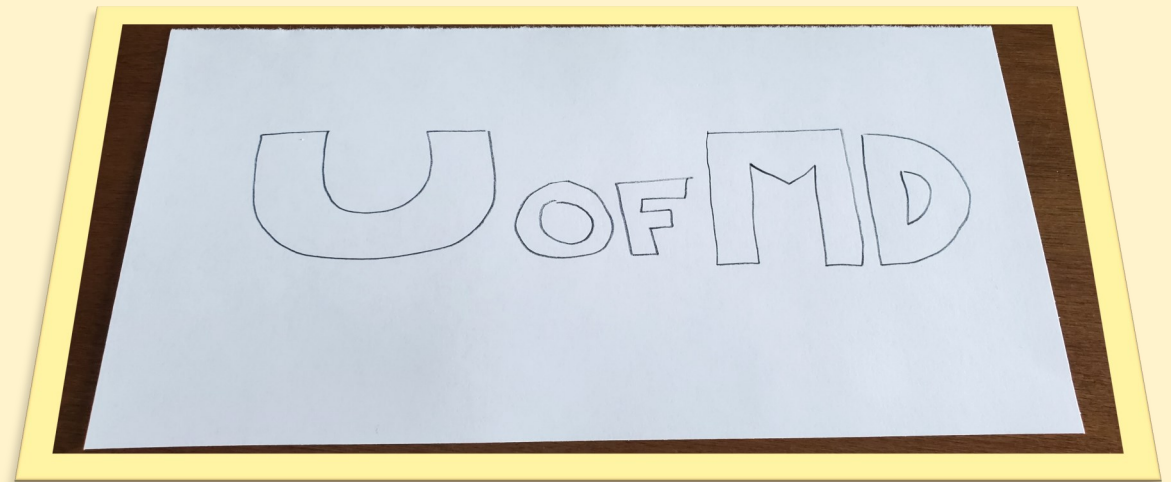
**You Might Be Thinking...**

*What size paper should I be using? What kind of paper?*

It depends on what you want to do with your finished product! The larger the paper, the longer it will take to complete your maze. A standard 8.5 x 11" is a good choice, though if you want to speed up the process, you can opt for something smaller. A printer sheet cut in half works well! You can use any type of paper you wish as long as you can see pencil lines on it.

## Pick your theme by “engraving” a few letters into your maze.

Using block letters, draw a few characters on the page. For example, you could pick a simple word like “Hello” or “Peace”, or your initials. You could also opt to draw a symbol or a square with a sketch of something in it as the engraved image. (This tutorial will be based on a text engraving.) The remainder of the white space on the page will be used to draw your labyrinth. Be creative in your choice!



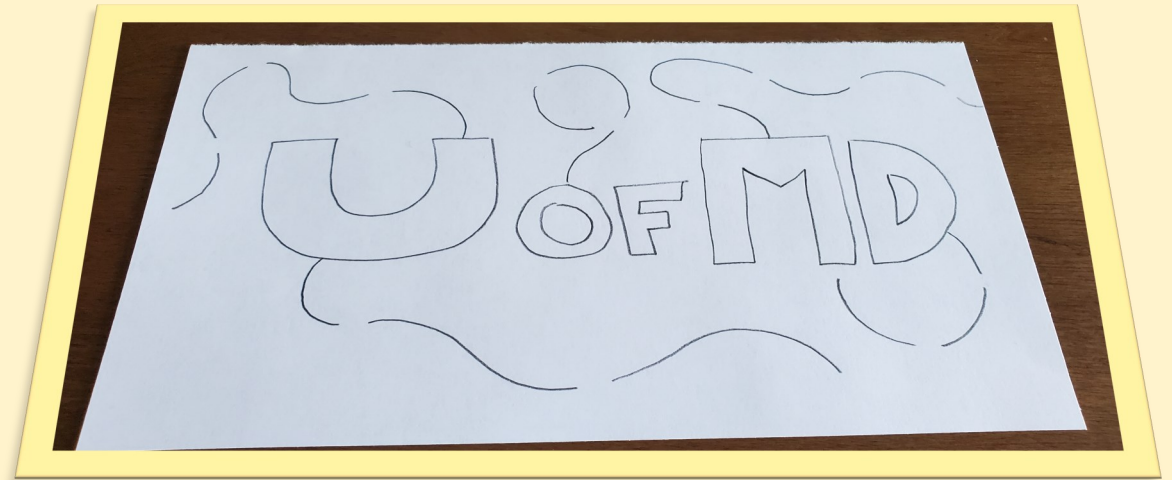
### You Might Be Thinking...

