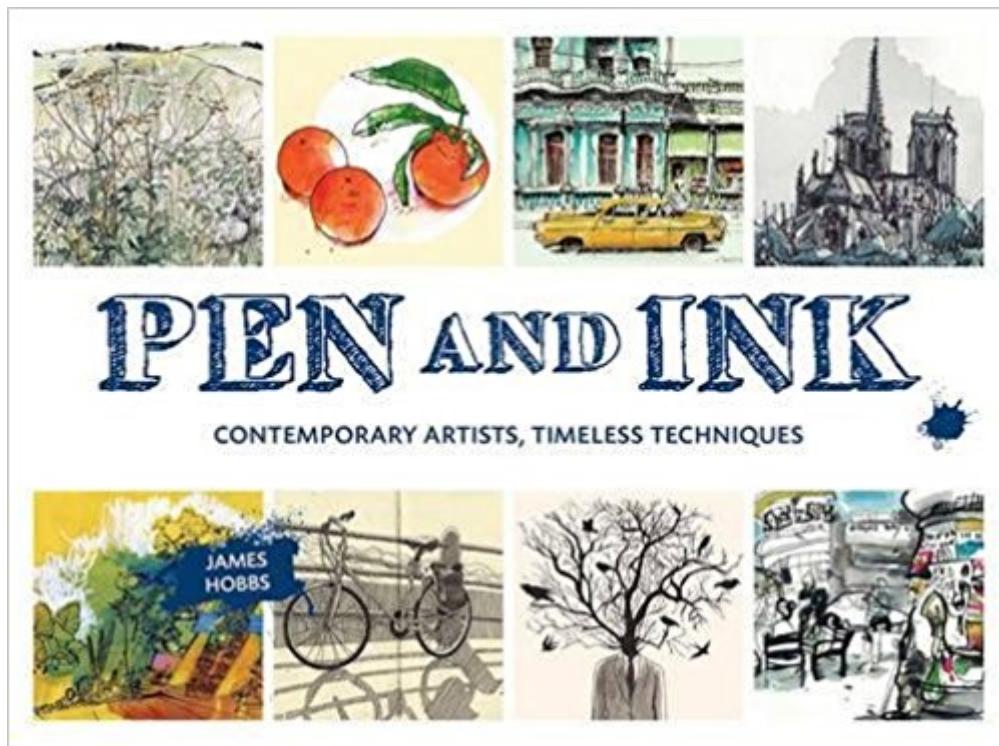


The book was found

## Pen & Ink



## Synopsis

Pen & Ink is packed with page after page of bite-sized creative sketching tips and accessible advice, and offers aspiring artists the freedom to dip in and out for practical information or flick through for fresh inspiration and ideas. Exploring around 200 pieces of artwork by young contemporary artists, Pen & Ink highlights and examines the different techniques, qualities, and effects relating to each piece. Organized into chapters according to the technique exemplified (e.g. water soluble, mixed media) artwork is featured large and luscious, accompanied by extended captions, insightful tips, and practical advice. A detailed index at the front of the book also groups the paintings according to three main categories: Principles (e.g. composition), Media, Type of sketch (e.g. abstract), and Subject (e.g. nature). Listing each page where similar examples may be found, this category index enables the reader to easily identify and cross reference subjects that have been painted in similar styles. Throughout the book, useful information and practical tips are provided on a wide range of topics such as tone, perspective, color, and much more besides. Readers are encouraged to discover the various ways in which similar subjects and styles are executed by different artists, while also being inspired to use the tips in the book as a way of building on their existing skills. Offering a bold, refreshing change from other run-of-the-mill art books, Pen & Ink adopts the unique approach of accessing practical information via the images, focusing on the way subjects can be treated using a whole range of different drawing techniques, rather than looking at how to master one single style. This gives the reader a much wider skill set-allowing them to capture or create the essence of any image in a variety of different ways.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Can a classic medium be brought up to date? You bet it can. The inclusion of many different contributors requires careful curation and James Hobbs has done an excellent job. The whole has a homogeneity that provides a clear narrative... It's an exciting offering that promises and provides much and is a joy to handle." - The Artist

James Hobbs is a freelance journalist and artist, editor of Discover Art magazine, and a former editor of Artists & Illustrators magazine. He is a London correspondent and advisory board member of Urban Sketchers, the worldwide network of sketchbook artists, which boasts thousands of members and Twitter followers. His work was featured in The Art of Urban Sketching and his book Sketch Your World was just released by Apple Press and North Light. He has a penchant for carrying a sketchbook and pens where ever he goes so he can draw on a whim.

