

WATER

Water in a canal, river or even the sea, how do you draw that?

It always seems to be moving and if you look closely you can see a lot

of colours, which is also due to the glare of the light.

The advice of one of the sketchers is: look at it for a while, without doing

anything, and absorb what you see. After that it will be easier to start

drawing it. Sometimes the water reflects the color of the clouds and the

sun, but it often already has a color of its own. And then we haven't even

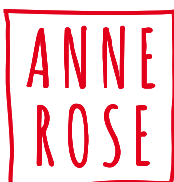
mentioned everything we see reflected in the water.

Therefore: take the time to consider it carefully before making a decision.

In this edition of **That's another way of doing it** you will see how ten

sketchers entered into this difficult battle with water.

That's another way of doing it.



Sergei Merkulov lives in Sevastopol, a port city in Crimea on the Black Sea. Sergei is an artist, urban sketcher and designer; who enjoys making sketches of his city in his spare time. He says that he, 'most of all likes to sketch ships and the streets of Sevastopol'.

By day, Sergei is a designer for a local publishing house.

'For my sketches,' he says, 'I use a black gel pen and ordinary Russian water color (*White Nights*). I started sketching because sketches are a simple reflection of reality and I can carry my sketchbook with me anywhere I go.'

This drawing looks like Sergei just pulled it off, but it's cleverly put together. The sea behind the boat is depicted in a simple, light spot of watercolor, with a few dancing pencil lines.

But look what's happening on this side of the sailing ship: dark, robust lines that keep the vessel firmly in the water.

You really don't have to fill the entire surface to convincingly depict water.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)





Girish Toraskar is a Canberra (Australia) based visual artist who grew up in India. Girish has been an architect for nearly 50 years and now uses the skills he has acquired during that time to capture the nuances of urban and rural life and social issues.

'Creating has been my passion since early childhood, it is like an addiction, and I find the whole process extremely exhilarating and exciting.'

'Colours, shapes, spaces, light and shade have always intrigued me. As a child, I drew, painted, crafted and sculpted with whatever was available at hand and ended up becoming an architect with a strong artistic approach. To me, every project was like a big installation, and the whole process, from the initial conception to completion, was a fascinating journey.'

'I sketch because it is an universal language to communicate and express myself, to record what I feel about what I see. To me, it is like writing a poem or an essay in simple lines and color. Through my sketches I am seeing Canberra in a new light.' Here we see a sketch that was made at the Crace recreation park: 'I had to get out of the house with our boys, in fresh air to clear my head. The kids in the tall grass reminded me of my school days when I used to sneak out of the house to go fishing with my friends'. Look how effectively his water is drawn.

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

*'I find the challenges of watercolor extremely exciting.
It is like riding a wild stallion'*

Girish Toraskar

Montse Sanchiz, illustrator and graphic designer, was born in Barcelona, but has lived in Premià de Mar (Spain), just north of Barcelona, for more than 25 years. Montse: 'When I was barely walking, my artistic inclinations already came out: I secretly drew on the wall behind the couch at home. I have always tried different techniques, I wanted to get the most out of it.' Montse was able to combine her love for drawing with her work. She spent most of her time on editorial layout, but she also often had assignments to create illustrations. In the drawings she makes in her spare time, she almost always prefers watercolor.

Montse made this fantastic drawing in Port de Badalona, the harbor of Badalona, where she always finds scenes to paint. We see the sailing boats floating on the water, we see the masts in the reflection. We see a dark reflection under the boats. Furthermore, Montse has left much of the paper white.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)





Leslie Akchurin, from Lubbock, Texas, (United States), worked as a consultant in the local university's writing centers until her retirement. Leslie was a kid who loved to draw and then she put it away in favor of other adult pursuits, only picking it up again in her mid-50s. As her artistic bent has always been to respond to the world around her.

This drawing of Lake Salda (Turkey) shows how much fun you can have if you want to draw water. 'I was aware of only having a short time to make this sketch, as my husband and his brother were pacing the beach behind me, ready to head home. So I set about just trying to capture something of the feeling of the waves, air, and colors in front of me, in a sense *feeling* the rhythm of the scene rather than trying to note specific visual features. The hills beyond the lake and the kids playing in the waves anchor the scene a bit. By having the water only up to the ankles of the front two figures, I tried to show how far out it was still shallow. The Chinese seal of my name is one I had made when living in China years ago. I sometimes like to use it as a red accent because Asian painting has significantly influenced me over the years.'