*I don't know what I'm going to be doing with these letters, so I don't know what to pick. Does the size of the lettering/image matter?*

We're going to draw the maze around your engraving, hiding that text in the maze. The more space the engraving takes up on the page, the less space you'll have for the actual maze. You want to have enough space to construct your maze without having to make the passageways really small, because that will mean the drawing process will take more time to complete.

## Start your maze by drawing tendrils.

To draw a tendril, pick a starting point on one of your block letters (on the pencil line, not inside the letter). Draw a curved line extending away from the letter toward the outside of the page, occasionally leaving some small breaks in the line. Now draw several more of these tendrils, choosing different starting points each time.



### You Might Be Thinking...

*How many of them should I draw?*

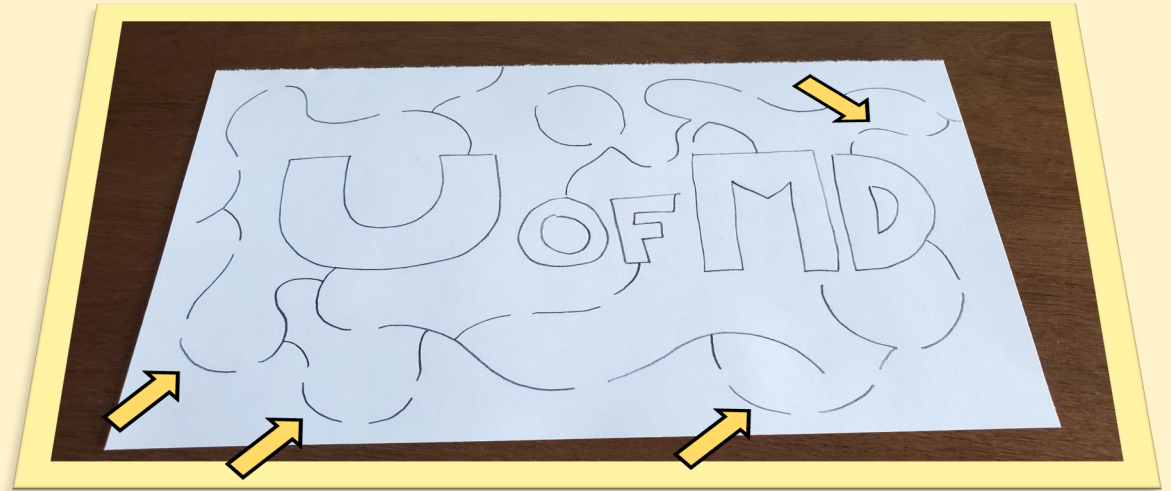
You can draw as many as you want! I usually do around 6-8 of these. If you find the tendrils are still leaving large areas of the page blank, you can curve them in on themselves or in a back-and-forth fashion to make them longer and fuller.

*Where should the lines stop?*

They can run into the edge of the paper, run back into one of your engraved letters, or just stop in the middle of the page (like a few of mine did here).

## Now, draw another round of tendrils.

This time, instead of connecting the engraved text to other parts of the page, connect tendrils to each other.



### You Might Be Thinking...

*Can my tendrils overlap?*

They can. However, you should be careful that you don't create any closed loops/shapes. They won't ruin the maze, but we want all parts of the labyrinth to be reachable/connected (except for your engraved letters).

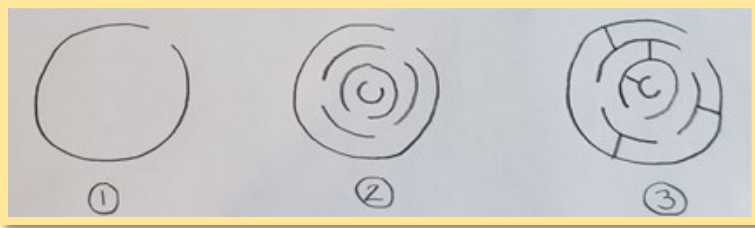
*How many tendrils do I make this time?*

Just like before, as many as you like! But these are just the backbone of the labyrinth, so not too many, or you'll run out of space for the good stuff!

