

9. No time for sketching? Really?

NO TIME FOR SKETCHING? REALLY?

It is cold, it is raining or snowing, it is dark early, in short: there is little time to sketch outside.

Really? You can also approach sketching differently.

You can keep your sketch simple, that doesn't have to affect its quality. Don't draw everything, focus on what you really want to see in your sketch and leave out the rest.

Don't think too much, your drawing doesn't have to be 'finished'. Leave your pencil at home and draw in pen right away. Do not color everything.

Or you can make a small sketch. Nice and handy, because then you have no room for details. You don't have to bring much stuff with you: a small drawing book and pen is often enough. And possibly a few paint colors and a waterbrush.

It is good to always have a small sketchbook and pen with you. You can always sketch.

In this edition you will see drawings by ten urban sketchers who worked quickly. If you click on [a link underlined](#)

in red, you will see much more (except here).

That's another way of doing it.

ANNE
ROSE



Örs Levay, a businessman (geophysicist by education) and 'father of five daughters' from Budapest (Hungary) carried a small sketchbook during his stay in Venice (Italy). He made this sketch very quickly: first the gulls on the poles, then in the background the Venice skyline, cut out of the sky. Although Örs didn't even draw the buildings, we understand where he was. Fast and effective, that's Örs. He is exceptionally resourceful and versatile as a sketcher.

He sketches on a daily basis, experiments with different (colored) papers and pens and often adds text to his drawings. Sometimes he colors a part of his sketch and leaves the rest black and white; when he draws in a café, he may use his coffee instead of paint, and even with just a paper napkin and a gel pen he manages to make a beautiful sketch. I can really recommend that you check out more of his drawings on his social media.

Facebook

Instagram

YouTube

'I like to work quickly because it keeps me from getting bogged down in detail or overthinking things'

Peter Andrews



Peter Andrews, an architect based in Terrigal, New South Wales (Australia), prefers to sketch in black and white. He likes the immediacy and simplicity of this restriction. He almost always carries a small sketchbook and pen in his pocket, so he can make a quick sketch at any time. He usually spends five minutes on his drawing, sometimes less. He likes to experiment with different materials, like here in the sketch at Cape Paterson, with a fountain pen and water-soluble ink. As soon as he applied some water with his brush, some of the sketched lines ran. No problem for Peter, he likes to use this method. As soon as the ink runs, the color changes: sometimes to sepia, blue or purple.

He used to apply color with his finger and whatever medium he had available, such as water, cola, coffee or wine. Today he brings a water brush with him.

Peter immediately sketches on paper, without pencil lines, usually standing up. He hardly thinks; he immediately starts drawing. He keeps sketching, rarely lifts his pen from the paper. He deliberately sketches on a small format; when he enlarges the drawing, the lines become grainy, he likes that. It becomes more like graffiti.

[Flickr](#)

[Video \(& website\)](#)

'Drawing allows me to take a moment to escape from the everyday hustle and bustle and surrender to what my eyes see'

Francisco Leocádio

Francisco Leocádio from Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) is not only an architect and set designer, but also one of the organisers of the urban sketchers in his city. In 2020 the fifth national meeting of the *Urban Sketchers Brasil* would have taken place in his city, partly because Rio was the international city of architecture in that year. Almost all plans have been canceled; instead, the group has hosted many virtual events. But the detailed plans are still there and the event might take place in June 2021 ([please check](#)).

Francisco is proud of his city with its historic center, there is so much to draw!

Because nowadays we can take a picture so quickly with a mobile phone or camera, the group thinks it is important to take the time to sketch. Francisco says: 'I find it moving to see about three hundred people drawing together in a square, while it is still very quiet.'

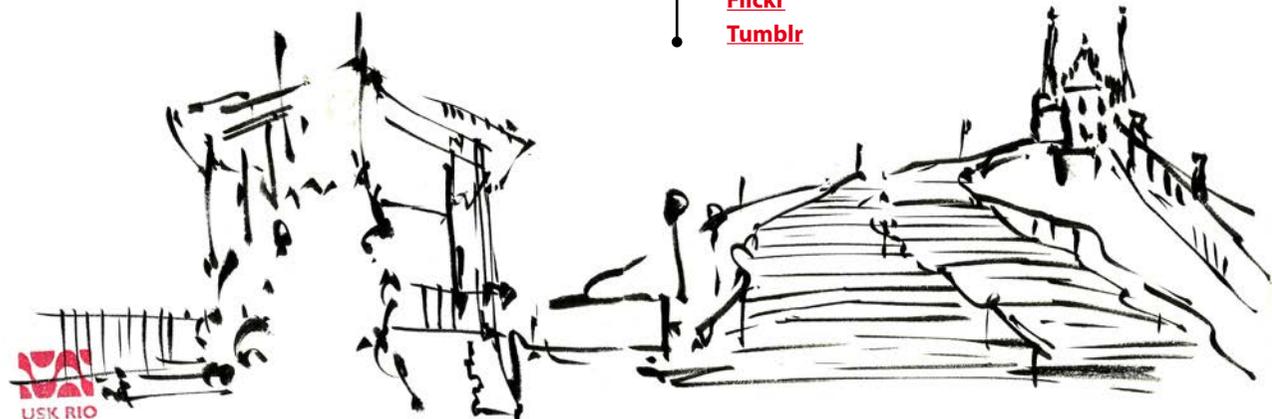
In this case, Francisco was sitting next to the *Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Penha*, which he quickly put onto his paper with just a few ink lines, with a Pentel Color Brush. 'I prefer to use this kind tool for ink sketches outdoors because of its practicality and it gives beautiful lines. As the same way, normally, I use sketchbooks not bigger than A4, so I can always have one on my bag. Everything to make a graphic documentation of a scene.'

