

Tip #45

Keeping a Journal of a Special Trip

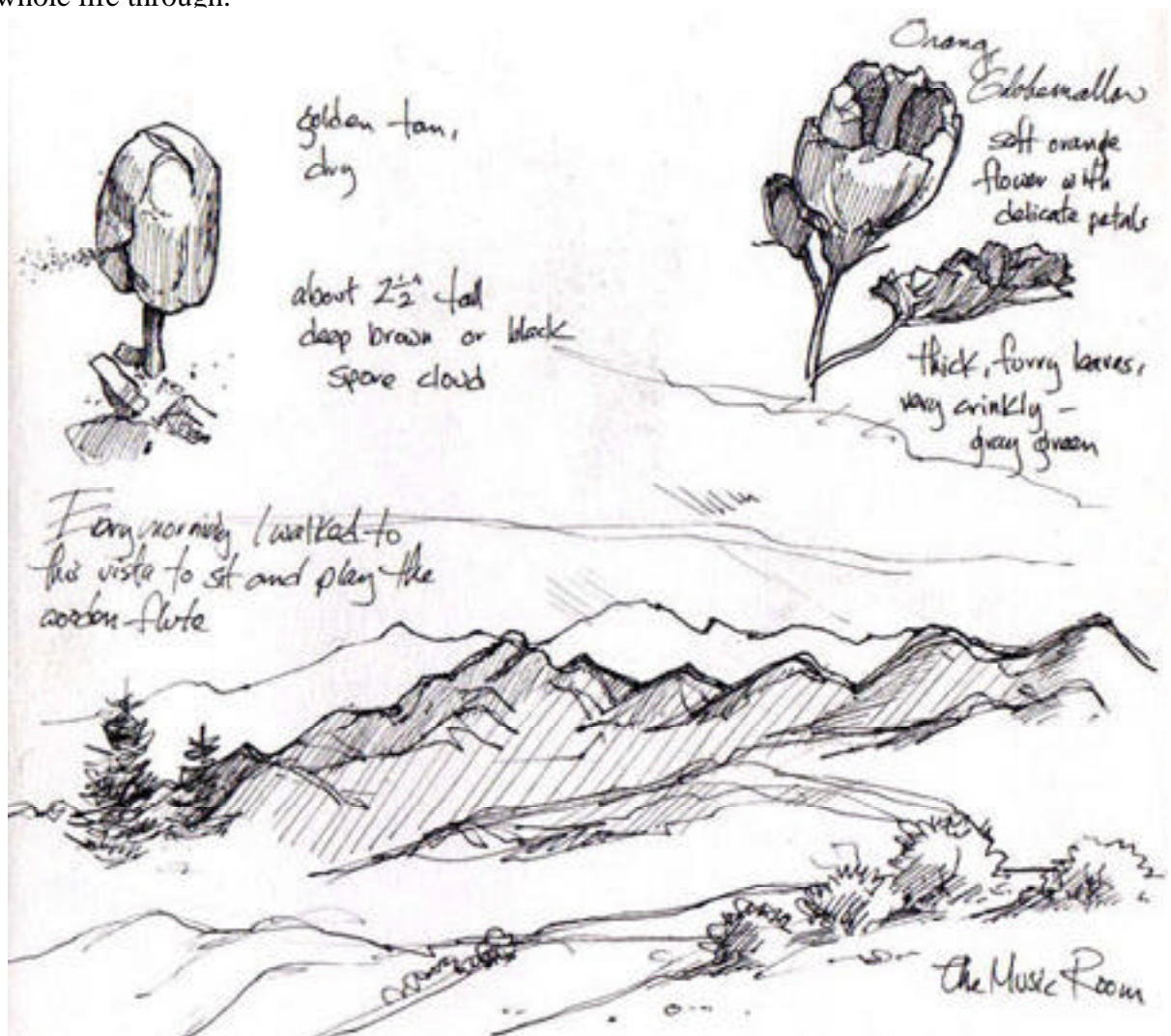
Some trips are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and some appear more ordinary and familiar. But the fact is that ANY journey that we take time to record in our own sketches and notes becomes special! Things do change, even in our normal haunts...and recording them in our sketch journals only helps us to see them as the delightful and unique things that they really are.

How much more so when we take a trip to the ocean, the desert, a place with unique or unfamiliar natural history, an old French town with architecture that may be 200 years old-or a thousand! The sketches we make of the people and places we see preserves them in our memories far more intimately than a photo can, because we take time to forge a relationship as we draw. We pay attention.

Make it as simple or as complex as you like-take as long as you need to! Work in black and white-even a #2 pencil if that's all you have-or break out the watercolor pencils or travel set of watercolors. Paste in your boarding pass, receipt from the restaurant you drew, or tickets to a special show ... but DO be sure to "bring it back alive." The pleasure you derive from revisiting your sketch journals, as well as the memories your drawings preserve, will last you your whole life through.

Art 45-1

If you love nature, then record what you find, wherever you are-the scenery, flowers, animals, birds, whatever. This page of sketches is from Nevada, done with a very simple black line from a technical pen.





Art 45-2

The original of this view of the Bolduc House in early 18th century Ste.

Genevieve, was also done with a technical pen, but I decided to redo it in color with watercolor pencils-it seemed to capture something of Ste. Gen's colorful past!

Art 45-2

Art 45-3

If you have longer to work, break out the watercolors and do a completed color sketch in your journal. I can still feel the heat of the day and remember conversations from this visit to Virginia's Colonial Williamsburg.

I've filled almost a whole hardcover journal with sketches from Maine, Nevada, California, Tennessee and more ... and the

drawings I took time to do keep my as memories fresh as if they were yesterday!

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>.



Art 45-3