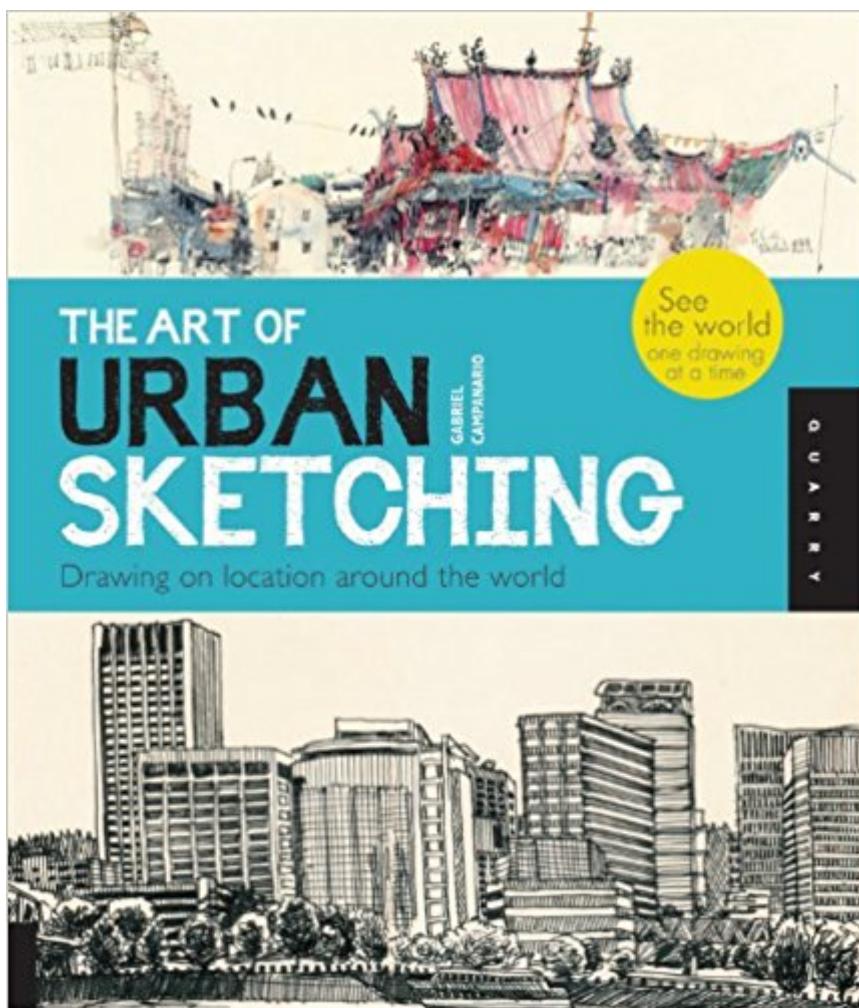


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# The Art Of Urban Sketching: Drawing On Location Around The World



## Synopsis

The Art of Urban Sketching is both a comprehensive guide and a showcase of location drawings by artists around the world who draw the cities where they live and travel. Authored by the founder of the nonprofit organization Urban Sketchers ([www.urbansketchers.org](http://www.urbansketchers.org)), this beautiful, 320-page volume explains urban sketching within the context of a long historical tradition and how it is being practiced today. With profiles of leading practitioners and discussions of the benefits of working in this art form, this inspiring book shows how one can participate and experience this creative outlet through modern-day social networks and online activity. You'll find more than 600 beautiful, contemporary illustrations, as well as artists' profiles and extended captions where these urban sketchers share their stories, how they work, sketching tips, and the tools behind each drawing. With sketches and observations from more than 50 cities in more than 30 countries, The Art of Urban Sketching offers a visually arresting, storytelling take on urban life from different cultures and artistic styles, as well as insight into various drawing techniques and mediums.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Campanario founded the nonprofit organization Urban Sketchers, and this book showcases the work of over 100 artists worldwide who draw scenes from the cities where they live and travel, posting them at [urbansketchers.org](http://urbansketchers.org). The concept caught on fast, and new groups are forming

around the world, connecting with each other online. Here, Campanario offers guidance on tools, techniques, the urban environment, and drawing styles, but the main strength of this book is the 500-plus full-color examples of successful sketches drawn in metropolises and towns all over the globe. VERDICT: Part travel book, part art instruction, this is a great guide to look at before (or instead of) your next vacation." - Library Journal

Gabriel Campanario is a staff artist at The Seattle Times and the founder of Urban Sketchers ([www.urbansketchers.org](http://www.urbansketchers.org)), a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the art of on-location drawing. Campanario's newspaper column, Seattle Sketcher, was awarded first place for blog writing in "The Best of the West" journalism contest. The blog and weekly print column, which combine location sketches and written stories, have quickly become popular in the Seattle area, where Campanario has been featured in TV and radio appearances. A native Spaniard, Campanario moved to the U.S. in 1998 and has lived near Seattle with his wife and two children since 2006. His journalism career spans two decades, working for newspapers in Barcelona, Lisbon, California, and Virginia. Campanario has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain.[urbansketchers.org](http://urbansketchers.org)

