

Tip #38

Keeping A Sketch Journal



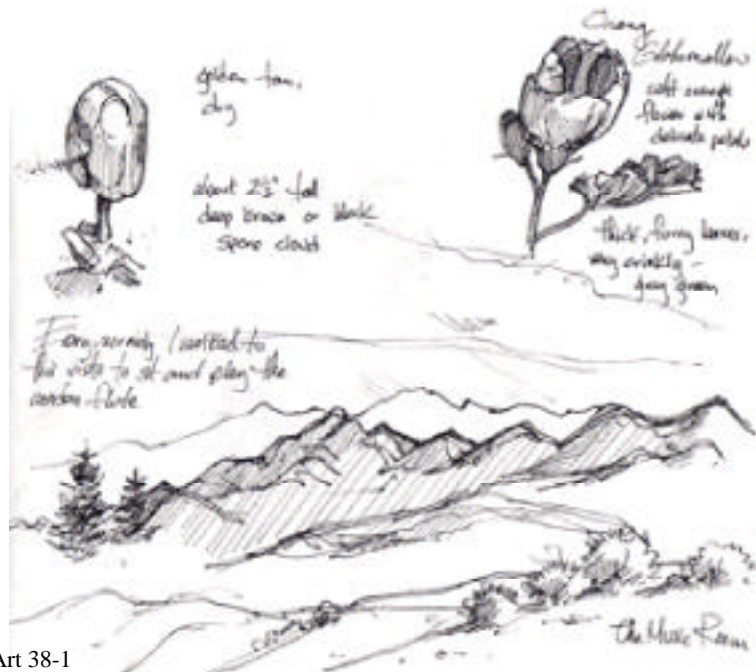
Have you ever wondered where life was GOING in such a hurry? Do the months and days and hours fly by in a rush and you can't remember what you did yesterday, let alone last month? Well, as an artist there is a lovely way to slow that rush, and to celebrate the things in our lives, both large and small. You can keep a sketch journal.

Similar in concept to a diary, a sketch journal can contain drawings, sketches and even paintings, but also words-snippets of notes, observations, bits of conversation. You can work through a sticky situation, and sketch out various solutions. Record that special trip, document the growth and changes in your children. Draw the birds that visit your feeder, or study the wildflowers in your local park. You can plan ahead, with visuals and written notes. Sketch the plan for next spring's garden, take minutes-and annotate them with caricatures! - at a boring meeting, even write your grocery list, right in your sketch journal.

Art 38-1, sketchbook

This journal page records a trip to the desert Southwest-I used a Micron Pigma pen, and sketched the landscape along with the tiny details I found at my feet.

Work in pencil, ink, color pencil, watercolor-what-ever suits the subject and your mood. Paste in photos, boarding passes, maps-whatever you like!



Art 38-1

Art 38-2, lunch

You can even record such everyday things as a special lunch out-I'd forgotten my pen and borrowed a blue ballpoint, then added watercolor washes when I got home.

