

Sketching Your Way to Engagement & Connection: Urban Sketching & Advisement

WNY Advising Virtual Conference

John Sauter, Richelle Brown, Joel Park

Slides: <http://bit.ly/WNYA2021USKSlides>

Questions: <http://bit.ly/WNYA2021USKQuestions>

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Overview

How often do advisors slow down and look deeply at our students, policies, and institutions? This session challenges attendees to explore advising practices through the concepts and artistic process of urban sketching (USK), or drawing on location. Urban sketching is a creative activity based on observation and community that fosters mindfulness, self-care, and engagement with students and colleagues. It requires focus, perspective, flexibility to overcome perfection when facing “happy little accidents,” and adaptability in light of Covid-19 with virtual and sketch-at-home variations. Presenters will share their perspectives as artists and advisors. Attendees will be encouraged to consider their artistic thought processes and the application of these concepts to their roles as advising professionals through takeaway resources, challenges, and tips for sketching their own campuses.



Presenters

John Sauter, Ph.D., Niagara University,
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Instagram: [@JpsInkArt](https://www.instagram.com/JpsInkArt) / [@JohnPSauter](https://www.instagram.com/JohnPSauter)
Twitter/ [@JohnPSauter](https://twitter.com/JohnPSauter)

Richelle Brown, Freelancing/Job Searching
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Twitter: [@stateofther](https://twitter.com/stateofther)

Joel Parker, Univ. Of Florida,
jpark@eng.ufl.edu

ASK US QUESTIONS
[Submit a Question Here](#)

Interactive Urban Sketching Challenge

While we aren't able to sketch on location, we encourage you to join us for the WNY Advising Urban Sketching Challenge. Find the nearest pen or pencil and utilize the resources below to try your hand at sketching your surroundings, either from your campus, or from home if you are virtual.

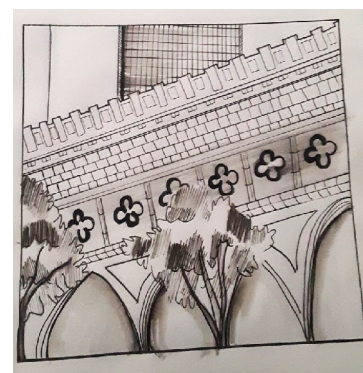
Submit an Sketch Drawn on Location - [Submit a Sketch Here](#)

- Submit a sketch drawn on location near your campus, or your home office if working virtually. **Sketches Due March 1st, 2021**
- One entry per professional

Gallery & Prizes:

- [Gallery & Previous Winners](https://saproart.weebly.com/gallery.html) - <https://saproart.weebly.com/gallery.html>

The sketch to the right was submitted by Maria Held, Sr. Academic Advisor, Univ. of New Mexico



Share your sketches and insights on social media with the following hashtags.

- #WNYAdvising (official conference hashtag)
- #SAProArt (hashtag for student affairs professionals art)

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Urban Sketching on Campus:


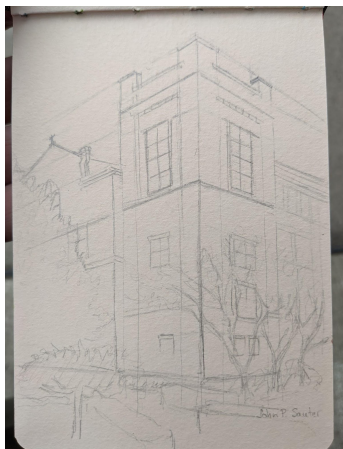


Urban sketching is the art of drawing on location, creating a record of what you see, and sharing your creations with others (<http://www.urbansketchers.org/>). If you can doodle, you can urban sketch. Urban sketching allows you to notice details and experience your campus in ways that photography alone cannot. Despite the challenges of time, weather, and moving subjects, sketching on location helps overcome perfectionism by forcing looser expressive sketches, splashes of color, & “happy little accidents.”

