

## **149 Sketchbook Ideas**

1. Draw the inside of your closet
2. Draw the contents of your desk drawer
3. Just before your room is cleaned, draw it
4. Draw the contents of your refrigerator
5. Draw the contents of your medicine chest
6. Draw the contents of your garage
7. Draw your dad's work table after he's worked on a project
8. Before the dishes are washed, draw them
9. Draw a pile of laundry waiting to get washed
10. If you have an octopus for a furnace, draw it
11. Draw a pile of bicycles on the sidewalk
12. Draw the guests at your parents dinner party
13. Draw yourself in a mirror
14. Draw your brother/sister practicing his/her instrument
15. Draw your friend shooting hoops in the driveway
16. Draw yourself painting your toenails (if you do)
17. Draw your hand in multiple positions
18. Draw your hand holding a variety of objects
19. Draw your hand against other parts of anatomy (chin, knee, etc.)
20. Draw your bird, cat, dog, fish, snake, leopard, lobster doing something strange
21. Draw what is in the rear-view mirror of your car
22. Draw a dead bird in a beautiful landscape
23. Draw a flower growing next to a turned over garbage can
24. Draw raw chicken parts; cooked parts; after eaten parts
25. Draw a piece of cake and make it look delicious
26. Draw 2 eggs in the shell, fried, over easy
27. Draw one popcorn kernel, draw a bag of popcorn
28. Draw a raw steak, steak bones
29. Draw moving water, still water
30. Draw a wet object, make it look wet
31. Draw an object when looking through a tube (microscope)
32. Draw an object seen through glass (how does the glass make a difference)
33. Draw something floating
34. Draw a dark object in a light environment
35. Draw a dark object in a dark environment
36. Draw the contents of a light room when sitting in a dark room
37. Climb a ladder, draw what is below
38. Climb a mountain (hill), draw what is below
39. Lie on the floor, draw what is eye level
40. Dig a hole, put a whole in the hole, draw what is in the hole
41. Fill in the hole, cover up the whole, draw the covered hole
42. Find a quiet place in a crowd, draw the crowd
43. Find a quiet place, draw the quiet
44. Find a noisy place, draw noise
45. On the school bus, draw your friends on the way to school, draw your friends on the way home. Is

there a difference?

46. Shine a light through an open weave structure, draw the cast shadow
47. Draw an object that is lit by the light coming through mini blinds
48. Draw a portrait that is lit by the light coming through mini blinds
49. Draw an object that is lit by a candle
50. Draw a figure that is lit by a candle
51. Draw your sister/brother by the light cast by the TV or computer screen
52. Draw your father/mother by the light cast from the TV or computer screen
53. Draw an apple, pear, banana
54. Draw an apple, banana, and a wrench
55. Draw a scoop of ice cream and an old shoe
56. Draw an apple, a vacation photo, a hammer and a gold fish
57. Tighten a C clamp on a banana, draw it
58. Draw an apple, pear, and a banana that is tightly wrapped in aluminum foil, plastic wrap
59. Draw an apple, pear, and a banana that is tightly wrapped in string
60. Copy the Mona Lisa
61. Rearrange the Mona Lisa to suit yourself
62. Rearrange the Mona Lisa to suit your art teacher
63. Put Mona Lisa in a contemporary setting
64. Copy any work of art older than you
65. Remake the above work of art in your way
66. Make a drawing that says something about the environment
67. Make a drawing that says something about the world situation
68. Make a drawing that is pure propaganda about any issue you feel strongly about
69. Make a drawing that is totally truthful
70. Make a drawing that lies all over the place
71. Make a drawing that is completely impossible
72. Draw a portrait inside out
73. Draw an apple, pear, banana inside out
74. Look out your bedroom window, draw what you see
75. Look out your bedroom window, draw what you would like to see
76. Draw an apple, pear, banana that is wrapped in an apple, pear, banana
77. Draw a form fitting case made of steel that would fit an apple, pear, banana
78. Draw two squares of a sidewalk and make it look interesting
79. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of grass
80. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of hair
81. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of a feather
82. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of a dollar bill
83. Make a drawing of grass, hair, feathers and a dollar bill
84. Draw an insect under a magnifying glass
85. Rearrange, redesign the insect
86. Change the size relationship (scale) of the insect and something else (i.e. building, ships, cars)
87. Draw a portrait of your best friend as an insect
88. Draw a self portrait of you as a beautiful insect
89. Draw a family insect portrait
90. Copy Copley's Watson and Shark
91. Change the figures depicted in the Copley painting to people you know

