

Tip #121

Quick Sketching Techniques

We're all so busy these days, with jobs or careers, kids, family obligations, chores, school, sports, Church – and even the Internet. Someone told me recently that they had trouble finding time to be creative, it had too much competition from reading and browsing – and I can understand that, I spend time online, too, and I love to read!



And many of the things we want to sketch are ephemeral ... they move, fast! People in a busy café, kids at play, a sports event, a bird at your feeder, your dog or cat ... even your spouse, reading, moves more than you'd imagine.

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Try gesture sketches, or memory sketches – classic techniques for quick sketching.

When we travel, we often have only moments to dash down a few lines. That's fine too! Many times that first impression captures something that would be lost if you had hours to fiddle with it.



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Keep it simple ... don't feel you have to use all the tools in your arsenal. If you don't carry too much, you won't feel as if you have to lay everything out before you start sketching. For years, I worked with a single black Micron Pigma pen in my journal, with an occasional dark gray colored pencil thrown in. This one was a fountain pen with touches of white colored pencil, while I ate my burger!

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I *enjoy* the freshness of a quick sketch ... they're lively and energetic, and by definition you can't overwork them! You can always go back later and restate lines, refine your sketch, add a bit of watercolor or colored pencil, whatever. You can train your memory, add color notes to work from later, or just let it stand as is ... it will still capture your response to that very moment.

I'm delighted – but not all that surprised! – that my quick sketching mini-classes have gone over so well in the year they've been available.

We all need tips on how to get the most out of the time we have for art. I'll have one up on quick sketching in color in the next few months!

And of course there's much, much more in my classes (cathyjohnson.info/online.html), including videos.

I've got videos on YouTube, too ... I invite you to explore!

Here's an intro to quick sketching, youtube.com/watch?v=qpNPcGrD1Dg&list=UU-0C-TE8q6fAM_GadOvo7A&index=14&feature=plcp, and a teaser on quick sketching in color, youtube.com/watch?v=leOkCbR9rbQ&list=UU-0C-TE8q6fAM_GadOvo7A&index=13&feature=plcp.

121-4 (These are some of the quick demos from my mini-class!)

Let your brush speak for you ... try a variety of brushmarks for quick sketching, youtube.com/watch?v=PgJRYypHLek&list=UU-0C-TE8q6f-AM_GadOvo7A&index=10&feature=plcp.

Check out all my YouTube videos for lots more art tutorials, youtube.com/user/KateJosTube.

I'd love to have you visit my artist's blog at katequicksilvr.livejournal.com/, my brand new Etsy store where I'll be offering some of the demos from my classes at etsy.com/shop/CathyJohnsonArt, my catalog where you can find instructional CDs for artists, or drop by for a visit on Facebook, facebook.com/cathy.johnson1!

