



Urban Sketching: The Complete Guide to Techniques

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While most sketching guides leave the artist with static bowls of fruit and flower vases to develop their skill, *Urban Sketching* takes its inspiration from the living, breathing world around us! Contents include the nuts and bolts of sketching and drawing as well as a range of techniques specific to this artistic genre. Readers will discover:

Rules on perspective that will aid in capturing landscapes, buildings, and objects accurately
Tips for capturing the essence of people in sketches when subjects are on the move
The art of adding notes, commentary, and even speech to sketches

Chapters on sharing sketches through social media, joining the international urban sketching community, digitizing work, and more make this new guide the quintessential resource for anyone interested in joining the exciting art movement. More than 350 full-color illustrations throughout.

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From Reader Review Urban Sketching: The Complete Guide to Techniques for online ebook

Patrick Sherriff says

This is not just a how-to-sketch book, it's a manifesto for the sketch artist as citizen journalist. It's packed with practical advice and examples of great sketches. After reading this, I shelved notions of buying a fancy camera to capture the world around me. I just need some pencils, paper and a spot of water colours (and a fold-up chair) and I'm good to go. This is inspiring stuff, the best of the three how-to art books I've read this year.

Mirjan says

Idealan priru?nik za po?etnike.

Bill Lancaster says

I enjoyed this book. Thorspecken has taken on quite a challenge to complete and post a drawing every day to his internet blog. He is a skilled artist and his book is a combination of his own work alongside the work of numerous other sketch artists. The book is also very complete and has a ton of information about materials, locations, approaches to sketching and drawing styles.

My one problem with the book (and with Thorspecken's work in general) is the amount of Photoshop tweaking he does to his drawings. He justifies it by saying it makes his drawings more saturated and more colorful, but to me they all seem to come out a bit too garish. There is a "Vegas / Disney" quality to the color that simply seems unreal to me. Perhaps it comes from his living in Orlando, Florida.

Despite this quibble, there is a lot of very useful information in this book.

Kimberly Hughes says

I read a lot of art books and this is nothing special in regards to instruction and in fact, I think it is pretty lacking if that you are really looking for insight on improving technique. I think the book was an inevitable outcome from the popularity of the authors other Urban Sketching books and blog. I'm sure he got lots of requests for a book like this. The reason that it got more than one or two stars in my books is because of the plethora of his drawings on each page. It is a very busy book and may be the only book I have ever read that I would say benefits from being busy. I will say that there is one thing that you will learn/read about in this book that I have not seen in other art books and that is techniques to use Photoshop or other programs to improve your artwork for display.

Alessandro Melillo says

Very useful. If you are looking for a manual to help you planning your sketches this is what you need. Lots of good advices, many beautiful sketches and a logical structure divided into themes to let you know in a minute everything you should know when planning any kind of sketch.

Jean Mehochko says

This book was inspiring, with some "how to" instructions (or rather, "how I do it"), and many samples. It made me want to get busy and try it.

Emma Sea says

Lovely artwork, but definitely for people who already know what they're doing.

Will says

Minus one star for using the term "flesh tone" in reference to Caucasian coloring. Other than that, great, motivating guide to urban sketching. Looking forward to diving into water colors, and who knew 'water brushes' were a thing?! Awesome.

Tatchie says

This book features many interesting sketches. However, it is not really a complete guide.

Jamie says

A very dense book due to a lot of examples from sketchbooks (which made it interesting, inspiring, and fun) and paragraphs of text about different aspects of urban sketching. I loved seeing all the different art in the book, but there wasn't much textually that I found very helpful, personally.

Jessica says

Lot of very specific advice for his style of sketching and sharing his artwork with an audience (social media information, etc.), and less info on technique. Author really writes from a point of view of sharing one's sketches and how best to do that, and getting "gigs", how to find the best "events" to sketch, how to set up a Facebook page for your art, etc. It wasn't my cup of tea--if that's your thing, this might have some helpful

tips, but for the private artist, or casual urban sketcher, there are a couple of other urban sketching books out there with WAY better content (just a simple search for "urban sketching" in the title field here on Goodreads will turn up some alternatives).

Also, for whatever reason the author/artist's color palette REALLY bothered me. SO saturated, especially with orange hues, in every single sketch. It's a very, very recognizable and distinctive style, so for someone who is about publicizing his sketches I suppose that works, but I disliked how inaccurate a lot of his color tones were, and how repetitious his images were. Ever single indoor event started looking the same, with the same three colors and orange skin tone for every single person in every single image ever. I understand sticking to a limited palette in the field, but personally I didn't care for his color choices.

And I didn't like how he showed how to digitally alter sketches and "improve" them after the fact, even though he said he rarely does it (why even include that in the book then?)--I really believe in keeping field sketching/urban sketching authentic to that moment, and letting go of the need to 'perfect' sketches. They are JUST sketches after all, and in the end, I felt this book was a very different take on urban sketching than what I am looking for. My artistic vision and philosophy just really don't line up with the author's, and that's fine, but I am sure other people may find some of the same drawbacks in this book as I did. If you are an aspiring artist and thinking of purchasing this book, request it from the library or check it out in a bookstore first. It may not cover the things you are looking for.

Rachel says

I really enjoyed reading this all over the place, and it's tremendously motivating. I always want to sketch when I read this book, and managed to jump back into it a bit this summer.

Ingrid Hardy says

This is one of two books about field sketching that I've just finished reading. Love this. I'm finally making time for this again, field sketching is just so great for strengthening plain old drawing skills - haven't done it since I was single.

The author's use of Photoshop seems to defeat the point of sketching like this, but then again, it all depends on what the end use of the sketch is for. The drawings in the book are wonderful to look at and very inspiring.