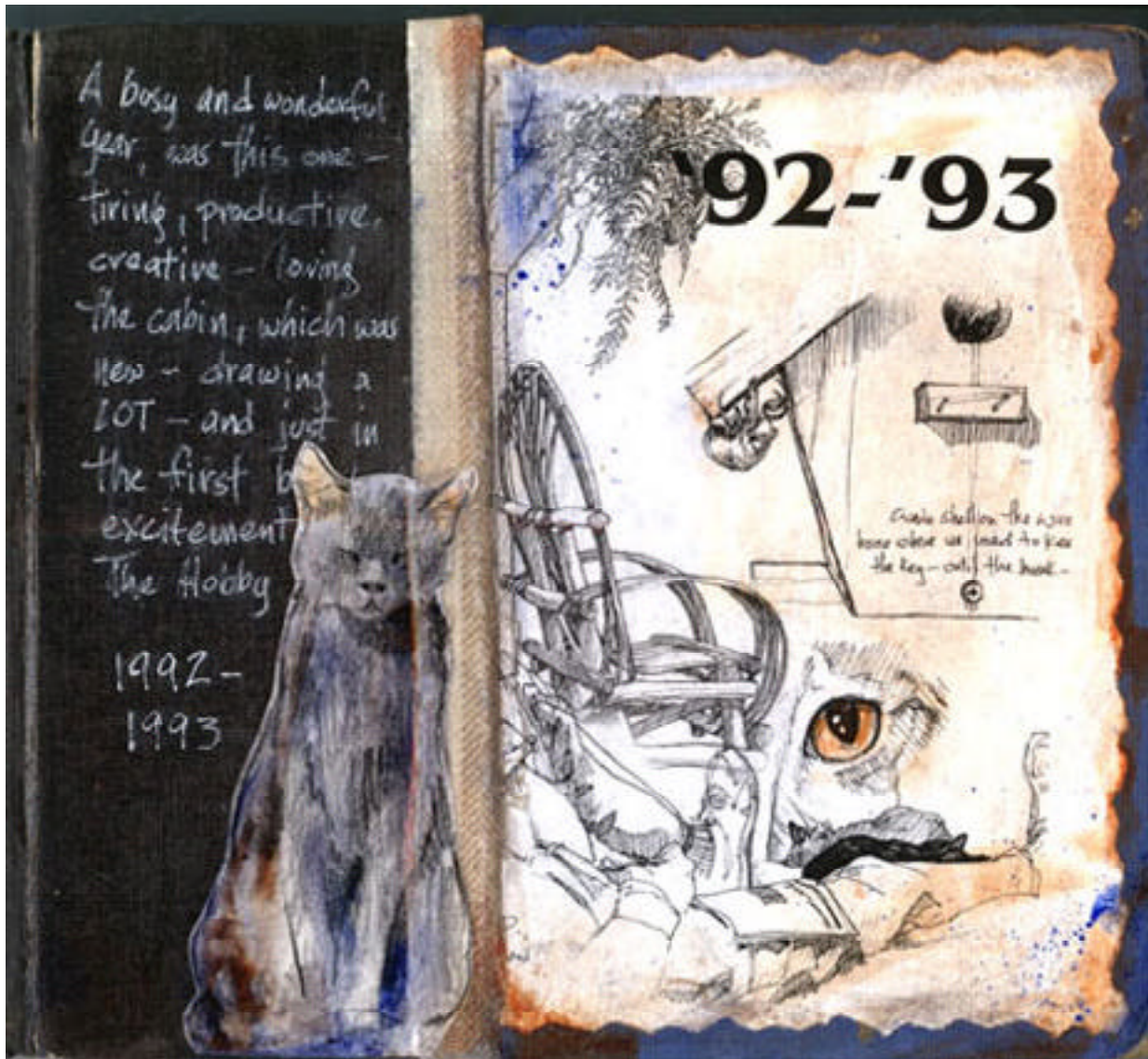
I've kept such a journal for many years, and have a real *pile* of volumes now! It's fun and satisfying and sometimes sobering to look back at my life ... and sometimes it even reminds me of something I'd forgotten! (Like what year a favorite stray cat showed up on my doorstep, or what it was like when I first saw the land my cabin is on.)



Art 38-2

Art 38-3, journal cover

Just for fun, I've been going back through old journals and pulling out some representative art, then making a collage for the cover. Beats an index, any time!



Art 38-3

The beauty of a sketch journal is that you are creating an illuminated journal...that was the subtitle of artist and writer Hannah Hinchman's wonderful book, *A Life in Hand*, which I highly recommend. If you like the concept, consider joining a group like Danny Gregory's Everyday Matters group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/everydaymatters/>) on Yahoo, for lots of encouragement, information, shared images - you name it!

You'll find my artwork on new products in my Cafepress store at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson and original fine art auctions on eBay at <http://members.ebay.com/aboutme/cathyjohnsonart>.

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