It doesn't have to be so precise, just follow your feeling: the waves are dancing. The beach is pure white, the water clear blue, probably because there is magnesium in the water.

[Facebook](#)

[Flickr](#)

*'Watercolor is not just a medium,
it's a way of seeing the world'*

Svetlana Michalevich

Svetlana Michalevich from Odessa (Ukraine) is not having an easy time, but in her drawings we continue to see optimism, hope and joy. Because of the war, Svetlana and her family temporarily moved from Odessa to Uzhgorod, the second move within a year. Still, she tries to maintain her old life and has even held an exhibition in an old building of the Passage in Odessa; a retrospective exhibition with Ukrainian and Polish artists.

She also has an **online store**: she donates a third of the turnover to a charitable foundation for medical aid for war victims.

This drawing of the water in the Black Sea near Odessa is dazzling. Svetlana has indicated the waves with mostly short brush strokes, making it almost an abstract drawing.

The pleasure of drawing radiates from it.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Flickr](#)

[Website](#)





Cathy Reingarden, an illustrator from Berkeley, (California, United States) considers her small bag, filled with art materials, as her studio, so she can draw anytime, anywhere. Cathy grew up on a Napa vineyard, where she gained a boundless appreciation for nature. Even when she draws in the city, she tries to incorporate nature.

'There is visual magic to be found anywhere that I can sit still, observe, and bring my pen to the page. I am intrigued by the storytelling aspect of sketching what I see in life. I draw anything that captures my imagination, from a simple stone on a beach to beautiful architecture, even to an overheard conversation in a café. Things change by the moment, and I never know what I will end up recording in this big, beautiful world of ours. I live by the motto: *Everything is interesting when you draw it.*

As Cathy is knee deep in work every day, she often goes to the beach to relax. She made this drawing on gray paper and experimented with watercolor paints, watercolor pencil and a white Posca marker. She even drew with her finger until the marker exploded and was no longer usable. You see: in this case Cathy mainly uses white to represent the white water.

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

'Everything is special when you draw it'

Cathy Reingarden

Alain Baudson from Avioth (France) says: 'As a school-boy I used to draw houses, trees and people in the margins of my notebooks. Then came the time of India ink, pen and Rotring. One day a lady asked me if I could paint a corner of her native village with watercolor. I replied that I was going to try it.

Since that day I haven't let go of my sable brushes and my tubes of watercolor. It was love at first sight. I recharge my batteries in my beautiful region. And then there is the sea, the coast. I must have had an ancestor who was a buccaneer, explorer or pirate, because I cannot resist the call of the ocean.' Alain goes to Brittany, his second homeland, every year to set up his easel. 'Watercolor has taught me to observe and interpret everything. The movement of the clouds passing across our sky: marbled yellow and blue, smoking with slate and lead, flaming with the setting sun on winter evenings, fluttering with violet and pink, draped in strips; the sky is a landscape in itself'

Alain is a master when it comes to capturing the sea on his paper. It seems so simple.

[Facebook](#)





Marc Van Enis, independent illustrator and graphic designer originally from Brussels (Belgium) studied comic strip drawing. This came in handy later when he started working as illustrator and advertising artist. Marc's passion is to travel, and he loves to go to the North Sea. He creates his watercolors based on nature, so that he can take full advantage of the environment of the subject and capture the atmosphere of the moment. On the left we see the emerald coast from Brittany to Cap Fréhel (France). For Marc, this stage is one of the most impressive of Brittany. Beaches, cliffs and breathtaking views follow one another all along the coastal path. On the right, Marc captured the colors of The North Sea. According to him, the weather was 'fine, with a partly cloudy sky, light wind, calm sea and good visibility'.

If you look closely, you will see that Marc paints respecting the white of the paper, while working alternately on dry or wet paper, and creates almost in a single pass, without retouching, the white heads of the waves and the structure of the sand.

