

**THE REAL COLOR. OR NOT.**

You are an urban sketcher, going outdoors to capture your home town in your sketchbook. You look closely, you draw carefully, and if you want to add color, you do it with care.

You choose or mix the right color.

Why, actually? You can also do it differently: look at which colors you have brought with you, and then choose what suits you best at that moment. What is the real color?

On the right you can immediately see how Mário didn't care about the green tones of the forest; he was more in the mood for pink and red. So he used those colors for his sketch. He is in charge of his own sketch and uses the colors that suit his mood at that moment. The result is a amazing drawing.

In this edition of **That's Another Way of Doing It** we see how ten sketchers think about the real color.

**That's another way of doing it.**

*'Anyone can be an urban sketcher,  
you don't need to have special talents,  
just a sketchbook and a pen'* Mário Linhares

ANNE  
ROSE

The creator of this drawing is **Mário Linhares** from Lisbon (Portugal). He works as a designer and art educator and his great passion is urban sketching. He founded Urban Sketchers Portugal in 2009, and he's the former Education Director of Urban Sketchers.

Mário about sketching: 'I have been drawing since forever and I discovered, by chance, that helping others on how to draw and thinking with creativity is the goal of my life! Because of that I've been studying a lot about teaching visual art to young and adult people.'

He has a master's degree in visual arts education and loves nothing more than to share his knowledge.

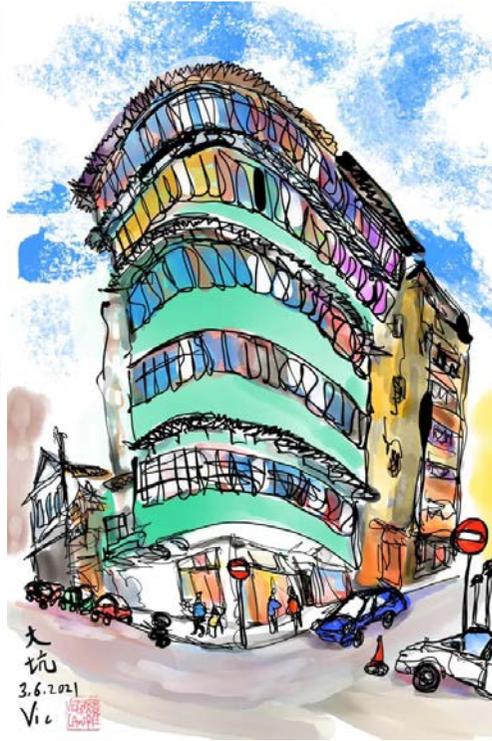
The subject of this edition is the use of extreme colours. How clear do you want it to be? In this sketch by Mário, almost every color in the drawing is different than in real life. His comment on this drawing: 'I am not color blind, I play with colors,' says it all. Why would you use the exact colors you see? Mário uses his sketchbook as his laboratory to experiment: it's more about what you feel, how your mood is. That you make a drawing that makes you happy.

**Instagram**

**Blog**

**Book:** *Panoramas and Vertical Vistas (The Urban Sketching Handbook): Techniques for Drawing on Location from Unexpected Perspectives*





**Victor Law** is Vice President of Sales at a technology company and an active member of Urban Sketchers Hong Kong. Using ink pen and expressive watercolour, he brings to life old districts and historical buildings, and adds colour and meaning to the city life in Hong Kong. The iPad is now one of his favourite tools for creating art.

Large apartment buildings are often gray behemoths. Not for Victor: he doesn't take the perspective too seriously and sprinkles them with color, so that these buildings suddenly arouse admiration. Now we can see them through Victor's eyes.