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This drawing by **Leen Van Bogaert**, translator and one of the coordinators of *Urban Sketchers Luxembourg*, shows that you really don't have to draw all the details to give an impression of your surroundings. She's here near the river Moselle; with just a few quickly made spots, she drew the village across the river. The color spots are made with her credit card. We see enough.

Leen also loves to work with oil paint. When she's out with a group of sketchers, she usually carries a wooden cigar box with a few dabs of oil paint in it. She pastes her paper on the lid and paints on it, sometimes four on a sheet. She often suggests what she sees without too many details. She can later transport her work in the box, even if it is not completely dry.

For Leen, painting in the open air is a return to the source: 'By sketching outside we can distance ourselves from all the digital images that come to us via the internet. A drawing feeds my memory. That place will never be the same again when I sketch there.'

[Instagram](#)

[Flickr](#)

'Participation in local drawing meetings stimulates me enormously' **G rard Darris**

A few years ago, **G rard Darris** made a multi-day hike around Mont-Blanc, spending the night in mountain huts. After the second night it turned out that four inches of snow had fallen. To make sure he was on the right path, G rard followed a group of hikers with their guide, and suddenly saw these mountain huts, covered with snow. G rard only had a small backpack with him, but he had also brought a sketchbook. He stopped and made this sketch in five minutes. He added the icy air in the next cabin.

Except when traveling, G rard prefers to sketch in his own city. He lived and worked for thirty years as an urban planner in Rennes (France), but since he retired a few years ago he has moved to Lanester, near Lorient in Brittany. Going out and drawing was the ideal way for him to get to know his new environment. 'When I draw, a passer-by often approaches me. Someone like that can tell me a lot about the buildings I see around me. I don't try to sketch postcards of the most beautiful places in and around the city. I prefer to look for ordinary subjects, which automatically become interesting because they are my drawn representation. I find it stimulating to sketch with the local group of urban sketchers, which makes me feel part of a group of people with the same passion. It often surprises me how other artists see the place where we draw, that influences me.'

You can see that G rard doesn't just make quick sketches on his Flickr page and in the book with his drawings: *Lorient, croquis sur le vif*.

[Flickr](#)

[Book](#): Lorient, croquis sur le vif

[Video](#)





Sebastian Koch from Mainz (Germany) is an illustrator and animation artist. In this drawing of a few houses in Ossweil (Ludwigsburg) you can see how it is possible to capture the atmosphere of a street with a few surfaces and lines. We don't need more.

Sebastian is fascinated by urban sketchers. He collected work from other sketchers and made two books with them: *Urban Sketch Book I* and *II*, containing sketches by 41 sketchers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

What fascinates him most is that urban sketchers meet to draw together. In the middle of a busy city center you can see groups of people who are concentrating on sketching. 'The only visible movement – apart from the drawing hand – is that of the head: from the paper to the view and back again.'

With his collection of sketches, Sebastian Koch wants to encourage people to see their own city with new eyes.

Instagram

Tumblr

Book: Urban Sketchbook Band I & II: Skizzenbuchseiten von Urban Sketchern im Deutschsprachigen Raum (in German)

'I think one needs curiosity to make a good drawing'

Sebastian Koch

'The memories, the exchange with sketchers, everything remains indelibly etched in my memory'

Joëlle Sketcher

Joëlle Sketcher is the main organizer of the national sketching days in La Rochelle (France), which would have taken place in 2020.

The event has been canceled; fortunately, it may continue in May 2021 ([please check](#)).

Joëlle is from Paris, where she became acquainted with the *Urban Sketchers Paris*. As a result, her camera disappeared into the closet and from then on she has recorded her surroundings and travels in her sketchbook.

When her partner moved to Rochelle on the west coast for work, Joëlle followed him. No more friends, other neighbors, no *Urban Sketchers Paris*. So she founded *Urban Sketchers La Rochelle* herself. By drawing together she got to know her city and the inhabitants. She won't let go of her pen.

This drawing of a house on Rue de l'Evescot intrigues me. There are only a few lines on the paper, a little color. But there is so much to see, even the sun shining on the house.

Instagram

Flickr



Another way to make a sketch in little time is to opt for a small format. **Alfonso Paronda** sometimes does. He was born in Manila (Philippines) and now works as a Senior Executive Architectural Associate in Singapore. Fortunately he found *Urban Sketchers Singapore* there, which he loves to work with.