Marc knows exactly what he is doing. It's really worth it taking a closer look at his drawings of the sea on Internet.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

'Make studies... always be learning!' **Oliver Pyle**

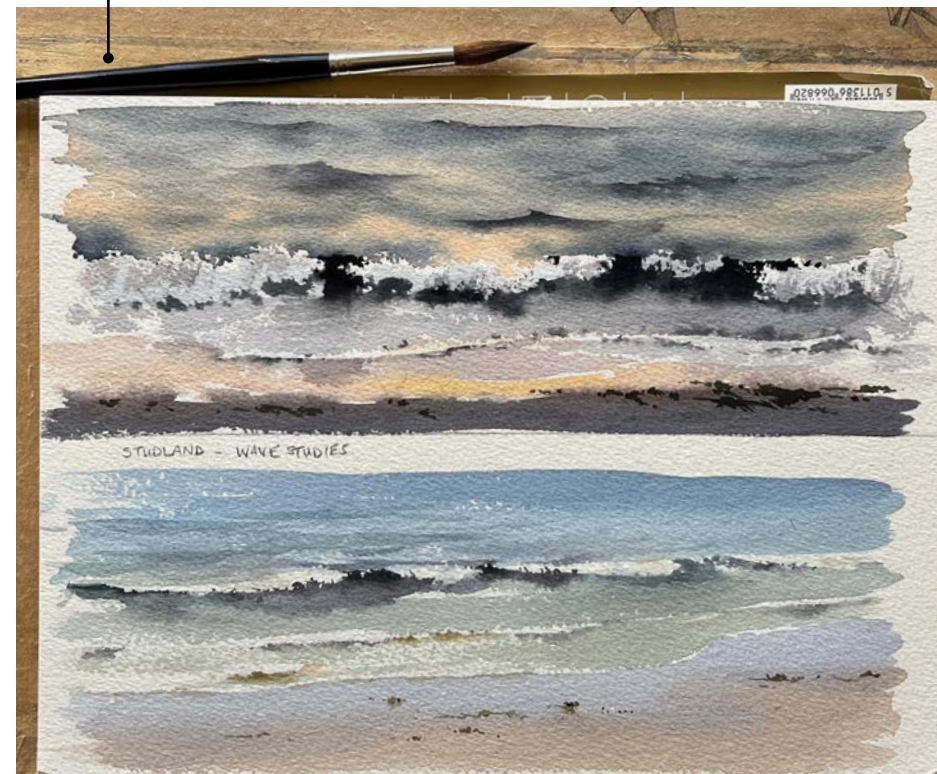
Oliver Pyle, a landscape painter from Sussex (England), sees his own environment as a rich source of inspiration: 'The British landscape is unique. There is so much diversity that can be found on such a relatively small island. I understand the frustrations that the British weather confers but as an artist it creates endless opportunities, with the changing light always adding a fresh perspective to each scene.' Oliver is an established and successful landscape artist working exclusively in watercolour. 'My aim is never to just describe or illustrate a scene, rather to create a painting that communicates my experience of the place at a particular moment in time,' he says. 'One of the quickest ways to progress as a landscape painter is to make quick studies of a specific element in the landscape... especially those where you might lack confidence. I couldn't help noticing how dark the shadows were between and under the waves.'

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

[YouTube](#)





*'The first brushstroke holds all the energy and creativity.
There is no second chance'*

Amid el Haddad

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**](#)
- [**26. Train stations**](#)

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

Amid el Haddad is a Belgian artist, born in Tetouan (Morocco); from a very young age, he has been fascinated by the Impressionists and their ability to express the movement of light. It is this movement of light that makes objects appear, transforms them, and eventually makes them disappear. This explains his devotion to watercolor as a medium. It allows him to navigate this world where things often remain unseen, but nonetheless are deeply felt. 'Unlike other mediums, watercolour puts the artist under constant pressure, challenging the painter to interact with washes and make decisions at the right time'. Therefore, Amid believes that just only a single brushstroke can express this energy. 'There is no second chance. The first brushstroke holds all the energy and creativity'. Because of that quick decision, Amid's style is fresh and transparent.

'As a teenager I went to the Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels to study architecture. There I became familiar with the basic rules of drawing and got to know watercolour as my favourite medium for rendering. The appearance of the internet, with its broader spread of information, accelerated my learning and knowledge about the medium. My destiny as a painter became obvious to me when I realised that it had become a necessary means for self expression and self development. However, it took me a while to find my way before I understood that being a painter is more about an attitude rather than about technical knowledge.'

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

For inspiration on YouTube:

- How to [**Paint Water**](#) in Watercolour - 5 Easy Lessons!
- How to paint [**Crashing Waves**](#) In Watercolors - with Artist Sterling Edwards
- How to Paint [**Water in Watercolor**](#) - A Step-by-Step Tutorial

All sketchers have given permission for their drawing to be used in this blog.

© Anne Rose Oosterbaan. English version: Erin Taylor.