

SKETCHING IN YOUR CAR

Sketching inside your car? Why would you?

There could be several reasons for doing this.

- It is too cold or it is raining. Make sure that when you drive up to your drawing spot, you turn the heating on nice and high, you will enjoy it later. Pat Southern-Pearce once made a sketch from inside the car with the windshield wipers moving at maximum speed.
- Or you take a long journey, sit next to the driver as a passenger and you are bored to death. You take your pen and sketchbook and you sketch what you see: the landscape flying by. Virginia Hein does this often and has even written a book about it: 5-Minute Sketching: Landscapes.

- Or you can sketch the cars driving past you.
- You are waiting for your partner to run errands.

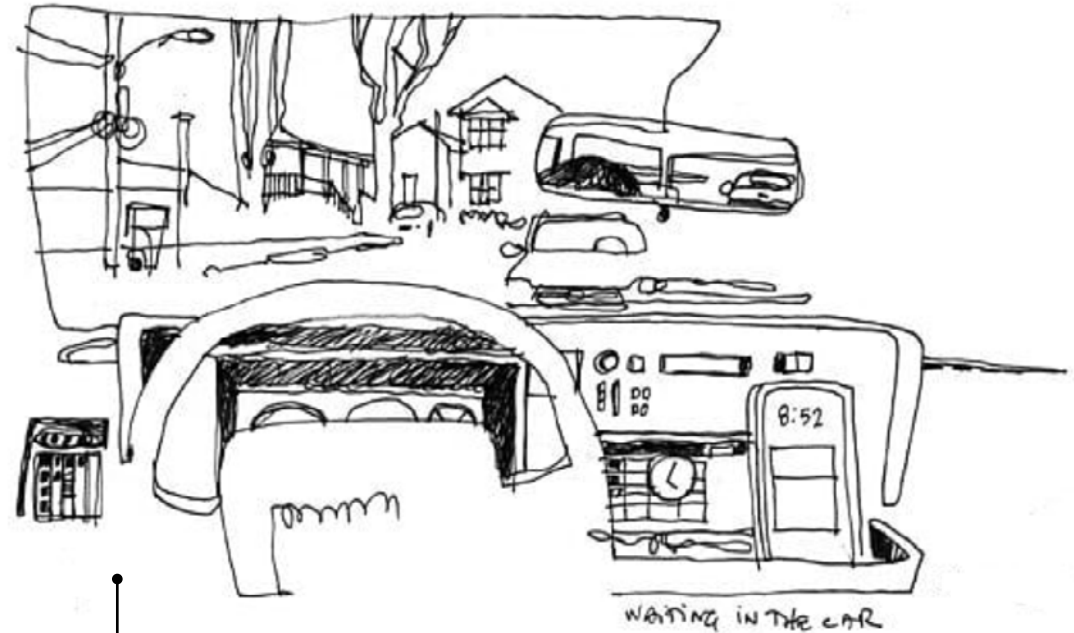
Of course you grab your sketchbook and hope they will take a long time.

- Another reason for sketching in your car is that you want to sketch safely. Stay in your own space.

Be inspired by the drawings of other sketchers.

If you click on [a link underlined in red](#), you will see much more (except here).

That's another way of doing it.



Carol Hsiung is an architect / illustrator based in New Jersey, where she lives with her 'husband, son, dog, and lots of pens'. Before the Pandemic' she used to travel by public transportation to and from her work in New York. Because she was often bored, she started drawing her fellow travelers. She says: 'Trains are full of stories, and sketching is a way to interpret the stories of the people around me.'

It seems as if Carol never lifts her pen from the paper. She uses minimum detail and leaves a lot of white in her sketch so that we can fill in what we see ourselves. She agrees with Paul Klee, who wrote: "A drawing is simply a line going for a walk". You can see this in her sketches.

She hopes that her line sketches will inspire others to pick up pen and paper and sketch. If she has to wait in the car, she naturally immediately picks up her pen.

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[Book](#): The Commute: A Collection of Sketches

*'Looking at my sketches, I realize that most of my sketches occur while I am waiting.
My sketchbook has saved me from the agony of waiting'*

Carol Hsiung



João Albergaria is an architect/urban planner who originally comes from Ribeira Grande, Azores (Portugal); he has been living in Copenhagen (Denmark) since 2012. João likes to situate himself in Sydhavn, sketching boats, especially after a busy working day; his head comes to rest this way. To him, the boats are a reminder of a place that is disappearing. You often see a great contrast in João's drawings; shadow plays an important role. He says, 'I also like to draw old buildings with lots of details. It makes me focused – it's like putting together a complicated puzzle.' During the lockdown, João missed drawing in his city greatly and he decided to sketch from inside his car. He intended to sketch the view, but he liked it so much that he mainly captured the interior of the car. Don't forget to read the article *The Guardian* wrote about João and let yourself be surprised.

