

Developing Sketchbooks Online workshop with Dionne Swift

No Panic Drawing

I guess by calling this book a sketch book you might be forgiven to imagine that it's full of sketches! I've always understood the notion of sketching to suggest something a little loose and vague around the edges; often depicting a country scene. Fine if you are a landscape painter but I have to wonder how useful this is in the development of other creative ideas.

In this scenario, drawing/observation is a means to an end and not the final result in itself, very few of us are developing ideas to create a realistic interpretation of a still life or a landscape, if we were our sketchbooks would take on a different feel



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TASKS

- The first step in any drawing is in the selection of the objects you choose.
- The second is in their arrangement
- Now before you 'put pen to paper' just stop and look. Follow every line and curve, consider the points and places where shapes connect and coincide. Absorb this information.
- Try continuous line drawing only looking at your subjects and not at your page, repeat.
- Use your other, less dominant hand, repeat – you can rearrange your objects and add in others as you fancy.
- For the next few drawings you can look at you page as well as your objects, but hopefully still giving your objects the attention they deserve!

SUGGESTIONS

- If the collection of objects in front of you is overwhelming, make a small square window or frame from scrap paper and select a small section to observe rather than trying to tackle the whole thing.
- Work over the colour wash surfaces from the previous session.
- Use a variety of media – not just a regular HB pencil.
- Add weight and emphasis to you line to help add depth and definition.

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sketch |skeCH| - noun

1 a rough or unfinished drawing or painting, often made to assist in making a more finished picture: a charcoal sketch.

- a brief written or spoken account or description of someone or something, giving only basic details: a biographical sketch of Ernest Hemingway.

- a rough or unfinished version of any creative work.

2 a short humorous play or performance, consisting typically of one scene in a comedy program.

3 informal a comical or amusing person or thing.

verb [with obj.]

make a rough drawing of: as they talked, Modigliani began to sketch her | [no obj.] : Jeanne sketched and painted whenever she had the time.

- give a brief account or general outline of: they sketched out the prosecution case.

- perform (a gesture) with one's hands or body: he sketched a graceful bow in her direction.

How does it feel to draw free in the knowledge that it doesn't need to look like your subject matter!?