# Learning the Blocks

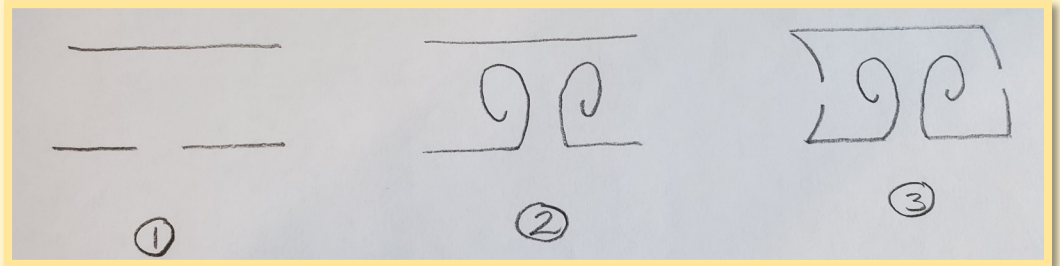
At this point, you've still got a lot of empty white space left. To fill in that space, we're going to fill it with blocks. "Blocks" are simple patterns that can be used repeatedly throughout the body of the maze. The idea here is that we're going to fill 80-90% of the remaining space with these blocks, and then use the remaining 10-20% of space to connect them together. Here are a few you can use with steps on how to draw each one.

## The Circular Spiral



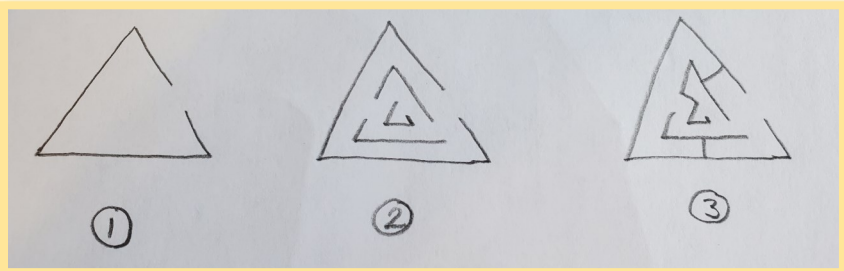
Start with a circle with one opening. Draw smaller concentric circles within it with 1-3 openings each. Then draw small lines to close off some of the pathways.

## The Geyser



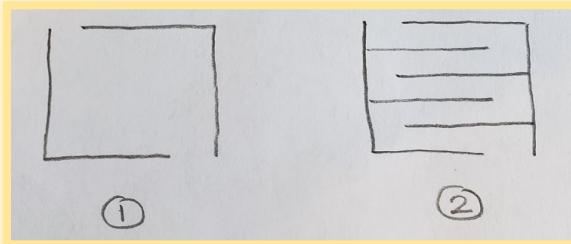
Find any line with a break. Draw two curves extending from the two sides of the break as shown to produce a geyser shape. Create a boundary around the geyser to produce a block with several ways through.

## The Triangular Spiral



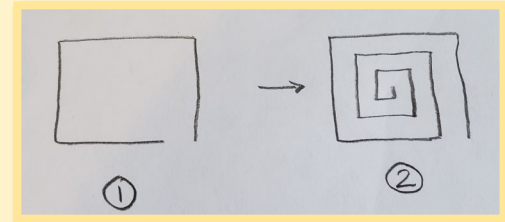
Start with a triangle with one opening. Draw smaller triangles within it with 1-3 openings each. Then draw small lines to close off some of the pathways.

## The Zigzag



Start with a square with openings on opposite corners. Draw parallel lines from alternating sides of the square to create a zigzag pattern. It works with other shapes besides squares too.

## The Square Spiral

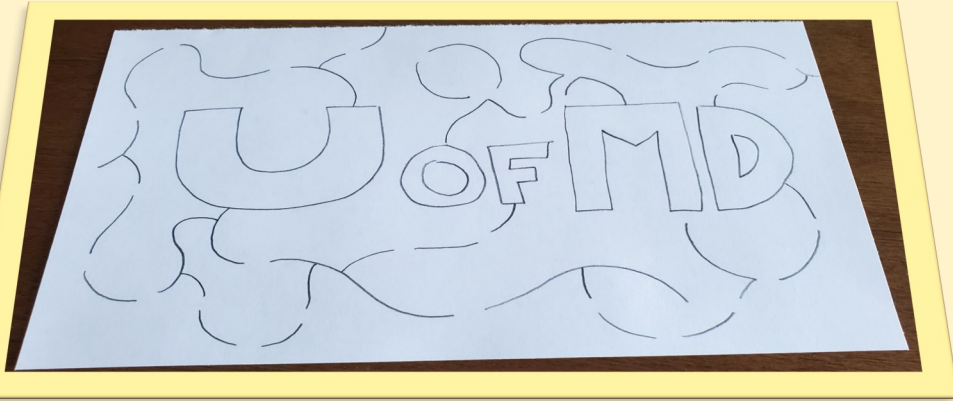


Start with a square with one opening in the corner as shown. Starting at the line endpoint that isn't the corner of the square, draw a spiral inward as shown.