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A. Rmyth lives in Espéraza (France) at the foot of the Pyrenees. The eye is a spherical organ; for Rmyth it is therefore natural to draw everything with curved (spherical) lines. You can see that in many of his drawings, which he always makes on the spot: you hardly see any straight lines. He doesn't have a camera or smartphone; he draws what HE sees, especially how he experiences it. He is sometimes called 'that crazy Frenchman'.

Most of his drawings are full of energy. In this case, Rmyth was traveling as a passenger in Morocco and he sketched what he saw around him. All those stripes and lines that he made with brightly colored felt-tip pens to reinforce the Mediterranean feeling.

It is an explosion of colours.

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Michael Gage is an artist / illustrator and graphic designer who lives in 'a village halfway between London and the South Coast of England'.

Gage graduated in fine arts and art history and says that he did not touch a drawing pen for the first ten years after completing his studies, but now Michel draws and paints with passion. As he explains it: 'I sketch directly from the subject, sometimes working in long sessions to record the exact details of a scene; sometimes working as quickly and prolifically as possible to express an ephemeral moment of the constantly changing weather.'

Michael went out with his car to make an urban sketch somewhere, but it was raining cats and dogs; it was therefore pointless for him to get out of the car. Michel found an empty space on the corner of a parking lot and sketched the view from the car. Michel remarked: 'At least I can be fairly sure that this is the first time that anyone has drawn this view, ever.'

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'Although the winter is endless in Montreal, it has become my favourite season for sketching and I eagerly await those first flakes'

Shari Blaukopf

Shari Blaukopf is a graphic design teacher, illustrator and co-founder of Urban Sketchers Montreal (Canada). Shari makes stunning watercolors and shares her knowledge with love.

Because she lives in Montreal, she knows better than anyone how cold it can be, especially when she wants to go outside to sketch. She says, 'No matter how busy I am, I draw, sketch or paint every day. Twenty degrees below zero in Montreal? There's a good chance you'll find me in my car studio, peering through a thawed patch on my windshield. Sketchbook propped on my steering wheel. Palette balanced on my armrest.'

Shari made this sketch in June of this year. After the long winter and the lockdown, she found this tree near her house and drew it from her car. Normally she only draws this tree in winter; this time she noticed how beautiful the tree can be in the spring.

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[Book](#): The Urban Sketching Handbook: Working with Color

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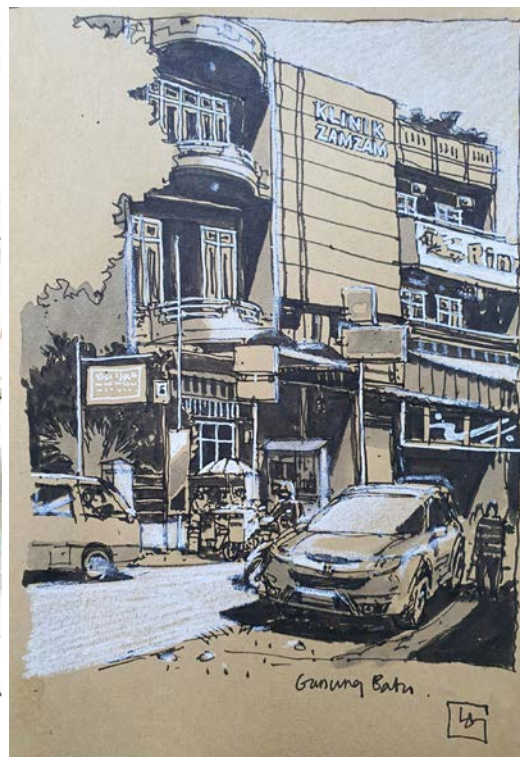




Iqbal Amirdha is an architect who lives in Bogor (Indonesia). Iqbal likes to go into his city and then he quickly tries to capture the people in their own environment.

Drawing in the car while waiting for someone or something: Iqbal does not mind that, he always has a pen and sketchbook in his car. In the sketch on the left, he is sitting in the car and waiting for his wife to run an errand. In the sketch on the right, Iqbal draws the pineapple seller in Bogor under his sun screen. He had just ordered take-out from a restaurant and agreed to wait in his car for the food to be ready. The sketch was made on the spot; at home he added the shadows. From now on, never leave your house without putting a pen and paper in your car!

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Robert (Bob) E. Callahan is a graphic designer. Now that he is semi-retired he has plenty of time for his passion: watercolor. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut. Bob advises everyone to make a sketch or watercolor every day. He says: 'It not only sharpens the hand-eye coordination but you will start to see the details in everything seen'.

Why does he use watercolour? He explains: 'I love transparency, the glow and the speed of watercolors. It's the unpredictability, the accidents that can occur when paint meets paper. It's the challenge to bring the paint under my control, to make it express my vision.'

Bob made this drawing in Vermont from his car because it was way too cold to sketch outside. The primary color is Indanthrene blue with some cobalt and Payne's grey. The snow moon was created with a Q-tip once the sky was almost dry.