- Look around you for inspiration. Find a location you want to draw on campus or in the community (iconic locations or symbols). Set aside a few lunch breaks for sketching.
- Don't forget that you can simplify the drawing, focusing on one aspect (adding detail or color to highlight it), or even draw the mundane (coffee cup...) with background context.
- Create a small on-the-go art kit starting with what you actually use (mechanical pencil, waterproof pen, limited color options (marker, colored pencils, waterbrush/watercolors, small travel mixed media/watercolor sketchbook)
- Urban sketching is a supportive community for all levels of artists:
 - Urban Sketchers (USK) FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/urbansketchers>
 - USK Chapters https://uskmem.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=225&club_id=174485
 - Urban Sketchers Buffalo FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/983595948403372>
 - Rochester Sketch Group: <https://www.meetup.com/RochesterSketchers/>
- The more you draw the more you will improve. Creating a sketching habit can go a long way to improving your skills. Sketch on your lunch break, find local artist groups, or join a sketch meet. <http://www.urbansketchers.org/p/list-of-chapters.html>

Example Urban Sketch (Demonstration)

This sketch of St. Vincent's Hall at Niagara University was completed over 2 lunch breaks. The first day laid out the main details & structure in pencil on toned paper. On the second day, pen was applied over the initial pencil sketch and details and value were added. White pencil was added at the end to lighten the sky.

View a Time-Lapse Video of this Sketch (10 Min): <https://youtu.be/IYieOuQ3zF8>

On Location	Preliminary Pencil Sketch	Final Ink Sketch	Sketch in Context
			

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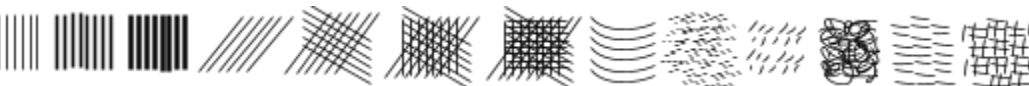
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Urban Sketching Tools

<p>Pencil: Vary the pencil pressure or grades (H-B) to vary the darkness on the page.</p>	 <p>- Any pencil will work, but graded pencils have ranges of values from hard/light (H) to soft/dark (B). I recommend starting with a light sketch and adding value as you go.</p> <p>- Mechanical Pencils avoid the need for sharpening but may not cover large areas quickly.</p>
<p>Pen & Ink: Vary the thickness/texture/shading. Natural objects (Trees, Bushes, etc... often have irregular textures/edges. (see below for more techniques)</p>	 <p>- Waterproof ink (often pigment based) works well under watercolor.</p> <p>- Watersoluble ink (often dye based) may run with water but can create washes.</p> <p>- Brush Pens can be used for expressive/variable lines.</p> <p>- You can't erase ink easily, so be more deliberate in what you sketch to preserve the background and consider the positive (focus/object) & negative space (background)</p>
<p>Colored Pencil: Slowly layer colors for more realistic effects.</p>	<p>- Colored Pencils can add a quick bit of color or texture to a sketch</p> <p>- Blending/Burnishing: Lay colors lightly in layers starting with the color closest to what you want to end up with (smooth paper accepts fewer layers). You can then use a light/white pencil with more pressure to burnish/combine layers to create blends/shading.</p>
<p>Watercolor: Thicker paper that can handle water washes is important for this medium. A waterbrush can simplify the need to carry water.</p>	<p>- Watercolor is transparent (more water = lighter) and dries lighter than applied.</p> <p>- Gouache is an opaque paint that works similar to watercolor.</p> <p>- Work light to dark and use the waterbrush & dot palette to mix your colors</p> <p>- Wet on Dry. Use a wet brush on dry paper for crisper lines.</p> <p>- Wet on Wet. Wet paper/watercolor will disperse paint for softer blends/edges/washes.</p> <p>- Dry on Dry: Minimal water allows for a thicker application of color & texture</p>
<p>Sketchbooks: Travel size sketchbooks with a rigid cover are easier to hold when sketching on location.</p>	<p>Any paper will do in a pinch, but it depends on what you want to do with it.</p> <p>- A basic sketchbook has a slight tooth (roughness) & works well for pencils / dry media</p> <p>- A Smooth paper works best for clean crisp pen and ink drawings.</p> <p>- A heavier paper that can handle water is ideal for watercolors & painting.</p>

SAPro Art Community (#SAProArt)

The SAPro Art community was founded by NACADA members and celebrates creativity, art, and innovation among advisors, student affairs professionals, faculty, and other higher education professionals who want to connect over a shared love of creating or appreciating art in many forms.