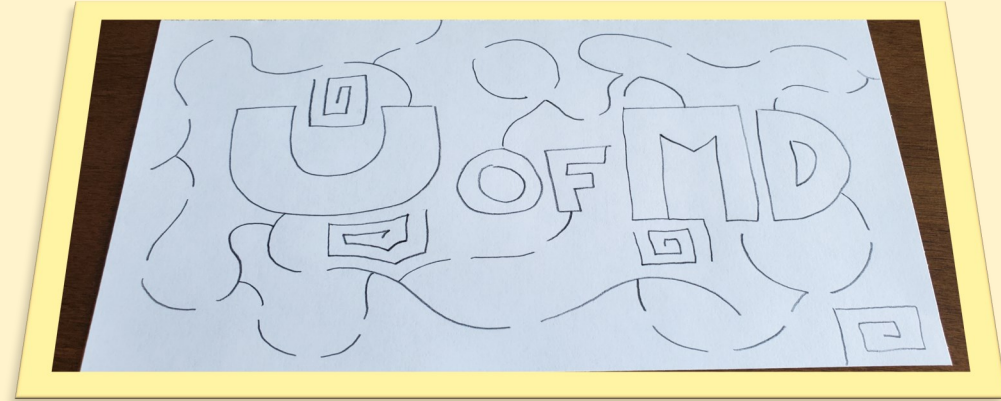


## Start filling in the space with blocks.

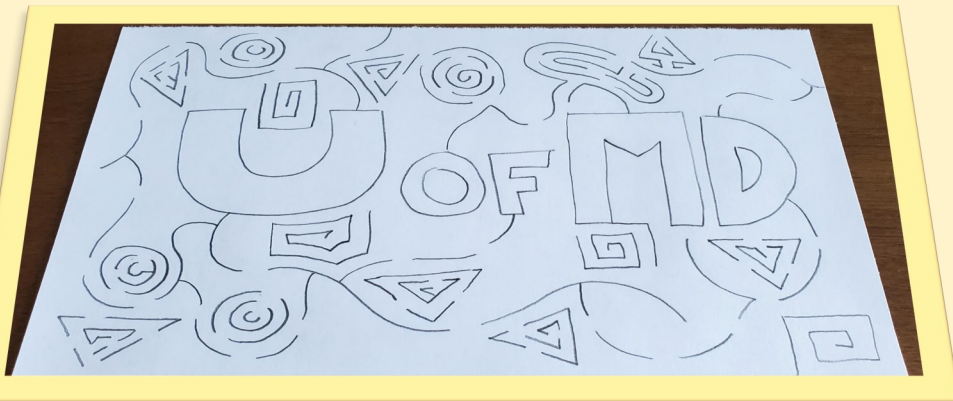
I chose to add some Square Spiral blocks first (2), followed by some Circular and Triangular Spirals (3), and then some Zigzags and Geysers (4).



