

Sketching

with FOUNTAIN PENS!



In this workshop we will:

- focus on how to capture a mood
- Experiment with the types of marks fountain pens can make
- Have fun!



But why draw with fountain pens?

Drawing first in ink forces you to Not be too precious with your lines since you can't erase.

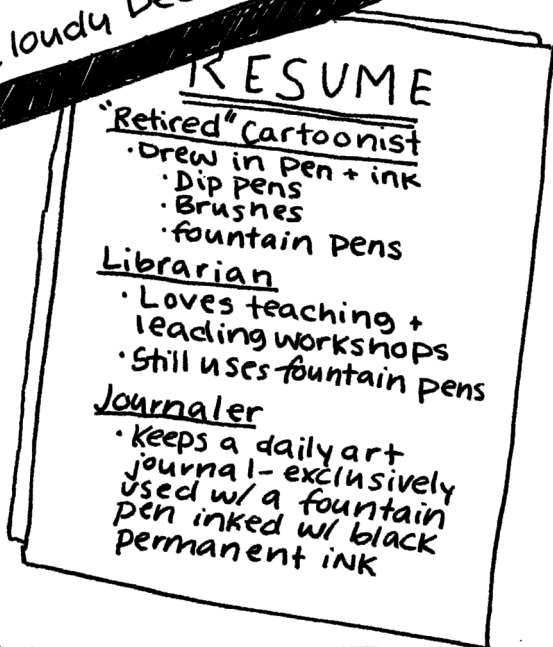
And fountain pens let you fully customize your experience.

Our goal isn't to draw a photo-realistic picture. Because you could just print the photo.





So...why
listen to
me?



I dunno. I
like to draw?



But you're
already here. So
let's just hang
out a bit + have
some fun.

My tools.*

My go to pens/Nibs

Sailor Pro Gear <fine>

Schon full size uitem w/
<Concorde> ground by
kirk speer (reverse fude)

I like my pens to be translucent
(so I can see ink levels) + postable (so I
don't lose my cap when I draw on the
train). And I like my nibs to be very fine
w/ maybe variation on the reverse.



INKS

I use permanent inks (so I
can paint over it) in
neutral colors like:

Black:

SketchINK Lotte fave!
Platinum Carbon Black

Brown:

DeAtramentis Document
INK Sepia Brown

Grey:

SketchINK Thea

PAPER

- I LOVE AG personally
because it's easy to
carry around
- Any fp friendly paper or
mixed media paper is
fine, but my faves:
- MD Thick
- Tomoe River Paper
(sometimes iffy
though)
- Stalogy
- MD "normal" cream
paper



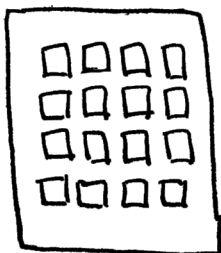
*This zine was drawn
with a Sailor Pro Gear
<fine> inked with Sketch
INK "Lotte" on Strathmore
Bristol paper.

ANYTIME i'm feeling stuck or want to get to know a pen/nib better, this is what I do.

time to warm-up!

1

Make a big 4x4 grid on your page:



2

Label each column with a type of "mark," like:

- lines
- dots
- curves
- dashes
- Xs
- gradient

3

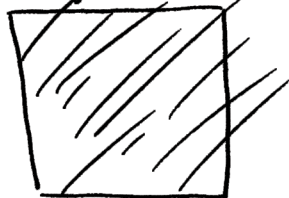
Label each row with a mood or descriptor, like:

- calm
- busy
- big
- small
- blurry
- negative space

4

In each box use the column type to make the row prompt:

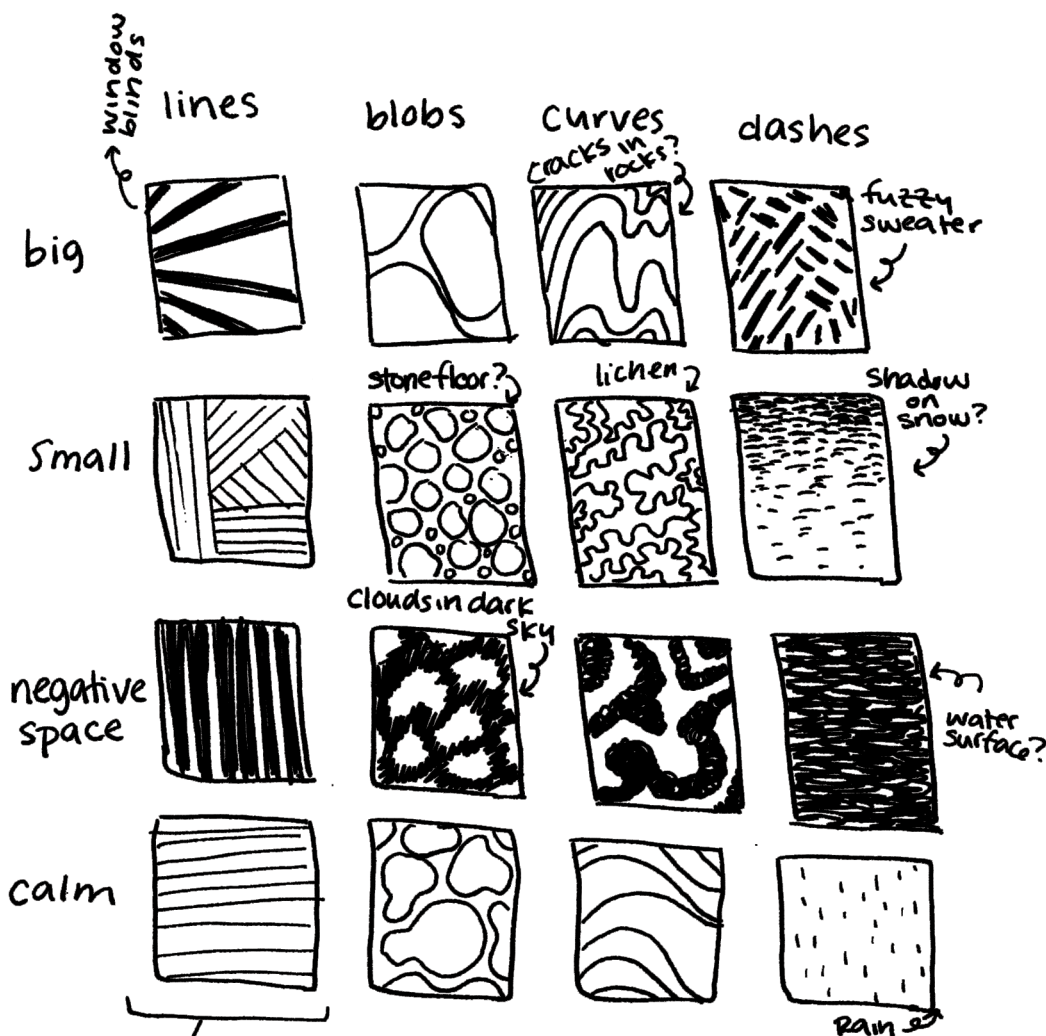
energetic lines



5

Review your marks + think about how you could use them in a drawing. Think outside the box!

Don't overthink it! You only need to spend 30ish seconds on it



→ I think the
"lines" weren't
so successful...

This is a space to play. Go with your first idea, if it doesn't work that's ok. Just go to the next prompt.



NOW LET'S DRAW!

ONE:

pick one priority for your picture to focus on. It can be a mood, how the light looks, a cool architectural detail. It is why you are drawing this picture.

TWO:

Draw the basic shapes of your subject. Trace the original w/ your finger (or a pen if it's printed) to help you see them.

THREE:

Add key shadows. Where are the darkest points of your subject?

FOUR:

Add the key details. Remember your priority. The details should serve that focus. And remember the variety of marks you made in the warm-up.

Optional:

Try adding color as a midtone.

Or multiple colors!

EXAMPLE:

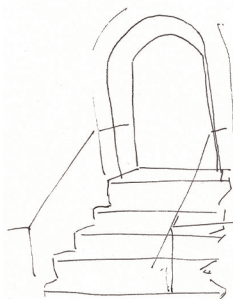
My reference:



My priority, or, why I am drawing this picture?

I really like the door. The rounded top feels very soft and inviting. The door is my focus.

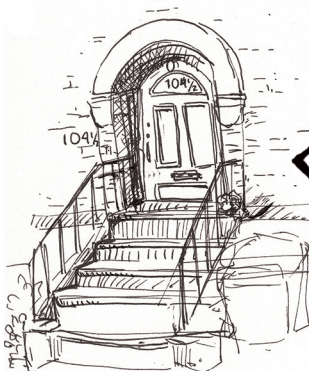
Basic shapes:



I just outlined the things I cared the most about. Angles aren't right but ah well.

The darkest points were around the door + I add some in the steps to get the depth

Key details:



I used details to frame the door w/ them fading outward. And I added the cute door numbers.

I used a light Tombow marker to add some flat midtones + to suggest more bricks. But the goal was to make the door stand out as a highlight.

Adding Shadows:



~ Extras ~





REMEMBER:

- Making marks on a page = making art
- If you're getting frustrated take a quick break
- Looking at other people's work makes you better at art, especially if you articulate what you like about it
- Art is a practice, you'll get better at capturing your vision the more you do it
- Your art isn't bad. It just might not look the way you wanted it to. When this happens I try to find something I like about it - even if it is just one small line. Celebrate what went well!

• HAVE FUN

I recommend these comics if you want to keep on learning. I think comics can teach you a lot about how to capture the essence of an image.

- Tenements, Towers, and Trash, by Julia Wertz
→ so good if you want to draw buildings
- This One Summer, by Jillian Tamaki + Mariko
→ really beautiful nature backgrounds Tamaki
- The Best We Could Do, by Thi Bui
→ gorgeous lines and use of contrast
- Fun Home, by Alison Bechdel
→ great focus on the stuff in a room