Stockbroker Ken Toups may be the first artist to legitimize "doodling." The former philosophy student, now vice president of a national stock brokerage firm, gets "doodling" in abstract art.

Using ball point pens, Toups draws spontaneous abstract designs that he refuses to call his own. "I can't take credit for what I do," Toups said. "It just happens."

As an artist, Toups does not intentionally take risks — as a stockbroker, he wouldn't dream of it. But as the man caught in the middle, he gambles his earnings on prints that defy artistic categories.

Toups, the stockbroker seems to walk the wire gracefully enough. He flips through computer menus and tracks financial vagaries, engaging his clients in an easy exchange — while Toups the artist lingers in the background.

The stacks of Mardi Gras posters and limited edition prints seem vaguely familiar with the meandering businessman peering into computer screens.

Stockbroker Ken Toups with his 1992 Mardi Gras poster (above). At left is another recent Toups original, "Endless Dragon."

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The reason this business appears to be so much fun is that it's a bit of a slash, a bit of a risk, Toups said. "I'm not that interested in art," he said. "I don't really have any time for galleries or shows, I just like doing what I do."