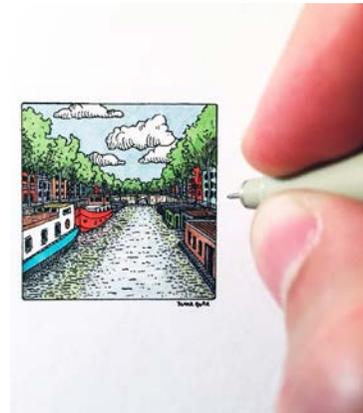
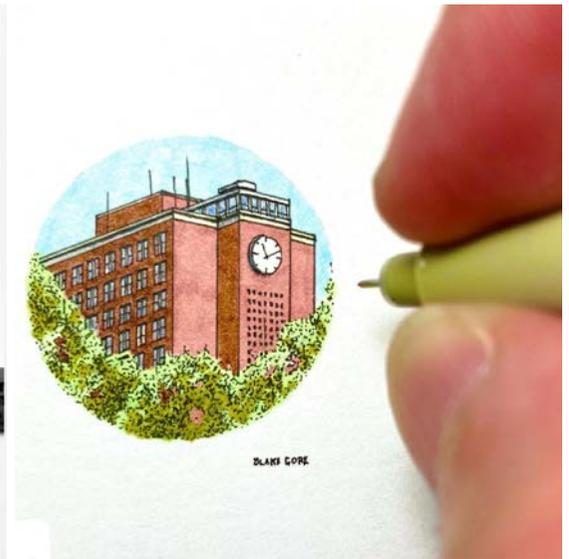
By sketching together and following workshops within the group, Alfonso learned to use other techniques and improved his style.

'The smallest sketch I have ever done would be 2" x 1.5": an image of the Red House in Katong, Singapore.' It's a joke this time, but this way of drawing is a great exercise: you don't have room for details.

You can make it in a few minutes, and yet you have a wonderful memory for when you get home. Alfonso also makes larger sketches, of course.

They all have one thing in common: they are made with passion. It's really worth checking them out.

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)



Blake Gore, a career coach from Redford, Virginia (United States) calls himself a creator of tiny stuff. Gore consciously creates small art. He once took part in a thirty-day challenge to make drawings measuring 25 x 25 mm. That gave him confidence, he decided to continue.

His goal is to work as sustainably as possible, to use less paper and drawing materials. That is why he draws with non-toxic ink on environmentally friendly paper. His miniature art demonstrates how constraints can enhance creativity while encouraging a more sustainable experience for the earth.

His tiny art is in great demand. You can buy the originals or prints, 'magnifying glass not included'. In this case the drawings (left: Washington DC, bottom left: an Amsterdam canal; right: Radford University) are quite detailed. The question is whether you can make this faster than a large drawing. Still, I wanted to include these small drawings in this edition; I find it sympathetic that by drawing small you take your environment into account.

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Website](#)

'Every drawing becomes timeless when done with passion' Alfonso Paronda

Peter Sheeler is a professional artist, self-taught, from Port Elgin, Ontario (Canada). His focus is on making small sketches and on sharing his knowledge, especially through videos (tutorials) on YouTube. He shows you how to make a beautiful sketch in a short time with few resources. His drawings are about the size of a picture postcard. His materials? A fountain pen with a thin nib, 100% cotton paper, a simple paintbrush or waterbrush and sometimes a flat brush. And watercolor of course. Peter advises beginners to always use good paper and to do a lot with it to experiment. 'As your style develops, you will know which paper is best for you. Waiting and switching later to better quality paper is like learning to paint again.'

Facebook

Instagram

YouTube

YouTube ([this sketch](#))

YouTube ([Teoh](#))

Flickr

*'I'm not looking for a scene to sketch,
I'm looking for an idea to sketch'*

Peter Sheeler



Have you missed the previous episodes of **That's another way of doing it?**

Here you can see and download the last six episodes (#1 and #2 are in Dutch only):

3. [Oops, a tree in front of the building](#)

5. [What do you mean, perspective?](#)

4. [Colored pencils:](#)

6. [White is also a colour](#)

[what can we do with it?](#)

7. [Sketching in your car](#)

8. [It rains. Bah, now what](#)

The Dutch blogs have appeared on **[the website of Urban Sketchers Netherlands](#)**.

You can find all episodes and downloads at urbansketchers.nl/vind-pagina under the heading 'ZO KAN HET OOK'.

YouTube:

Teoh tells about **[the benefit of a small sketchbook](#)**

Teoh: Sketching with **[limited Time](#)**, Tools and Techniques Sketch **[really small](#)**

Read:

- *5-Minute Sketching* -- People door **Pete Scully**
- *5-Minute Sketching* -- Landscapes door **Virginia Hein**
- *5-Minute Sketching* -- Architecture door **Liz Steel**
- *Draw buildings and cities in 15 minutes* door **Matthew Brehm**