

Cold Business

"Bold Business" by Patrik Kuffs (from his DVD "Mind Stunts") seems like a killer effect. An anytime, anyplace, anywhere drawing duplication. All you need is a few business cards, a pen and a victim! However, the first few times I tried it, people spotted the peek right away. Maybe this was my poor technique, but in any event I went back and tried to come up with a handling which suited me better and allowed me to cover my tracks more. This is it.

1. Having found a suitable victim, produce a stack of business cards (I find around 10 is ideal) and turn the top one over. Draw a square frame on the blank back, write your victim's name boldly underneath and hand them card and pen.
2. Now, while you turn your back, have them draw any picture they wish in the frame. Encourage them not to draw smiley faces, houses or stick men. Hold the stack of business cards, blanks down, in your left hand behind your back and contrive to have the pile slightly messy.
3. When their drawing is completed, have them place the card drawing-side down on the stack and then turn back to face them. Bring your right hand over to square the stack and get a break under the top two cards. The messy pile will make this easy.
4. Explain that the cards are quite opaque, but just to be on the safe side, you'll move their card to the middle where it definitely can't be seen. Double-cut the **top two** cards to the bottom.
5. Take a fresh card for yourself from the top of the stack, flip the pile over in your left hand, and rest the new card on it, again getting a break under two cards.
6. Draw a frame for yourself and write your name underneath it, then **double-lift** to show this to your victim. This exposes their drawing allowing you to quickly peek at it.
7. Return the double to the stack and then idly lift off the single as you mull their drawing over. This exposes a blank card and appears to make the peek you just pulled off impossible!
8. Duplicate their drawing. I like to let the victim and any other spectators watch me do this (Kuffs keeps his hidden), and I talk to the victim like I'm really seeing the drawing in their head. Sometimes I'll misinterpret things, or get unrelated bits of the drawing as geometric shapes. I think this adds to the effect, and it gets heat off the stack of cards.
9. When the drawing is done, I put it openly on the table. To finish, their original drawing needs to be relocated, but you can do this as an afterthought. Idly move two or three cards as one from the top of the stack to the bottom. Do this again, then keep taking singles until you find their card. You are done.

Note: Clearly this effect could not have been born without "Bold Business" coming first. Kudos to Kuffs!

Tom Salinsky