- #SAProArt Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAProArt/>
- #SAProArt hashtag:
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/saproart?f=live>,
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/saproart/>
- #SAProArt Coloring Book & Past Presentations: <http://bit.ly/saproartcoloringbook1>

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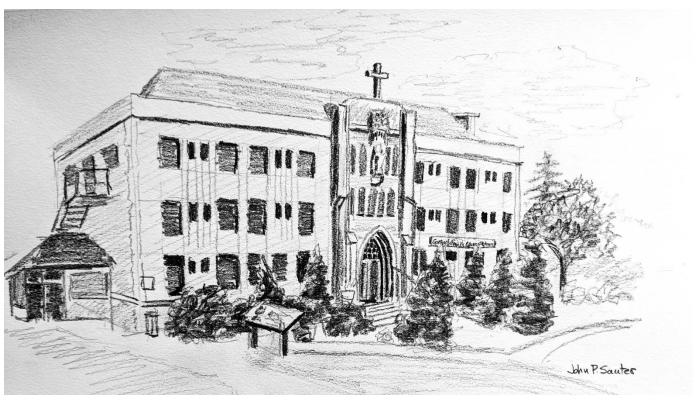
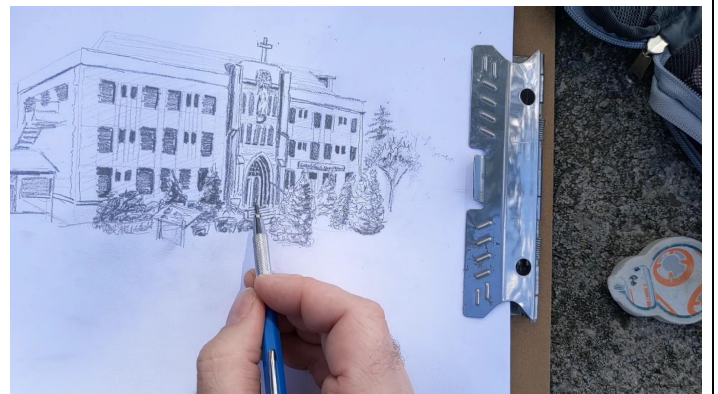
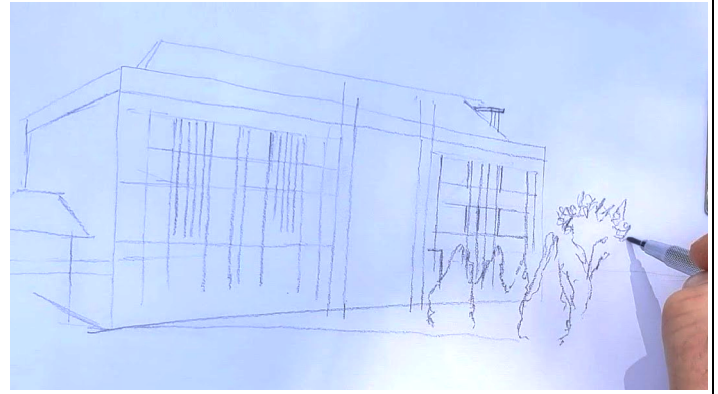
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Example Urban Sketch (Demonstration)

This pencil sketch of Gacioch Hall at Niagara University was completed in one 45 minute session. The perspective and structure was first laid out in pencil, then details were added, and finished off with shadows and shading.

View a Time-Lapse Video of this Sketch (8 min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh0b_Wp55wU&t



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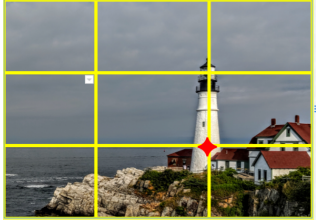

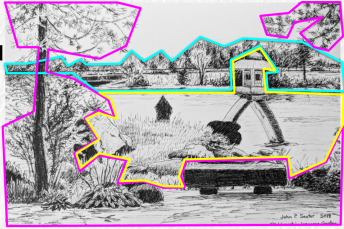
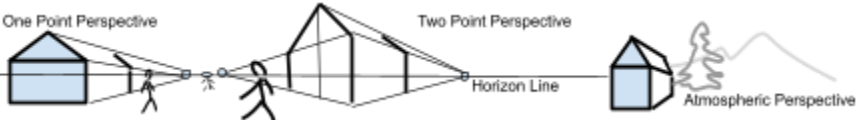
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Step by Step Guide to Sketching

There are many different ways to approach urban sketching, the following is just one example. Pick what works for you, have fun, and work through any “happy little accidents” along the way.