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*'We don't need to include every detail in a drawing. Try simplifying the scene as much as you can'*

**Pramote Kitchumnongpan**

**Pramote Kitchumnongpan** from Bangkok (Thailand), is a retired furniture industrial designer and artist. Pramote is a good friend of Asnee Tasna, a great sketcher who we have been acquainted with before. Both share the joy each finds in sketching: 'It is important to sketch with friends and learn, create memories and to have fun'. Together they started a Sketching Group in Bangkok named Bangkok Sketchers at the same time as Urban Sketcher Group. Less is more if you ask Pramote. 'We don't need to include every detail in a drawing. Try simplifying the scene as much as you can'. This can be seen in this sketch below of the *town hall* in *Brussels*. How do you go about drawing an almost white tower on a white sheet of paper? Pramote sees much more than a few white areas: the colored flags, the sun shining on the tower, the shadows. Also check out Pramote's other work, it's always bursting with bright colors. He suggests details without us actually seeing them.

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**Valerie Hoberg** is an architect/urban planner in Bremen (Germany). Since 2019 she has been a lecturer and researcher at the department of Architecture and Art 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century at the Leibnitz University in Hanover. In her spare time she loves to go into town to draw houses, streets and people. Her sketchbook also accompanies her on journeys and is a memory book as well as an instrument for seeing and thinking.

For this, Valerie doesn't automatically use the colors she sees; she makes her choices depending on the materials she has with her and the mood she is in. The drawing of the *Bremer Marktplatz* (left) is cleverly constructed with yellow and pink lines; the dark houses in the background draw our attention, deeper into the street.

In the sketch of a street in the *Flüsseviertel* in Bremen (right), Valerie has only used green lines. She had just bought a set of acrylic markers and she was surprised by the bright colors. She persevered. Handily constructed, the further away the houses are from us, the lighter the green color she uses, so that she brings depth to her drawing. She only used some blue and yellow paint for the surfaces.

Luckily Valerie used the colored markers for the lines and left her black pen in her bag. What an intriguing drawing it has become.

[Instagram](#)

*'I draw what I know well'*

**Patricia Ferreira**

**Patricia Ferreira** is an artist and lives in Braga (Portugal). 'I stopped drawing and painting in high school and only picked it up again about seven years ago.' Patricia worked as a manager in the financial sector after school and lasted almost twenty years. 'I had a marriage to the bank and an affair with drawing.'

A few years ago, she took the plunge and gave up her job at the bank to focus entirely on her passion for art. She also teaches so that she can pass on her love of shapes and colors to others. 'I draw and paint what I know well, I tell a story.'

Patricia is a member of Urban Sketchers Portugal and considers Braga's city center as her backyard, the place where she witnesses everyday life. She is idiosyncratic in her use of colour, as you can see in the drawing by *Pastelaria Lusitana* (right), in which she has used almost exclusively blue-green colours.

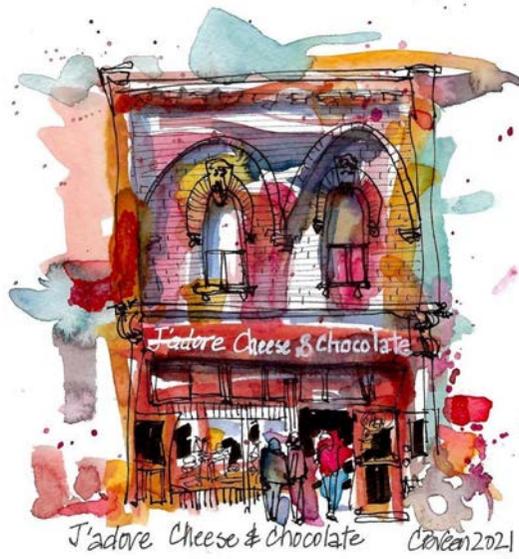
'Art is an aesthetic message that elevates us.

A community without art and artists is doomed to live in the shadows.'

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**Carolyn Breen Morton** from Barrie, Ontario (Canada) is called Charlie: a woman with a boy's name. Urban sketching is her passion, she prefers to draw houses or boats. Charlie is a retired teacher. 'Art has always been part of my life, but like many artists, I felt at times that I lacked talent and imagination. My husband's advice is, "Draw every day and you will get where you want to go." He was right. I want to improve and consistently change my style. I love what I do but always feel that there is lots more inside of me.' Her sketches did indeed change over time to become looser and more whimsical. 'I seldom plan anything with pencil as I find drawing in ink both challenging and exciting. If I make a mistake, I just work with it.' She prefers to use thick brushes, preferably thickness 12, always with synthetic hair.

