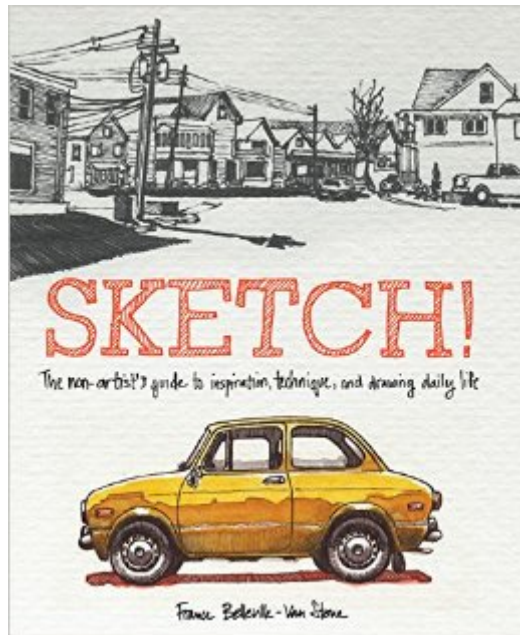


The book was found

# 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

I've never really been able to draw. I can copy images quite well if they are in front of me but my freestyle drawing is quite honestly pants! Proportion is my biggest problem. People will have one leg bigger than the other, animals won't have the right sized bodies and buildings are always a little bit on the wonky side. However, I do really enjoy drawing. I've always wanted to take a sketch book and some pencils, sit on a bench overlooking a gorgeous landscape and draw away for hours. I've got the sketch book and pencils but I haven't made it out of the door with them yet! Sketch by France Belleville-Van Stone is "The non-artist's guide to inspiration, technique, and drawing daily life." Just by looking at the images on the cover and first few pages, I knew that this book would give me the push that I needed. The introduction and first chapter gives us a bit of background on France and shares her journey with art and drawing. I like how she tells us that speed doesn't matter, that failing multiple times doesn't matter, perspective and proportion don't matter, as each time you are drawing, you are learning new skills and developing constantly. The book then moves on to talk about supplies. I found this chapter really useful. I bought myself some cheap pencils and a very basic sketchbook. I know that for now, I don't want to be spending money on a hobby that is in its early stages. However, it is good to have the knowledge about the tolls of the trade and how different tools can create different effects. Once you are familiar with the tools, France talks through exercises to develop simple drawing techniques and 'loosening' up. I am intrigued by the cross-hatching and am looking forward to trying this out myself.

Sketch! is an inspiring book by France Belleville-Van Stone written with the non-artist in mind. This is not a how-to book or a step-by-step "learn how to draw" book, but is rather a book filled with inspiration, tips, and tricks about drawing daily life. The author (France Belleville-Van Stone) does not dive into explanations of basic drawing techniques (perspective, form, etc.) in Sketch!, but she obviously has a grasp on these ideas. In fact - although the author claims that she has not "studied art past middle school", she goes on to mention joining a friend in a graphic design class that they were "both taking at the School of Visual Arts". (Doesn't sound like not studying art to me.) Either way, the author is very talented and the "fails" that she shares in her book are still more advanced than many (or all) of my best efforts. Overall, I appreciated the book's style - the page backgrounds have the appearance of sketchbook/watercolor paper and there are a variety of examples of the author's art shared throughout the book. The book is well-written (although I did find a few typos throughout the book) and the text kept my interest. Sketch! is probably best for someone that is looking for inspiration but does have a previous grasp on basic art concepts. There is a "Basic Techniques" chapter, but, in my opinion, it is a minor part of the book. The book as a whole focuses

on basic black and white (pen/pencil) drawings, with some having color added. (Most of the color added is from watercolor paints.) Chapter 5 does talk about "Going Digital" (including suggestions for 3 iPad apps), but the majority of the book focuses on non-digital sketching. For me, the major draw (pun intended) of Sketch!

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