

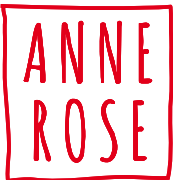
## THE TRAIN STATION

There is a lot going on and even more to experience in and around a train station. Some sketchers even hope for delays so that they have a bit of time to draw. Others would sketch a little bit every day, on their way to and from work. The entrance hall is usually freely accessible, and makes for a great place to sketch. There is also a lot to see on the outside of the station: the architecture and the big station clock, people rushing to catch their train, all the train tracks and red lights, the cars dropping off passengers at the last minute.

In this edition of **That's Another Way of Doing It** you will see how ten sketchers went to a train station to make a drawing, each in their own style. **That's another way of doing it.**

*'We're so used to going there that we don't look at it anymore'*

Nathalie Dauvilliers



**Nathalie Dauvilliers** from Saint-Vrain, just below Paris (France) passes this little station in Ballancourt so often that she hardly notices it anymore. What makes an urban sketcher different from any other, is that you have the ability to see the charm of that tiny station built in 1865, though close to your home. The station has only two tracks and the train brings many commuters to Paris. Nathalie looked carefully at everything around the station: the overhead wires, the stoplight, the railroad barrier, the SOS phone, the pole for the power lines, all the fences, the platform and even the train coming from La Ferté Alais.

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**Yulianto Qin** from Medan, Indonesia, is an architecture lecturer and independent illustrator. He also likes history, photography, books and comics. When Yulianto was in Taichung (Taiwan), he could see the old train station from the Chance Hotel and naturally he drew it. It was originally a wooden building built in 1905, that was put to use in 1908, during the Japanese occupation of Taiwan. In 1917, the building was rebuilt, this time with bricks. The station is a symbol of an era and is still a landmark in the city. The architecture was heavily influenced by Japanese colonial architecture and has become a national historic monument. A new, modern train station was built right next to it. Although the old station no longer serves its original purpose, it is one of the most well preserved old train stations remaining in Taiwan.

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**Mark dela Cruz** lives in Hanoi, Vietnam, and is an architect by profession. Originally from the Philippines, Vietnam is now his second home for the last 10 years. He joined Urban Sketchers Hanoi and has seen much of the city that way. During and right after the lockdown, he wanted to turn his negative feelings into something positive. So he took to the streets to sketch colonial buildings and shop houses in the Old Quarters for its architectural and historical value. Normally that area is very crowded, but during this time Mark was able to find peace and joy on these typical old structures and deserted streets.

Here we can see Hanoi Railway Station, designed by Henri Vildieu, a French architect. It was built in 1895, during the time when Hanoi was the administrative center for the French colony of Indochina. In the 1970s, the middle section was damaged by war, after which the central hall was rebuilt in a modern style.

'I can only imagine that good old feeling of coming home from a busy city to your hometown for the holidays – doing it by train would be a bonus. This architectural treasure reminds me of hope, that in these challenging times, one day we will all be reunited with our love ones once again. We must all keep moving forward. This reminds Mark of Paulo Coelho's quote: "Life is the train, not the station!"

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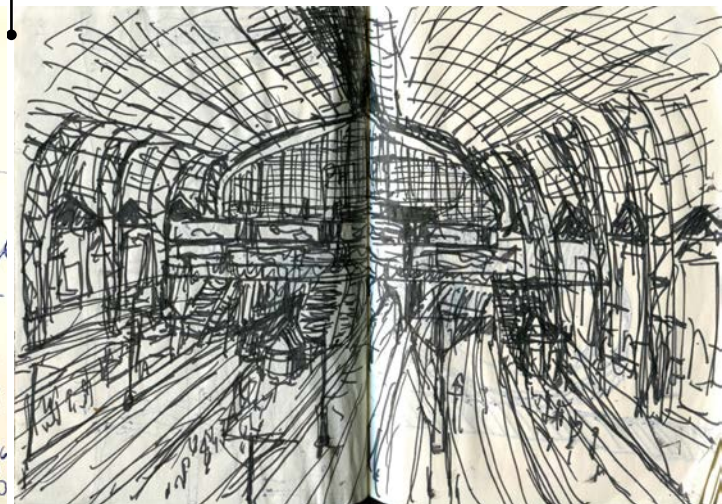
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**Yurii Andreichyn** from Kiev (Ukraine), artist and architect, made this beautiful drawing of the central railway station, Kyjiv-Pasazhyrsky Station at Vokzalna Square. It is the main railroad station of the city, Kiev and all long-distance trains stop at this station. Built in 1937 according to a design by Oleksandr Verbytsky, this station combines Ukrainian Baroque with elements of Constructivism. Yurii used a fineliner for this drawing and it seems like he allowed the pen to find its own way. We see so many lines, dancing across the paper. Looking from a little further away you can see exactly what the station looks like, you can almost read the neon letters on the top and above the entrance.