I have many, many sketching books. Some are excellent, some are OK and some are bad or just don't deliver what was advertised. This one is excellent, in my opinion. I really enjoy looking at other people's sketches, and this book did not disappoint. And with the mixture of sketches from different artists and comments from the author highlighting techniques, this book is both a reference and inspiration. Well done - I very much enjoyed reading it and it has already earned a spot at the top of the pile!

Here's another wonderful book for pen and ink sketchers. Pen & Ink is like one of those handbook sized instructional/gallery artbooks released by publisher Frances Lincoln. There were two other books that I've featured before, namely Just Add Watercolor and Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art. All three are lovely books! Just like the title suggest, this book covers pen and ink art. It is a book of inspiration with tips, techniques and beautiful examples from artists all over the world. You'll get to see Ch'ng Kiah Kiean's textural strokes with twigs, Marina Grechanik's casual line art, Swasky's child-like interpretation, Patrick Vale's intricate attention to details and a lot of other different styles and techniques. Artist and author James Hobbs also has his own sketches included, and his are quite easy to identify because of the thick strokes. Each spread has an artwork on the right and the left talks about the techniques and the idea behind. The book has 208 pages and there are nearly 100 artworks. The content is grouped according to techniques, so there are chapters on line, tone, colour, texture and pattern, monochrome and mixed media. I enjoy the variety and it's inspiring to see how other artists use the same tools but come up with different effects. This is a book I can see myself going back to again in the future, just like the other

two books mentioned earlier. I recommend to sketchers, and those who like pen and ink art. If you like this book, be sure to check out Matt Rota's *The Art of Ballpoint*. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

I like James Hobbs but had not bought the book because I thought it was all James Hobbs (no offense James but your style is not one I will learn/try out) but this is an EXCELLENT book because he chose amazing, different artists and frankly, they are not the same gang you see in every Urban Sketching book. Totally different artists so am now working on looking some of them up on the web/

Interesting suggestions of where and how to use ink drawings/sketches. Not a how-to.

I was looking for a reference book to gather some inspiration from. This book did not disappoint. I enjoyed the fact that the book was comprised of various artists, examples of their work and an explanation of the thought process behind it.

This is a wonderful, inspiring little book. I'm enjoying it.

It is a medium that encourages a confident approach. . . . It is a medium that is a constant reminder of our failings, and yet it arms us to find our way around them. London-based urban sketcher and journalist James Hobbs has written a book devoted to that medium *Pen and Ink*. With the subtitle *Contemporary Artists, Timeless Techniques*, the book is a wide-ranging collection of works from artists around the globe. Whether using a commonplace ballpoint, exotic fountain pen or not a pen at all but, in fact, a twig, these artists have mastered their tools with the confident approach Hobbs refers to. Ink, indelible and usually permanent, has a reputation for being unforgiving, but that unchangeable mark left on the page also gives full expression to the unique hand making it. *Pen and Ink* is a celebration of that individuality. Divided into sections such as Line, Tone, Color, and Texture and Pattern, the book examines various approaches to using the medium. Each drawing is shown on one page while the facing page is Hobbs' description and analysis of the artist's technique or approach. Often the artist relates inspiration for the drawing or insights about methods. In the final Fundamentals section, the author introduces various types of pens and related materials. While a few works were made from imagination or based on photographs, the vast majority of the drawings were made through direct observation, and readers will recognize many

names from the Urban Sketchers community. I was awed by each drawing and inspired by the collection as an annotated gallery of some of the best contemporary artists working in pen and ink today.

great ideas

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