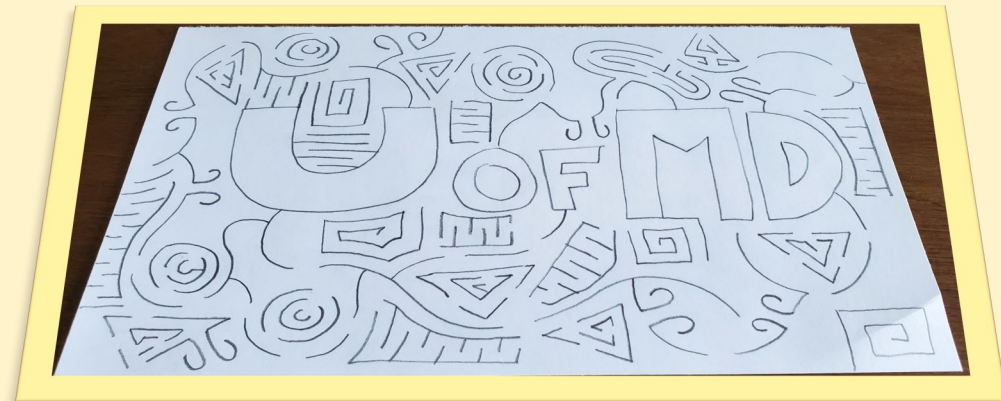
1



2

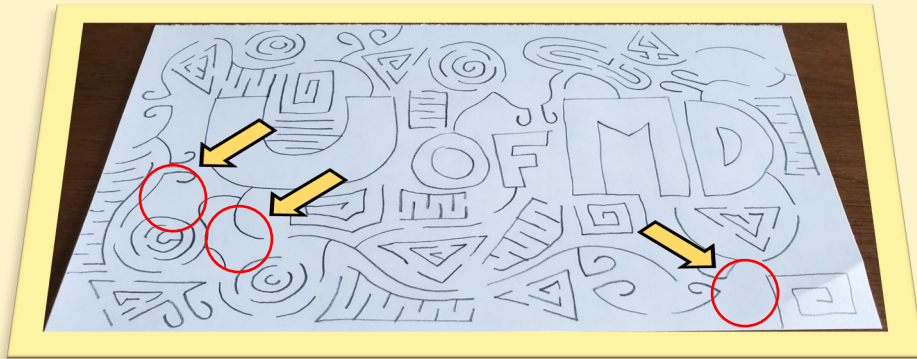


3

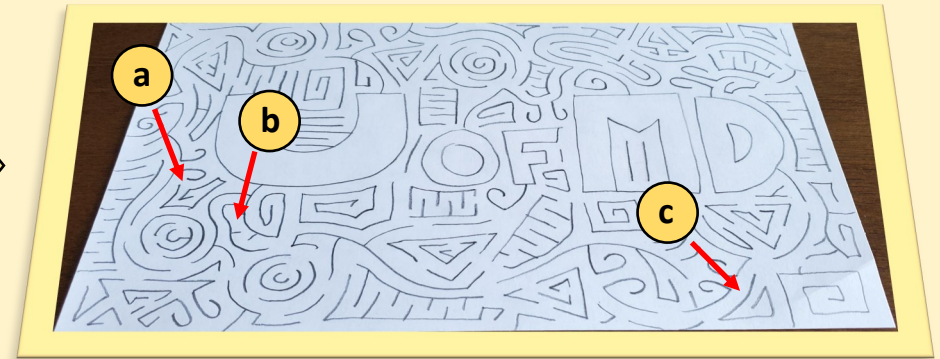
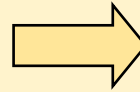


4

When you start to run out of room, improvise in the leftover space.