'Big brushes bring whimsy to a painting and I will often use nothing but a #12 round, even for the detail. I don't worry about staying in the lines. I heard an artist once say, "Always use the biggest brush you can" and that advice really works for me and my style.' You can see here how quirky Charlie's drawings are: on the left a shop in Collingwood, on the right one in Barrie. She follows her intuition and uses colors that suit her best at the time. Her advice: 'Don't worry about what your "style" is. It will emerge all by itself. You take little things from other artists and make them your own. Forget the rules and don't be afraid to sketch on a simple napkin in a coffee shop.'

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*'Try to avoid straight lines and it will bring whimsy and happiness into your sketches. Things a little crooked work wonderfully'*

**Charlie Breen**

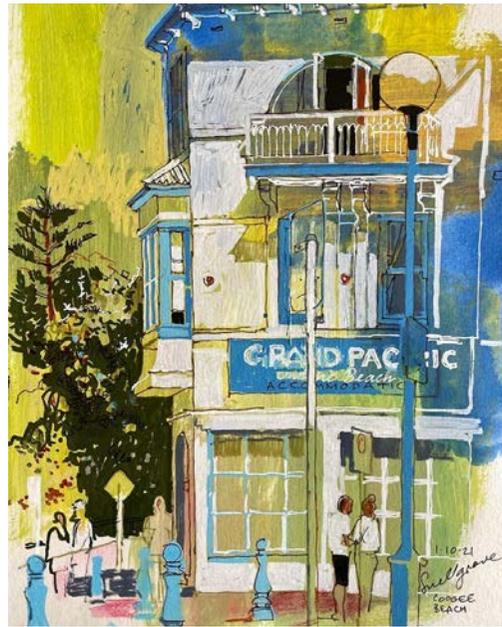
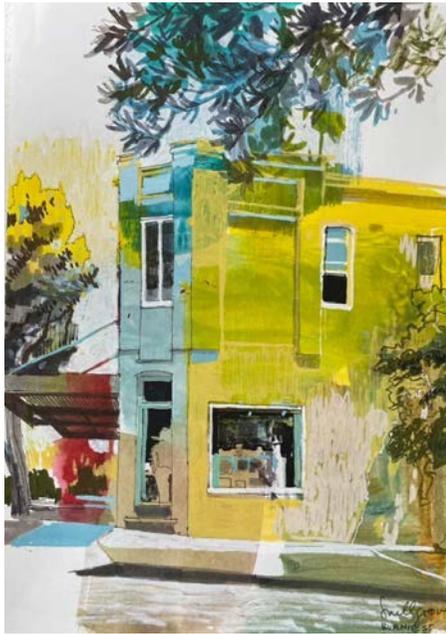
**Christian Couteau** a great watercolorist from Tonneins, Lot-et-Garonne (France). Christian is a former marine, who has made two world trips as a technical draftsman on the *Jeanne d'Arc*, a training ship that can be transformed into a helicopter carrier in wartime. He is now retired and has learned how to deal with watercolor, he is self-taught.

'I am not looking for a photographic representation of reality. Color is the dominant factor in my drawings, I prefer to suggest what I see than to try to represent reality. I like to be inspired by things I come across in my environment. I prefer to work with watercolor. Perhaps my passion for water is because I'm an ancient seaman. I want to understand the idiosyncratic qualities of watercolors, the softness and volatility of the colours.'

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*'For me creative freedom is more important than reality'* **Christian Couteau**





**Alex Snellgrove** is an artist and art tutor in Sydney (Australia). 'I see things worth painting just about everywhere I go. I can see beauty and interest in what might seem humdrum or banal scenes and subjects. I live in an urban and suburban environment, so some of my work reflects moments on the streets, parks and footpaths. I enjoy drawing and painting buildings, people and traffic, cafés, and even shopping malls. Sometimes nature inspires me, but it's usually in combination with other elements. Often, changing light is a catalyst for these drawings. For more than 20 years, I worked as an art director, illustrator and publisher in the advertising and publishing industries. Ever since I stopped doing that and can fully focus on drawing and painting, I've been sketching constantly. As a tutor, I love to see the students in my classes gain confidence over time. Most are more skilled than they think, and helping adult students to approach drawing and painting again with "fresh eyes" is my aim.'

