

# Sketching

## A Few Thoughts on Sketching and Inspiration

You wouldn't expect an athlete or a footballer to give of their best without exercising and preparing for their game or run, well it's the same with art — you cannot expect to develop as an artist without “warming up”. **Sketching is the way to do it!**

Sketching makes you look at the world around you whilst refining your skills with pencil, or the brush, or the pen, in fact with whatever you decide to use to sketch.

One of the hardest things about art as a hobby is finding that next subject, getting the enthusiasm to depict something that has taken your interest, or waiting for inspiration to strike. That moment of inspiration can strike at almost any time but I find sitting sketching and the quiet moments of thought that go with it often trigger inspiration .

A passing boat, an old gnarled tree, an industrial horizon, the simple observation of a passing event, all offer possibilities, a chance to sketch and maybe take the drawing further as a full blown painting.

Regard everything as potential subject matter and you will never be short of inspiration and ideas for paintings.

It's not always about the subject matter itself...sometimes it might be the light, the interesting shadow cast by a building , colours, reflections in fact anything that motivates you and makes you want to record what you see.

And it's not just when you are on holiday in some balmy tropical hideaway, the urban environment seethes with potential subjects just waiting for you to spot them.

If you haven't sketched or painted outside before, you may need to pluck up courage to begin, but do not let a fear of what others may think prevent you from enjoying the bounty of the subjects the “great outdoors” presents! In fact never worry about what other people think, enjoy the relaxation and sense of achievement that comes from such an engrossing pastime.

To get started all you need is a small pad (A5 size is ideal) and pencil and ensure you always have them with you when you are out and about. You can sketch in the airport, waiting for a train, in the park watching the dog run round... in fact sketch the dog! There is ALWAYS something to draw - a tree, your shoe, your garden gate, cars, clouds.....

With every sketch you learn a little more about; how to look, how to record, how to refine your drawing technique.

It will become a visual diary, (always pop a date on the drawing )you will be able to look back and see how you have progressed...and you will!

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examples from my sketchbooks