1



2

#### You Might Be Thinking...

*Oh God, not the "I" word! Improve? How do I do that? I'm a noob!*

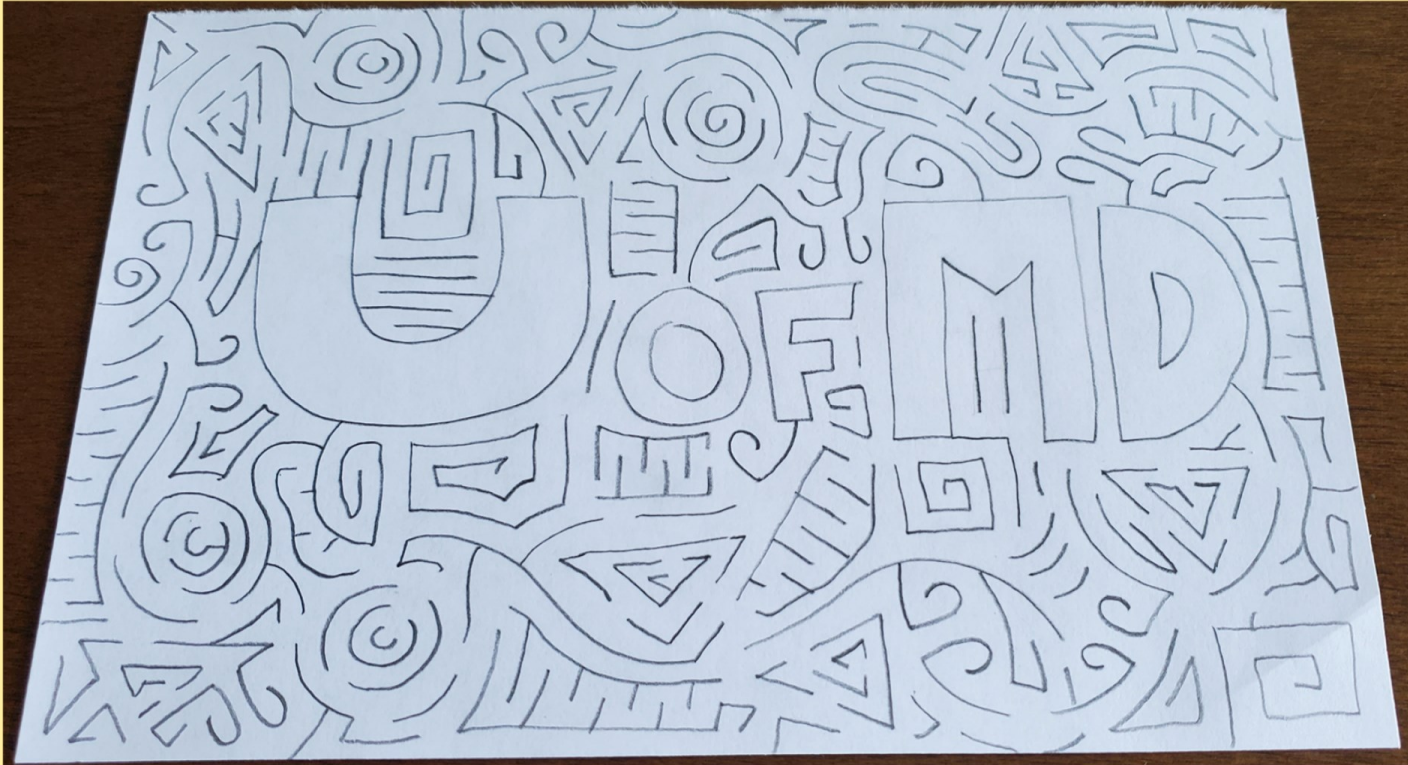
No need to panic! It's just a drawing, no need to be a master. Most of the patterns I used to fill in the remaining space are simply smaller versions of one of the blocks I was using before. Take a closer look at (a), (b), and (c) above. (a) is a square spiral; (b) is a zigzag; and (c) is a triangular spiral.

*How many of each block should I use as I'm doing this?*

There are no rules. I tend to use a mixture of different blocks. Some maze artists only use zigzags and square spirals so all of the lines are perpendicular. Some artists use all curves. It's up to you!



And that's it, you're done!



