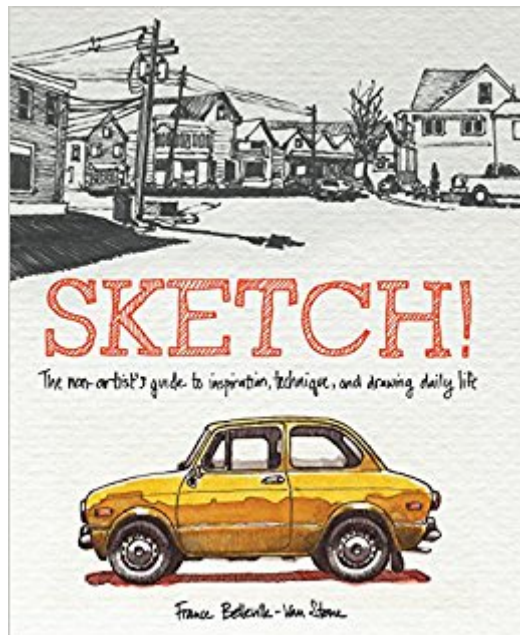




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Sketch!: The Non-Artist's Guide To Inspiration, Technique, And Drawing Daily Life



Synopsis

Drawing activities, art instruction, and advice for artists and non-artists alike.

Urban sketching--the process of drawing on the go as a regular practice--is a hot trend in the drawing world. It's also a practical necessity for creatively minded people in a busy world. In this aspirational guide, self-taught French artist France Belleville-Van Stone emboldens readers to craft a ritual of their own and devote more time to art, even if it's just 10 minutes a day. She offers motivation to move beyond the comfort zone, as well as instruction on turning rough sketches into finished work. Belleville Van-Stone learned how to draw through her own daily practice and knows first-hand how hard it is to find time to incorporate creativity into a busy life. She encourages and teaches us how to do it with advice and guidance such as:

- An A-to-Z list of daily sketch prompts, from airports to bananas, faces to hands, meetings and workplaces
- Tips on what drawing supplies you can and should have--and how to carry them around
- Sections on accepting mistakes, drawing with limited resources, and redefining completion
- Plusses and minuses of going digital, including apps, styluses, and brushes

For those of us who dream of drawing in the minutes between school and work, bathtime and bedtime, and waking and walking out the door, the practical advice in *Sketch!* is a revelation. By sharing her own creative process, Belleville-Van Stone *Sketch!* inspires artists both established and aspiring to rethink their daily practice, sketch for the pure joy of it, and document their lives and the world around them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Stuffed to the brim with original sketches, [Sketch!] is the motivational book every aspiring creative needs. Written by a self-taught, or ðœuntaught, artist, it serves as a guide for readers who want to make drawing a daily part of their lives—even if they don’t have years of art school behind them.” •Huffington Post

FRANCE BELLEVILLE-VAN STONE is a self-taught French artist who loved cars and drawing as a child. As an adult, she studied English instead of going to art school, and became a public school teacher. She has been living and teaching full-time in the U.S. since late 2004.

I enjoyed reading this book but it was not what I expected or wanted. The author talks a lot about her personal experiences with drawing and there are lots of her drawings and sketches all through the book. It’s the story of her personal journey as an artist and I think if you are an artist yourself, you’ll really love this. However, although the book is supposed to be a “non-artist’s guide,” I didn’t feel it really was directed at me. It focuses more on inspiring you to make drawing part of your daily life than on how to draw. Although there is a chapter on supplies and one on basic techniques, it’s really not a “how-to” book. I think this book is really geared for someone who at least has some basic artistic knowledge and ability. There is a long alphabetical list of prompts but if you don’t know HOW to draw, all the ideas of WHAT to draw won’t do you much good. Basically, if you are looking for inspiration and motivation, you’ll probably love this book. If you’re looking for help in learning how to draw, go elsewhere.