<p>Step 1 - Find Your Focus (something of interest)</p>	<p>This will be the most developed part of your sketch. The rest doesn't need to be as developed, so let the edges fade out</p>
<p>Step 2 - Framing Your Sketch Decide where you want your focus to be featured in your sketch.</p>	<p>The rule of threes suggests that rather than centering your focus on the page, you divide your sketch into three parts vertically and horizontally and place your center of focus along the intersecting lines for a more pleasing composition.</p> 
<p>Step 3 - Find your Eye Level / Horizon Line</p>	<p>Everything above your eye level (pink) descends to the horizon line (you will only see the bottom of objects) Everything below your eye level ascends to the horizon line (you will only see the top of objects)</p> 
<p>Step 4 - Determine your Perspective Approach Perspective helps to mimic depth and three dimensions on two dimensional paper. It also helps to maintain a relationship between the elements of your sketch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fore/Mid/Background - Atmospheric Perspective - 1 Point Perspective - 2 Point Perspective - 3 Point Perspective - Curvilinear (Fish Eye) Perspective 	<p>Simple / Atmospheric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreground: Most detail / darkest values / warm colors • Middleground: Some detail / midrange values / muted colors • Background: Little detail / light values / muted cool colors  <p>1 Point (Front of building or back wall is a square or rectangle). Lines coming toward or away from you (buildings, walls, roads, furniture, etc...) will converge on a single vanishing point on the horizon. See the blue lines in the photo above for an example.</p>  <p>2 Point (You are looking at the corner of a building/wall where everything in line with one wall goes to one vanishing point and everything on the other wall goes to the other vanishing point.</p>

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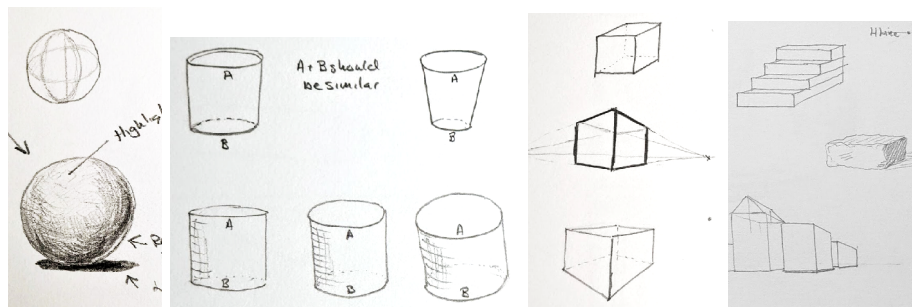
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Step 5 - Building the Bones

Rough out the main lines, contours, and shape of your sketch in light pencil. Understanding the underlying shapes can help you to build the structure of your sketch.



Step 6 - Add Details & Texture

(This can be with pencil, ink, or paint depending on your goal). You don't have to add detail to the whole sketch. The most detail should be centered around your focus while background objects should be less detailed. If you add a lot of details with ink keep the colors simple or vice versa to avoid overwhelming the sketch. (see next page for ink textures)



Step 7 - Add Contrast, Tone, Shadows, Color

(Repeat with Ink & Paint if necessary).

Add Contrast through Shading (on objects), Cast Shadows (on ground) & Color/Shapes helps add depth to a sketch. Remember the heaviest contrast should be centered around your focus.



Step 8 - Share your Creation on Social Media or Participate in Our Challenge

(details above)

Share your artistic works in any media with the #SAProArt hashtag. If it was a sketch on location you can use #urbansketch, #urbansketching, #urbansketcher, #urbansketchers, #usk or share it in the USK FB Group.

Extra: Color Theory:

Primary colors mix to make other Hues. The less colors mixed together the more vibrant the color. Adding white, black, or gray influences the Tint, Shade, Tone. Muted & cool colors recede into the background of a sketch.

Primary Colors: Blue (B), Yellow (Y), Red (R) mix to make other colors.
 Secondary Colors: B+Y=Green (G), R+Y=Orange (O), B+R=Violet (V)
 Tertiary Colors: Yellow-green, Blue-green, Blue-violet, Red-violet, Red-orange, Yellow-orange
 Complementary Colors (Y+V, R+G, B+O) Will mute colors & create browns & near blacks.
 White (W) affects Tint & lightens colors.
 Black (W) affects Shade & darkens colors (Careful a little goes a long way!),
 Grey (W+B) affects Tone and dulls colors.

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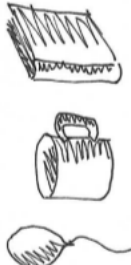
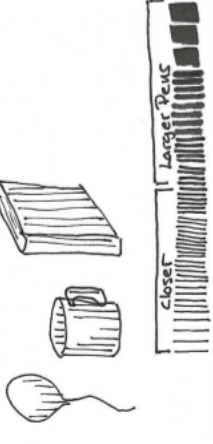
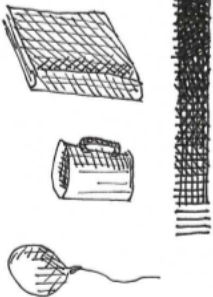
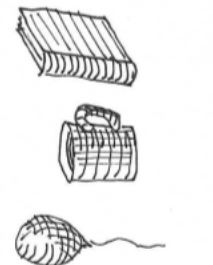

