

How do I start?

-Decide how much or how little you want to capture, and how to arrange it on the page(s).

-Start with a limited scope so as not to overwhelm yourself.

-Block in the big shapes, then start adding the larger detail (windows, doors, roofs, etc.).

-Add more detail (at this point you can continue with pencil or move to pen, erasing pencil lines once you have written over them in pen).

-Add color or shading to taste.

-Add text thoughts or insights.

-Sign and Date.

-Pens, if you intend to use waterproof ink is a must. Pens are available in a variety of line weights so try a few out to see what you like. Micron and Faber Castell make good art pens. Smaller nibs (finer lines) are quicker to damage, so paper matters. Hot press paper (smooth) is kinder to fine pen nibs. But I find cold press (rough) paper easier to paint on.

-Chair, small folding camp chair.

-Paint, Markers, Colored Pencils, and the associated supplies you need to use them.

What do I need to start?

-Pencil or pen and paper

Other useful stuff?

-Sketchbook, I like hardback 140 lb. watercolor paper, they can take watercolor without excessive buckling and provide a good support for sketching.

-Pencils and Eraser, I like mechanical pencils, so I don't have to worry about sharpening (.05 and .07). Kneaded erasers are cheap and don't mar the paper. I alternate between landscape and portrait orientation sketchbooks, 5" x 8".

What skills do you need?

-None (you will learn as you go)

What skills are useful?

-Observation, seeing the beauty in the everyday.

-Drawing (line, proportion, shape), using artistic techniques to add interest to your sketch.

-Perspective, to render a scene with a level of realism.

-Color and water media to add interest and creativity.

-Composition, the framing of a scene in an interesting way.

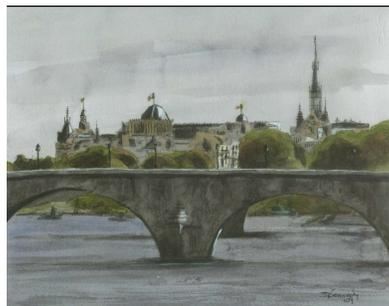
-Reflection, your notes, and comments on your sketch will make the sketch meaningful.



URBAN SKETCH EXAMPLE

- Drawn in pen across two portrait sketchbook pages.
- Drawn in 2-point perspective.
- Using only Minimal color to highlight a point of interest.
- Drawn with simplified details.
- Text added, just my reflections of that day.
- Note the location, sign, date.

Urban Sketching



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 Life as Art

What is Urban Sketching?

- We sketch on location in an urban environment, either indoors or outdoors.
- We normally sketch with a group (that is more fun).
- We try capture what we see, though we each do it in our own way, it is our way or recording a memory.
- We often annotate our sketches with color and text to create a more vivid representation.
- We share our sketches online noting the date and place.
- We help and encourage each other.

What Urban Sketching is NOT?

- It is not precious. Though we strive to capture the scene in a way that satisfies us, we don't stress over perfection.
- It is not judged. Each of us comes into this with our own abilities, skill sets, and artistic styles. What makes this so interesting is the variety of ways each of us manages to document the same scene.
- It is not fine art. It is normally not done with the idea of making art for sale or show. Our intention is to show others the beauty we see in our cities.