Just received this book and I love it! I’ve been drawing and painting for 30+ years and yes, I already know a lot of the content but the author has a wonderful way with words, she makes the topic fun and enjoyable, no dry academic slog here. Also lots of information on up-to-date current supplies, like water brushes and the best available sketchbooks for every type of drawing. I’m looking forward to the chapter on computer/tablet apps and best digital drawing apps. Even though drawing and sketching is an old subject this book brings it to life in today’s world. Her drawings/illustrations are wonderful and inspirational too. I highly recommend this book for artists of every level.

This is an excellent beginner’s book on stepping into sketching, watercolor sketching, art journaling,

whatever you'd like to call it. France is both inspiring but more, she is a good teacher -- so very many artists are not! It was too basic for me, but so good my husband picked it up and loved it. She gets specific about what she likes (that is what you want, trust me) and even covers digital sketching in case you like that. She is encouraging, helpful, inspiring -- what more can you ask. If you are advanced you may want to look at some of my other posts. If you are beginner or are an artist who is struggling with issues such as blank page or children -- then this is a good book.

Absolutely loved France Belleville-Van Stone's "Sketch!: The Non-Artist's Guide to Inspiration, Technique, and Drawing Daily Life," as it completely delivered on the title's promise. Now this is not a 'how to sketch' book in the traditional sense. Beyond the obligatory discussion on material choice (which was refreshingly non-dogmatic, by the way), the focus here is more subtle and nuanced. It was not until nearly the end that I realized that Ms. Belleville-Van Stone's journey is really the story of my journey (and the journey of many others, I suspect)--a burning desire to create coupled with the need to balance life's other activities and commitments, and still make art. Even in very small increments. I think that is what I found so inspirational--knowing that it's okay if you can only steal five minutes away out of your hectic day for a quick drawing that seems disjointed from the last quick drawing done in your 'cheap' sketchbook. Over time, the narrative of your work emerges (and your skill increases). If you are looking for a more structured approach to incorporating a sketching habit into your daily life, there may be better books to get you there. However, if you are interested in how one woman has grown her art over time, with all of life's challenges and distractions, and feel you can apply the lessons learned to your own situation, I would highly recommend this book.

What a wonderful book filled with delightful drawings and tips to recharge your desire to pick up your pencil and pen, grab your sketchbook, and start drawing again! I'd stopped drawing because I now realize I complicated the process, focusing on the final drawing so much that it was no longer enjoyable. I'd lost my enthusiasm for it and abandoned an important part of my life. This terrific book, which I discovered on the author's blog that I accidentally pulled up while online, has reminded me to worry less about the result and focus more on the process. And that all it really takes is a few minutes here and there to enjoy drawing once again; such a wonderful way to slow down and to notice all the interesting people and things that surround me each day. Excuse me please while I go find my long-lost sketchbook...

She's a great sketch artist, but this book has a lot of "Guys, I'm really not that great at this" in it,

which doesn't help when her sketches are AMAZING and mine are drivels.

I adore everything about this book: The author's personal observations, her kind encouragement to the beginner artist, her helpful tips, and most of all her beautiful and inspiring sketches. I highly recommend it for anyone who has wanted to improve their drawing skills, but who has been too intimidated to or confused to know where to start.

If you're ever in a creative rut, pick up this book. It will inspire you! France Belleville-Van Stone has a natural artistic talent and I'm sure most people wish they had her mad sketching skills (I do!), but she wrote this book for the untrained artists, like me, that draw because it is just something we HAVE to do. Sometimes life gets in the way of things we love. The suggestions that France share are meant to inspire us to change our expectations of completing a finished drawing and bust through that creative block. She gives us tools to expand our horizons by trying new media, change things up with 10-minute drawings, and other great suggestions. The A-Z prompts she provides in Chapter 6 are meant to inspire us to take those few minutes in our rushed world and put pencil to paper and draw for the sheer love of it! France's drawings are incredible! This book makes a great gift for the aspiring artist!

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