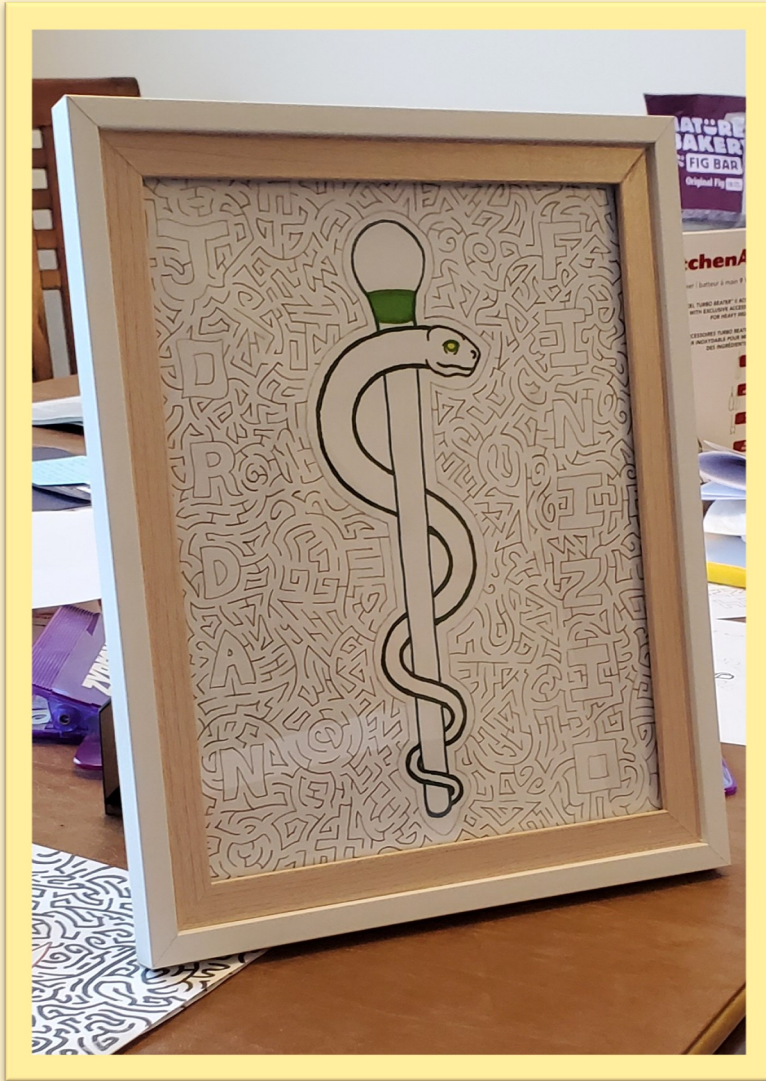
**You Might Be Thinking...**

"THANK GOD I'M DONE, MY HANDS HURT, OW OW OW." (or similar)

That's perfectly plausible. I recommend enjoying a piece of chocolate and giving your writing hand a break now.

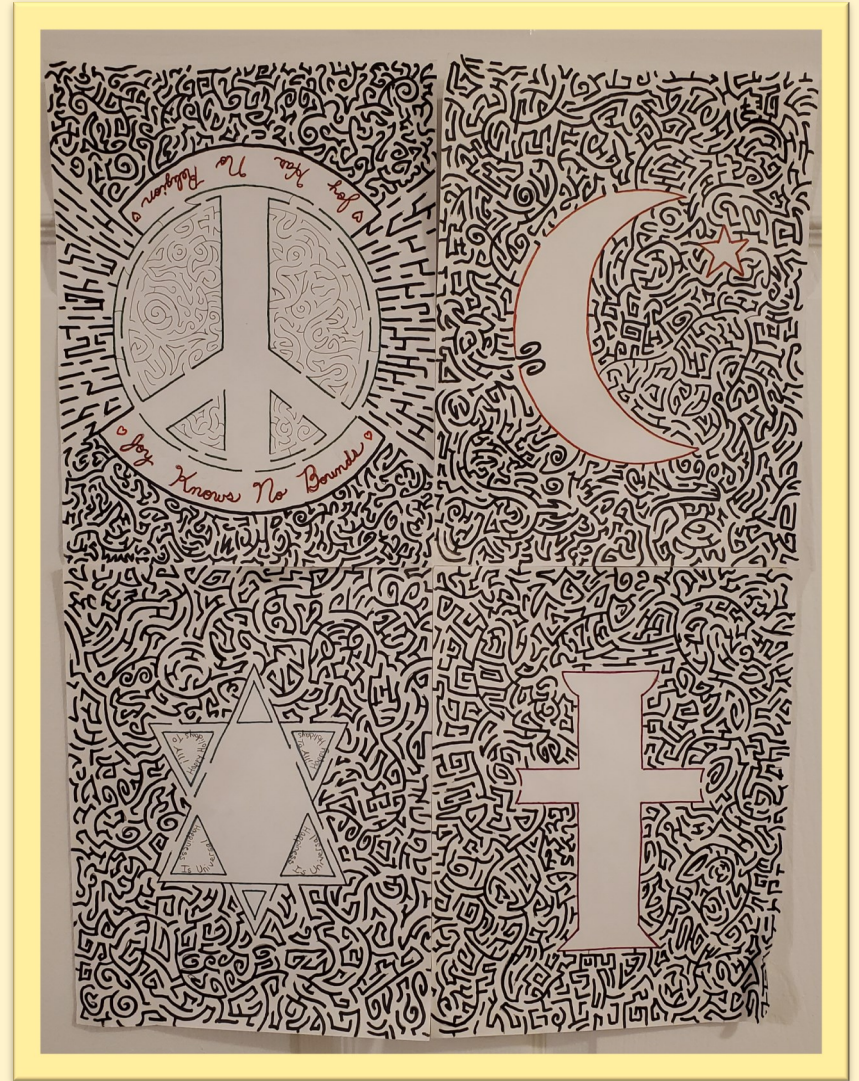


## A few examples of what you can create...



Personalized Rod of Asclepius.

Draw time: 4-6 hours



Winter Holiday Door Decorating Contest entry.

Draw time: 12-15 hours