This book is stuffed with excellent information. Each selected artist contributor is separated by a color rim in page with tab of the geographical area he/she sketched. The first section is on what urban sketching is, and what it means to be an urban sketcher. The next is on supplies but is a small portion of this very thick 319 page book. Then the artists are each given a few pages to discuss the sketches shown, and tips and tricks they use to get it done, like how to draw a full page spread and tips to get it done, or how to zone in on your composition, maybe just drawing the entry way of a building rather than the entire thing. Or as you look at drawings (and there are lots of them; hundreds,) an artist will tell of the drawing experience and then give a tip like, " for this drawing I literally started on the right side of the page and worked my way leftward until I reached the other edge which accounts for the idiosyncratic perspective." - Walt Taylor. And there are tips for drawing on subways, buses, etc, or in cafes and restaurants, and drawing people in action and tips on getting them done. There's even an artist who discusses how to draw events or performances, and another just on drawing food. I could go on and on. I have many urban sketching books, but this has by far become my absolute favorite and go to book. I recommend this book for seasoned artists as well as beginners. There are tips and tricks and exercises from hundreds of artists literally from all over the world. And if you have ever looked at someone's sketch and thought, wow I wonder what

he was thinking when he drew this, or I wonder what approach was taken to get this on paper, for a seasoned artist this would be a great read also. The book is laid out in a very organized way and it will be in my library forever! Excellent book.

I have admired the sketches of author Gabriel Campanario ever since they started appearing weekly in The Seattle Times. Known as the Seattle Sketcher, Campanario takes even the most commonly photographed, iconic Seattle scenes, such as the Pike Place Market, and gives them his fresh, personal perspective that no camera can capture. I was so inspired that I became an urban sketcher myself. As I dug for more of his work on his personal blog, I was led to the local and then the international Urban Sketchers blogs (initiated by Campanario), which showed me the world "one drawing at a time" - and further compelled me to explore my city (and any city I visit) with a sketchbook. Now The Art of Urban Sketching brings to print the same types of visual expressions that I have been admiring online. The 300-plus pages are divided into three parts. The first helps beginning sketchers gather the right tools and attitude to adopt the urban sketchers' manifesto. The second, and largest, section, the meat of the book, compiles the work of more than a hundred artists worldwide giving us their unique urban views. It's nothing short of amazing to see the variety of styles, media and perspectives. Some sketches are casual and loose, while others are intensely detailed. Some are completed in minutes; others in many hours over the course of weeks. All are the result of careful observation and the desire of the artists to truly know a place by sketching it. I especially enjoyed the artist profiles, their first-person anecdotes about the scenes they sketched and the photos of those artists sketching (usually standing on a street corner, sitting against a building or on a bench). I also appreciated brief technical tips the artists offered to make outdoor sketching more comfortable or make drawings more interesting, and information about how long the sketch took and media used. Some sites depicted are easily recognizable because they are widely photographed, yet the sketches are more intimate and personal than most photos. Other cities are less-often seen in the media, so these glimpses of faraway neighborhoods seem led by personal tour guides. The third section covers themes - architecture, seasons, nighttime sketching - that urban artists are compelled to sketch. "People in Action" - my personal favorite sketching subject that I also find most challenging - includes helpful tips on how to capture movement, mood and energy when you only have a few minutes or seconds before the "model" is gone. As a long-time wannabe sketcher, I have read and admired many books on nature sketching (Hannah Hinchman's fine work comes first to mind), but as a city dweller, I don't often or easily see the breathtaking landscapes and wildlife shown in those books. Finally, a book of sketches for the rest of us that makes it clear

that the urban landscape can be as compelling, moving and ever-changing as nature. If you have any desire to capture your urban life in a sketchbook or view how others have captured theirs, you will love this book.

As an architecture student I find it difficult sometimes to tackle on site sketching. Wishing to develop my skills I picked up a number of these types of books to get a feel for what other people do and develop my own style. This book is great in many ways, taking you around the world to different cities, and showing work from a miriod of different sketchers. I especially likes where some sketches told the time it took to create, showing that even seasoned sketchers tend to take a long time to develop a piece. The differing styles created a good range, allowing one to see and decide on which styles appeal most along with different mediums. Although all the art isn't to the same level of expertise, it gives a good overall view of where one can find inspiration and joy in simple things most simply pass by. I do think this book is a little superfluis as the site [...] is an ongoing project, where anyone can add their work for display. This book also does not give intrusion on how to compose good sketches like some other books. I found robert Oliver's "the sketch", and "the sketch: in color" to be more helpful to my development, but if you are not looking to develop your skills as much as looking at sketches of different cities, this book will be fine, if not I highly reccomend the two books mentioned above. You won't be disappointed whatever choice you make.

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