The importance of color in Alex's drawings can be seen here: a flower shop in *Burnie Street, Clovelly* (left) and the *Grand Pacific Hotel (1915)* at Coogee. A sense of place and of sensory experience is very evident in her drawings as she expresses her strong emotional connection to her immediate environment.

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*'I believe that only when one puts pen on paper, the real observation starts'*

Sanjeev Joshi

**Sanjeev Mita Joshi** from Pune (India) is an independent architect, interior designer, hobby artist and urban sketcher. Those are his own words, but he forgets to say that he is a great calligrapher, who comes up with beautiful, modern uses for his texts time and time again.

Sanjeev draws quickly, preferably in crowded places. He has learned through his work to immediately decide which parts of a building to draw and what to leave out. Sometimes it starts with a few random spots of color or smudges that have little to do with the subject. On top of that he draws what he sees.

Founder member of Urban Sketchers in India, he has played a pivotal role in popularising the practice of art amongst masses and making it accessible to the common person. Joshi strongly believes that societal growth can happen through such group activities.

Sanjeev usually only uses two or three colors in his sketches. In this drawing you can see his exuberant use of color. He mixed pure colors of watercolor paint onto the paper while they were still soaking wet. The real colors? Well, no. Who cares?

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*'Have fun and go very wet and wild with paint and water.  
Just draw and come as you are, don't worry about results'*

Paul Wang

### Paul Wang,

Paul Wang, urban artist, visual storyteller, art and design educator from Singapore should not be missing in this edition about color. Urban sketching is his passion and he is an active member of the Advisory Board for the International Organization of the Urban Sketchers.

Sketching makes Paul more aware of the world around him; he wants to capture the moment. 'As an urban sketcher, I am constantly tuning into my environment, whether to the tangible or the intangible sounds and smells. Sketching architecture allows me to connect with the past and look forward into the future. Our environment is in a constant flux of birth and destruction. I like to use quick spontaneous sketches with bold colored shapes to capture old and new architecture in and around Singapore. For me, watercolor is the perfect medium for fast expressive sketching when I am on location. The fluidity and unpredictability of watercolor works perfectly for my playful approach. I have discovered that balancing the timing of when and how to apply water and knowing the nature of the paper will determine if the paint will sing or get drowned out.' Paul alternates between drawing and painting often and quickly. He dances with line and color across his sheet of paper.

This drawing is of the *Dried Goods Shop* at Waterloo Street, close to the Chinese temple and the very busy Indian temple. Many visitors come to this part of the town to not just pray for good luck but also to shop. Lots of old local sundry shops selling religious goods as well as dried produce like mushrooms and various medicinal herbs. This old lady is busy searching for the best dried mushrooms from many huge sacks.

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

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

- [3. A tree in front of the building](#)
- [4. Colored pencils](#)
- [5. What do you mean, perspective?](#)
- [6. White is also a colour](#)
- [7. Sketching in your car](#)
- [8. It rains. Bah, now what](#)

### **9. No time. Really?**

### **10. Let's draw trees**

### **11. Pencil only**

### **12. Forgot my sketchbook**

### **13. Perspective without ruler**

### **14. The tower doesn't fit**

The Dutch blogs have appeared on [the website of Urban Sketchers Netherlands](#). You can find all episodes and downloads at [urbansketchers.nl/vind-pagina](http://urbansketchers.nl/vind-pagina) under the heading 'ZO KAN HET OOK'.

### **Need more inspiration?**

[YouTube](#): *Working with Color* by Shari Blaukopf (book review)

[Nicolas Doucedame](#)

[Lluís Bruguera Martí](#)

[Yap Yeen Yee](#)

[John Albany Hoyle](#)