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In addition to drawing, **Raphael Zinner** can play the cello incredibly well. He was born in Ravensburg, Germany. He received his first cello lessons when he was four years old, after which he continued to develop and subsequently won one prize after another. Since March 2022, Raphael has been associated with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, allowing him to expand his chamber music and orchestral experience. According to the Internet, his playing is characterised 'by his booming, colourful tone and a virtuosity that is never exhibited, but is completely subordinate to the musical composition'. Raphael travels a lot, and by the looks of it, he makes good use of the inevitable waiting times at stations. On the left we see a drawing of the outside of the main train station in Bremen, on the right the inside of the train station in Hamburg, drawn from the bridge that crosses the tracks. How special that we get to look over his shoulder.

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**Greg McDonald** of Southampton/Oakville, Canada, captures small moments and tells big stories by traveling with ink and watercolour. 'When our daughter was younger, we traveled to Europe every summer. That called for capturing our adventures in ink, graphite and watercolour. Sketching and painting on location allowed me to capture not only physical spaces, but also the emotion and energy of those moments. Now I often do the same, with my daughter.'

'Making a sketch is a process of selection and making connections; it is a very personal process. I use the interplay of light and shadow to tell my story. The subject determines whether I then use ink lines or more elusive watercolour strokes. The result then becomes vivid, with movement. A snapshot in time. Capturing that movement, the rhythm and the combination of the building and the lives being lived within it, is pure joy for me.'

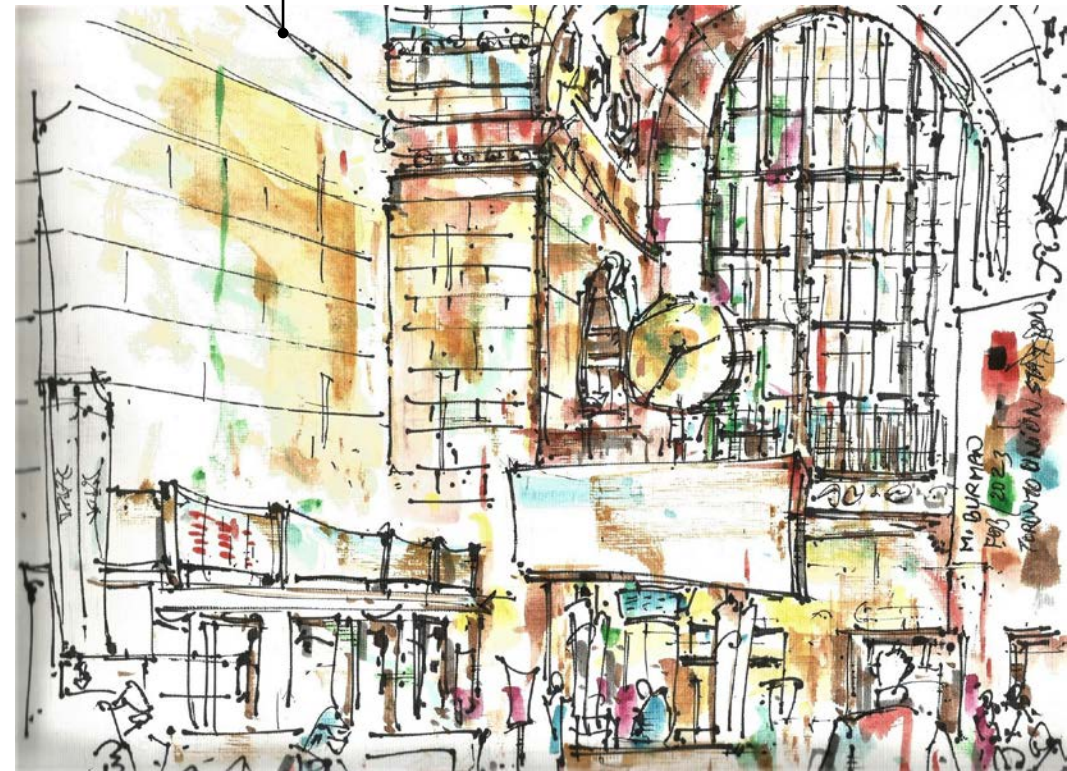
Greg made this beautiful drawing at Gare de l'Est (Paris) while waiting for the train. He makes masterful use of light and dark contrast and we see the travellers walking hastily to the train.

[Instagram](#)

**Manas Burman** of Toronto, Canada, studied Art & Design at university and is a member of the Urban Sketchers Toronto. He has found his own style: he draws quickly with a pen, and then adds spots of colour, sometimes with watercolour (as here), sometimes with thick markers. The result is a swinging drawing, full of life. Manas does not completely fill his shapes; he places touches of colour in the places he feels are important. One can almost see the travellers moving.

Here we see the Union Station's immense departure hall, also called the Great Hall. This hall is 76 meters long and 27 meters high. Following New York Penn Station, it is the busiest station in North America, with 72 million travellers a year.