92. Rearrange Copley's painting Watson and the Shark to work on dry land
93. Crumple a magazine ad, draw it
94. Crumple a photograph, draw it
95. Crumple a drawing, redraw it crumpled
96. Cut out a photo into small pieces, rearrange the photo in some other order, draw it
97. Make a drawing that looks sticky
98. Make a drawing that oozes
99. Make a drawing of a mechanical structure or machine
100. Make a drawing of a machine that oozes
101. Make a drawing of a machine so that the parts are sticky
102. Make a drawing of a fine mechanical instrument (camera) under water (use your imagination)
103. Draw the Brooklyn Bridge
104. Draw the Brooklyn Bridge over a small body of water i.e. bathtub
105. Draw a form fitted case made of wood and lined with velvet for an apple, pear, and a banana
106. Draw a chair
107. Draw the concept of the uses of a chair (sitting) without the chair
108. Draw a bed
109. Draw the concept of the uses of a bed without a bed without the bed
110. Make a drawing that illustrates the phrase "I have come to a juncture in my life"
111. Make a drawing that illustrates the phrase "There is an insufficiency of intellect"
112. Make a careful drawing that illustrates the word "Haste"
113. Draw the imaginary skeleton of an apple, pear, and banana
114. Draw a monument for a bagel
115. Draw a photograph of an apple, pear, and banana at an angle tilted away from you
116. Draw a portrait of you and your friends as cards; the queen, king, and jack of spades
117. Draw a slice of the best pizza you have ever seen
118. Make a drawing of all your drawing materials
119. Make a detailed drawing of a rock
120. Make a drawing at McDonalds
121. Draw the reflection from light bouncing off a motorcycle
122. Draw your portrait from the reflection of a shiny chrome object i.e. toaster, bowl, spoon
123. Draw the reflection from a body of water
124. Draw the reflection from a store window
125. Draw the reflection of reflection
126. Reflect on your drawing of reflection, draw your retrospection
127. Draw an aerial view of your back yard
128. Draw a transparent object
129. Draw a translucent object
130. Draw a translucent object that is inside a transparent object
131. Draw a translucent apple, pear, and banana
132. Draw a building in which you would like to live
133. Make a drawing using a map of the USA as a motif
134. Make a portrait of yourself as you see yourself in twenty years
135. Make a pastoral drawing
136. Draw life in the city
137. Draw a mysterious doorway or staircase
138. Drape a mysterious object in cloth, draw it

139. Draw a moving object
140. Draw an empty room, make it interesting
141. Draw a woman wearing a big hat
142. Draw a masked man (not a super hero)
143. Draw a sleeping person
144. Draw a flower, make it appear dangerous
145. Draw a person looking out a window
146. Draw a person looking in a window
147. Draw a person reading a letter
148. Draw an apple, pear, and banana in outer space
149. Draw a detailed drawing of a nut and bolt

### Sketchbook Ideas

- Select an above or below point of view in a specific area (your room, kitchen bathroom, outside in a car, etc.) Complete this drawing paying attention to details. You may complete the drawing in pencil, colored, pen, etc.
- Choose a portion of a magazine or newspaper picture. Glue that picture on a page in your sketchbook. Create a drawing that incorporates that picture into a story. You may use more than one magazine or newspaper image but the artwork should be made mainly from your added drawings. This artwork should span 2 pages. You may use color or shading. OR you could use a color scheme (monochromatic, etc).
- Choose an enclosed space- a kitchen cabinet a television, an oven, a refrigerator, in a drawer or closet. What human qualities do the objects in the enclosed space assume when no one is watching? Do the mustard bottles dance? Do the socks play cards? This can be one page with details...be sure and show the interior of the space as well as the objects.
- Over 2 pages show the gradual transformation of a pair of scissors into another object-example: scissors into a shark-Don't Use This Idea-it was my idea. Details are needed in the drawing-color optional.
- If you oft a holiday card from one of these artists what would it look like? Pablo Picasso Berthe Morisot Salvador Dali Georgia O'Keeffe Vincent Van Gogh Frieda Kahlo
- Arrange three related objects (3 kitchen items, 3 shoes, sports equipment, etc.) into a composition. Draw on one page using a light source and shading.
- Create an image using only found images (from magazines. Newspapers, worksheets, etc.) The image should communicate a message or tell a story.
- Practices drawing anything from observation-the most common things are good practice.
- Look at yourself in a spoon- draw the distorted image
- What happens when a 6-foot tall squirrel shows up in your yard?
- Identify an object that relates to your identity. Create an artwork that uses the image of that object (or the actual object) as the single focus of the artwork. Open media.