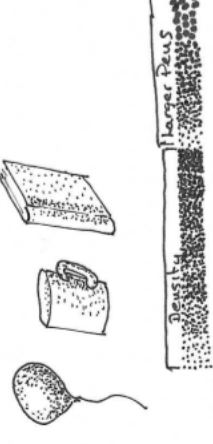
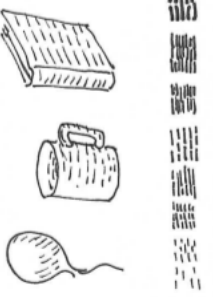
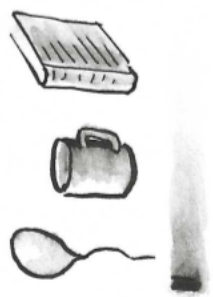
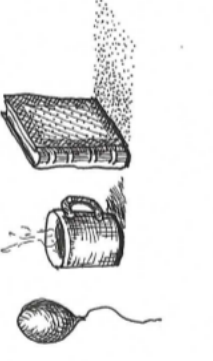

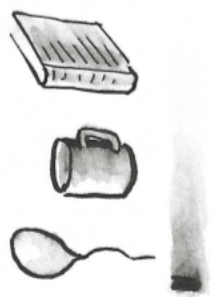
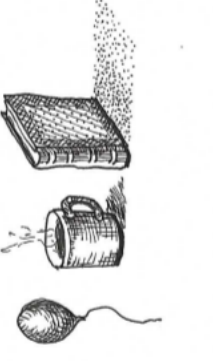

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Guide to Pen & Ink Sketching Techniques

<p>Dr. John Sauter, Niagara University</p> <p>FAA 305 Urban Sketching - Ink Practice Sheet</p>	<p>Contour Lines (outline)</p> 	<p>Line Variation</p> 	<p>Zig Zag / Back & Forth</p> 
<p>Hatch</p> 	<p>Cross-Hatch</p> 	<p>Cross Contour</p> 	<p>Scumbling</p> 
<p>Stippling</p> 	<p>Dashes</p> 	<p>Wash or Patterns 2</p> 	<p>A Combination of Techniques</p> 
<p>Patterns 1</p> 	<p>Patterns 2</p> 	<p>Wash or Patterns 1</p> 	<p>Patterns 3</p> 

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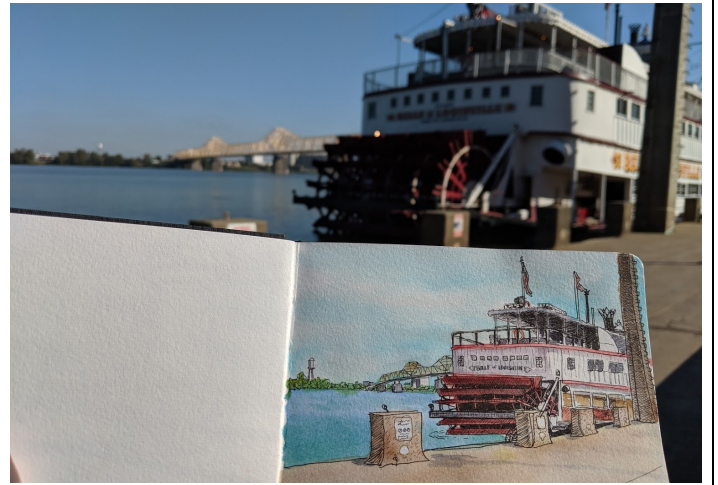
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Example Urban Sketch

This pen and wash sketch of the Belle of Louisville, was completed at the NACADA Conference in 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky. The sketch was laid out in pen with a watercolor wash for color.



Interview with Dana Saylor about Urban Sketchers Buffalo / Sketching

I sat down with Dana Saylor, an artist, architectural historian, and community change maker (<https://www.danasaylor.com/>), to chat about her perspectives on urban sketching and experiences as the founder of the Urban Sketchers Buffalo (#UrbanSketchersBuffalo)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/983595948403372>.

- Video (22 Min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg7M3xpty8Y>



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FAA 305 Urban Sketching - Ink Practice Sheet	Dr. John Sauter, Niagara University
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Line Variation	
Hatch	Cross-Hatch
Cross-Contour	
Stippling	Dashes
Scumbling	
Patterns 1	Wash or Patterns 2
	A Combination of Techniques