[Instagram](#)





**Mel Barranco** of Harrison, New York (United States) works as a data exchange specialist for a fashion jewellery company in Midtown Manhattan. He is also a member of the New York Urban Sketchers. Although he has no background in art – he has a degree in food technology – Mel enjoys drawing and sketching. In his visual journal, he documents his daily 45-minute train commute and the many people he encounters. For Mel, ‘sketch waiting’ (as his friend Tina Koyama calls it) is a great way to spend unproductive time and to improve his sketching skills. He sketches as discreetly as possible and uses simple materials that he can quickly grab from his bag. He considers his sketchbook a tool to see and appreciate the beauty of ordinary, daily life. Mel sees sketching as a form of meditation and relaxation that helps him to focus, be present in the moment and enjoy himself. What we see here is a bold approach. Beforehand, Mel drew random black lines on the paper; he used that as the basis for this beautiful drawing of a rather uninteresting place, the parking lot next to Harrison Station.

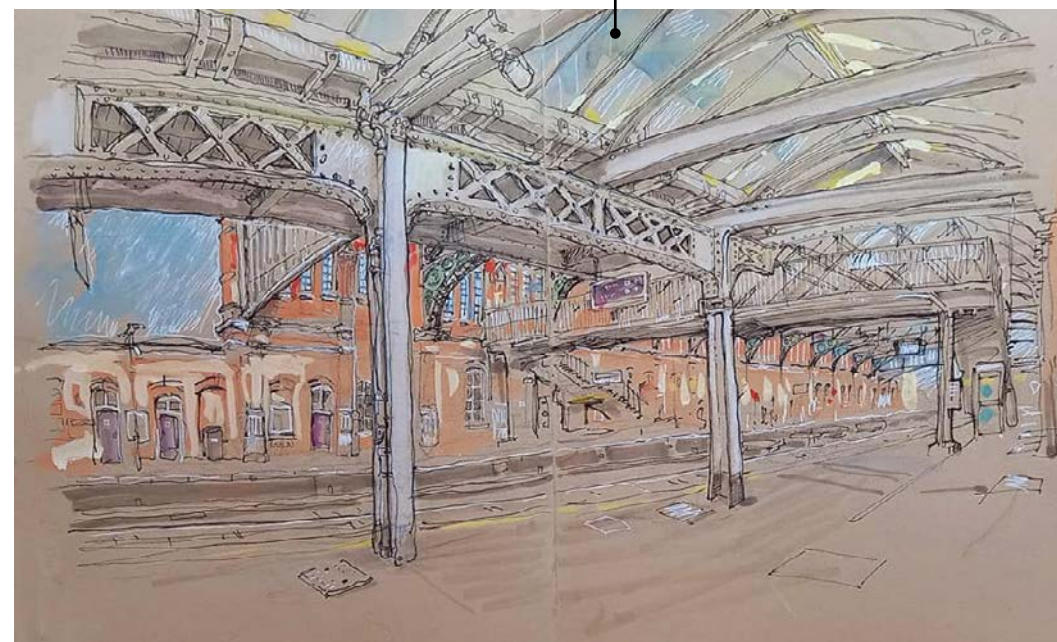
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*‘Art is not my background, but I enjoy making it’*

**Mel Barranco**

**Derek Jerman (Des)** from Bournemouth (England) Studied Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture at Arts University Bournemouth. He has been working as an independent graphic designer, specialising in illustration, design for print and interactive media for over twenty years. Des had to buy a train ticket ‘to nowhere’ to draw on the platform of this station (from 1885). The station was severely damaged during the ‘great storm’ in 1987. Des chose coloured paper as a ground so that he could work with both light and dark colours. For this he used pen, water-colour and white gouache. How wonderful to see all those cast iron structures on paper.

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**Sandra Roussy Menia** from Voglans, Savoie (France) discovered watercolour some twelve years ago; she now teaches workshops on the subject. She specialises in urban sketching and uses different mediums: acrylic paint, watercolour, pastel, collage and India ink. 'I paint outdoors a lot. I love restaurants, outdoor cafes, architecture, and places full of history that are bustling with life.' Sandra gives herself plenty of time for her drawings and it is important to her to have fun. 'There is always something that doesn't work the way I want, I try to take advantage of that. My drawings give the impression that they are made

effortlessly, but that is not always the case. With watercolour I like to let the water flow to move and drag the pigments along.' Here, as seen from the walkway above, the tracks and trains at Chambéry station. In the background we see the railway roundabout of Chambéry There is so much movement and such a play of colours that the sky sizzles with it.

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All sketchers have given permission for the use of their sketches in this blog, except for Greg McDonald which unfortunately I was not able to find. © Anne Rose Oosterbaan. English version: Nino van Vuuren.

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. Perspective?](#)
- [6. White is also a color](#)
- [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](#)
- [15. The real color. Or not](#)
- [16. Within the lines](#)
- [17. Text in your sketch](#)
- [18. Tinted paper](#)
- [19. Up on the roof](#)
- [20. So boring](#)
- [21. Splatters and blobs](#)
- [22. Thumbnails](#)
- [23. Shadows](#)
- [24. Bridges](#)
- [25. Reflections](#)

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'.

#### Extra inspiration:

##### YouTube:

- Flinders Street [Railway Station](#) in Melbourne (Australië) sketch