- Fill in the blank...“I am a \_\_\_\_\_ in this world.” Use the text of the completed sentence to inform the artwork. Open media

- Answer these questions with an image:

1. At age six I was

2. At age twelve I was

3. At age 25 I will be

4. At age 75 I will be

Arrange these images in a composition that communicates your identity

- Illustrate a dream you have had using only 5 symbols (single images that communicate ideas) this may take one or two pages. You may use color or black and white to complete the image. Consider what you know about composition, emphasis, etc. as you build the images.

- Your choice-create a one or two page drawing that demonstrate several of your strongest art skills. This is your chance to create your own assignment as many of you have requested.

- What does the holiday season really mean to you? Your image can be abstract or realistic; you may choose the media. Avoid common images meaning if you choose to show holiday gifts-show them in a creative way.

- Create a design using elements from magazine or newspaper images. Cut and paste the images onto the page in your sketchbook to create the design.

- Practice observational drawing skills by drawing from the following list:

1. Shoes

2. Corner of a room in your house

3. Create an arrangement of objects; use a lamp or other light to make dramatic shadows.

4. Your pet

- Creative views of your car, bicycle, skateboard, etc.

- Make the image reach all the way to the edges of the page. Demonstrate what you know about point of view, emphasis, composition, positive and negative space, etc.

- Practice drawing from your imagination by drawing from the following list:

- What would you see if you grew wings and flew over our town?

- What if your big toe became its own person?

- What if you suddenly became very small?

- Shadows as connectors

This assignment will also be done in your sketchbook. You may draw from a high contrast photos or from direct observation, harshly lit. Do not use any magazine photos of models, which are meant mainly to showcase makeup.

- Draw the face, at least twice, summarizing it into shapes of shadows and light.
- Observe and record how the shadows connect features. Media: your choice of graphite, oil pastel, charcoal, or any media you feel will give you the high contrast you are seeking.
- At least 2 faces. If it is your own, you can just change pose or lighting.
- The eye:

This assignment is to be done in your sketchbook. It involves drawing your eye twice in two very different ways. Both are from direct observation, though.

- Make detailed drawing of your eye and the area around it. Include everything you see when observing closely in clear even lighting.
- For the second drawing, make a drawing in harsh lighting, showing the shapes of the shadows only. Summarize, don't itemize. This drawing will not contain detail, but will accurately represent the shapes of light and shadow on and around your eye area.
- Draw a portrait using light and shadow. In order to achieve strong gradation and a sense of form, place a light from different angles, these can be under the chin, behind the head or from the top. This can be in graphite pencil or colored pencil.
- Study your feet and shoes. Create a strong thick and thin contour drawing of your shoes drawing from different angles. Include more than one drawing on the same page overlapping and filling the format. Pen or pencil.
- Draw a place around the outside of your home. This can be a plant, part of the building or objects on porch. Use ink and watercolor to create a strong contrast between the color and the ink. Crosshatching as a style is suggested but not required.
- Draw bottles and cans. Have them crunched up for details in the reflections and folds in the metal. Include lots of details and show a small area that shows off the reflections and surface quality of the bottle.
- Create a series of positive and negative space designs. On your desk at home stack a few objects into a pile. With a light shining from the back look at the space that is white light and draw the shapes as a contour line shape. Use black paint or ink to fill in the spaces as flat shape. The silhouette of the object should still be seen but new shapes created.
- Draw a piece of furniture in your house. This can be in color or in black and white. Sit in an area and observe the lines and shapes of the piece. Create a format around your observed area -look for textures, gradations, wood grain or interesting shapes and make a detailed study.
- Pop some popcorn. Take a few kernels and look at the shapes and shades created. With pencil and smudge shading, study a few of the kernels and fill the page with them. This drawing should show a good sense of drawing skill and soft grays with a tortillon or some blending device.

- Draw or design a vehicle. This can be a car, spaceship, airplane, boat, motorcycle, bicycle or anything you want. Include details and make it big. Any media
- Draw yourself using a strong light source on one side of your face. Use a mirror and try to have some expression. Focus on the strong shadows created by the light. Use pastel for blocking in large areas with a lesser amount of detail.
- Using color (craypas) create an Impressionist Landscape drawing. Use Van Gogh, Manet, Seraut, Pissaro, Sisley, or Cezanne as your guide. Use the Internet and look up these artists to observe their work. Find a landscape on the net as well and draw it as an Impressionist.
- Draw a series of animals in motion. Such as a cheetah running, a rabbit hopping, a bird flying. This can be in a row.
- Divide the page into three areas with a ruler. Create a very involved contour drawing with pen of a small object of your choice and put it in one of the areas going outside of the shape. Next, in another area, draw the same object with pencil using good shading and proper proportion. For the last area, distort or abstract (like in cubism) the same object using three values or colors