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Virginia Hein previously worked as a concept and character designer for toys and entertainment; she currently teaches drawing and design in Los Angeles. Virginia. She said: 'I can't remember a time in my life when I wasn't drawing. I've been learning to draw since I could pick up a crayon.' Virginia always has a pen and sketchbook at hand in the car and draws quickly and efficiently. She focuses on 'the verticals of the trees and horizontals of freeways, and the many brush-covered hills. I think my work is becoming progressively more gestural — more about the feeling I have about a place than factual representation.' Virginia has made an impressive book: *5-Minute Sketching: Landscape*.

She shows that even if you only have a few minutes, you can make beautiful drawings along the way. Hein stresses the importance of not being too hard on yourself. 'The biggest enemy is self-criticism,' she says. 'It can be paralyzing. One of the great things about a sketching is that you can draw something every day, and if you think it's bad, just move on. And even a bad sketch can have some good detail or give you a sense of time and place. There's always something to be learned, even from epic fails.'

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'Where there is movement, where there is life, that's where I go'

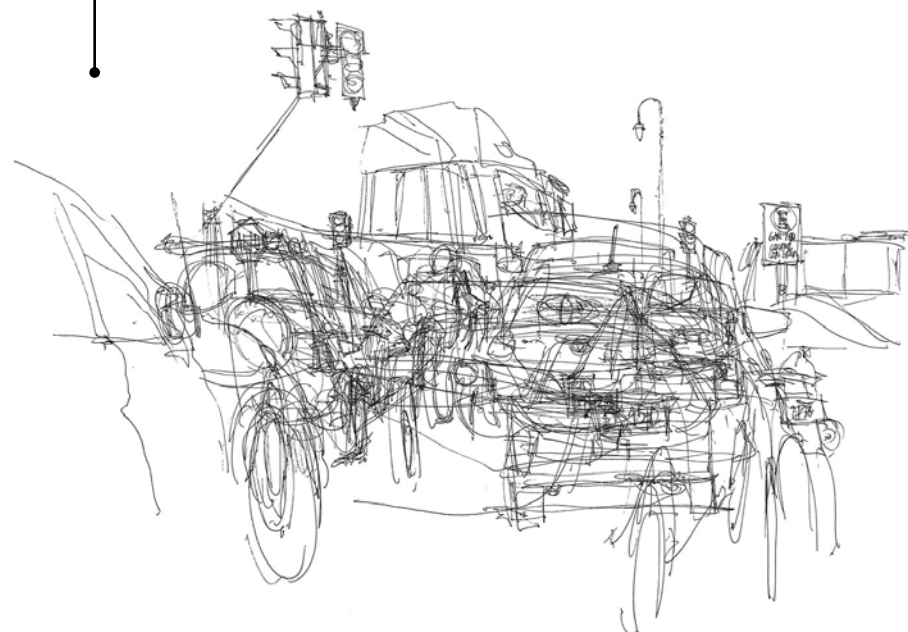
José Pablo Ureña

José Pablo Ureña is an artist from Costa Rica. 'Since I met Daniel Campos in 2016, who introduced me to Urban Sketchers Costa Rica, I have been an enthusiastic urban sketcher. Before that, I always painted in large format, with oil paint or watercolor. I went into town for that, made pictures, went with it to the studio and worked it out. I often got bored quickly, because it usually involved a wide view of the city. I came to the conclusion that I was on the wrong road, I did not paint the city, but pictures. I was a perfectionist, my previous work is nothing like the sketches I make now.'

He continues: 'Drawing in the group of urban sketchers is special. We all sketch the same and you end up seeing ten different drawings.'

Pablo made this sketch in the center of San José, from his car. Don't think too much, keep sketching. He has captured the hustle and bustle of traffic beautifully on his paper.

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Jens Hübner is an illustration teacher who lives in Berlin (Germany). Jens has made a world trip by bicycle; he cycled 25,000 km during that trip. He consciously opted for the simplest means of transport, because then he could easily make contact with the people he met and at the same time became part of the landscape.

During his travels Jens drew what he saw and experienced. Less is more for Jens; he tries to capture the essence of a building, landscape or street in striking blows. Jens now transfers this method of drawing to his students with love during the many workshops he gives.

As well as on the bike, Jens nowadays sometimes sits in someone else's car as a passenger. Or on the bus (below), in this case in the desert of Sudan (Sahara), where he sketched what he was seeing during the ride.

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Book: Aquarellieren mit stiften.

[YouTube](#)

'One day one sketch'

Jens Hübner

Have you missed the previous episodes of **That's another way of doing it?** Here you can see and download the last four episodes (#1 and #2 are in Dutch only):

3. There's a tree in front of me

4. Coloured pencils: what can we do with it?

5. What do you mean, perspective?

6. White is also a colour

The Dutch blogs have appeared on the website of Urban Sketchers Netherlands.

You can find all episodes and downloads at the website of UrbanSketchers.nl under the heading 'ZO KAN HET OOK!'



Read:

Shari Blaukopf is an expert when it comes to drawing in the car.

Here are her tips, please read them before you hit the road

When Marc Taro Holmes accompanied Shari