

Tip #104



MORE on quick sketching

If I waited till I actually had TIME to sketch, I wouldn't get much sketching done; I fit it in around other things. Waiting at a doctor's office, sitting in a parking lot, waiting for my meal in a café or for a show to start; I manage to sketch SOMETHING, almost any time.

There are a lot of fast-sketching techniques, of course – you'll find your favorites and use them most often! For now, though, try these on for size...

Do a detail, if you like, rather than trying to capture the whole person or scene. Work small, instead of trying to include everything in a larger sketch. You can see a LOT of examples of this kind of sketching on my Flickr album called Journal Sketches, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cathy-johnson/sets/72057594095439524/>



Art 104-1, Redguy

Remember the stick figures we drew when we were very young? That's still a viable way to sketch a pose that changes quickly! You can always add more to it if you have the chance – flesh it out, add volume, clothe it, whatever, but you've got the pose, now!

Art 104-2, Prayer Pose

If you've got a broad pencil, charcoal, watercolor, etc., make a form with more volume. It's just as fast, and may capture the pose in a more believable, solid fashion.



Art 104-3, Red Merlin

Blocking in forms works, too – just imagine the head, torso, legs, etc. as shapes (geometric ones, if that helps you), and allow them to overlap. Again, finish them up if you find you have more time. Just go for the pose, don't worry about likeness or accuracy!



Art 104-4, Family

When sketching people, I find I usually start with the top of the head and forehead, then the eyes – I have no end of sketches from family gatherings of hair and eyes! (Sometimes they even resemble my family...)

Give these techniques a try—and feel free to share what you've done on Flickr or your blog, I'd love to see them.

Please drop by my artists blog, <http://katequicksilvr.livejournal.com/>, my fine arts gallery blog, located at <http://cathyjohnsonart.blogspot.com/>, where I often offer mini-demos, my CafePress store, located at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, where you can find instructional CDs for artists, or drop by for a visit on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/cathy.johnson1>!

