**CRIW CELF SUMMER SCHOOL AUGUST 2020**

**HOW TO MAKE A CONCERTINA SKETCHBOOK FROM SCRAP MATERIALS**



**For the sketchbook**

Mountcard offcuts x 2 (same size for covers) Masking tape

10 sheets of various textured/coloured papers Pritt stick

1. Decide on how you want to arrange the papers (in what order) I suggest a stronger piece at regular intervals through the middle to ensure the stability of the book when stood upright on display
2. Tape the papers together, side by side ensuring at least one edge is flush
3. Fold taped papers in a zig zag (at taped edge)
4. Glue each end to a piece of mountcard
5. It’s recommended to allow the glue time to dry, don’t use the sketchbook straight away (a few hours should suffice)

**For the sketchbook cover**

Alison Moger’s session shows how to make a cover for your handmade sketchbook as well as other tips on filling your pages and recommends felt, fabrics, pins, embroidery thread…

**OR** you could drqw/paint on your cover as though they are extra pages in your book

**For the drawing en plein air (outdoors) and in the studio**

Pieces of scrap paper – for collage Pritt stick

Scissors/scalpel blade Charcoal

Putty rubber Cheap hairspray

Fillable water paint brushes Water soluble graphite stick

Watercolour paint (pans are more portable) Waterproof fineliner

**Using the concertina sketchbook**

Select a theme – I suggest your environment – indoors & out – local & further afield

Use one page at a time **AND** work over multiple pages varying the scale of your work

Use the book both portrait & landscape

Use panoramic views (over a number of pages) as well as close observation

Work quickly & loosely as well as produce detailed observational drawings

Use both sides

**The drawing materials**

Practice mark making with all of them before you draw anything. Do this straight onto the pages of your book, don’t worry about just filling it with beautiful drawing, fill it with beautiful marks too

Think formal elements:

Texture Line Colour Depth Perspective

Symmetry Asymmetry Shape Form Balance

Contour Tone (etc)

Work from **BOTH** primary & secondary sources

Primary source – actual objects on location

Secondary source – working from photos taken on location (this is useful when the weather changes and forces you to go back indoors)

Alter your photos with filters (greyscale, different colours etc) for further inspiration

**Paint with charcoal** - yes paint! Using plain water, or mixing watercolour with charcoal makes it less dusty to work with and gives some interesting effects

**Draw with charcoal** – additive & reductive.

Additive – build your drawing in terms of **light & dark** not line & shape

Reductive – cover an area in charcoal, then draw with the putty rubber, revealing lights from the dark

**Water soluble graphite** –

* apply a wet paint brush to the stick to lift some of the pigment to work with
* draw as you would with a normal graphite stick, then wash water over it afterwards
* dip the water soluble graphite into water & draw (keep dipping)

**Watercolours & waterproof fineliner** –

Paint some watercolour grounds before going out with your sketchbook

Use loose washes outdoors, plenty of water, work quickly

Try holding your brush in different ways to get various effects/different marks

Mix with charcoal (as above) & the water soluble graphite

Draw with the waterproof fineliner first, then paint loosely within the shapes drawn

Paint with watercolour first then add hard edges to elements with the waterproof fineliners

**For Collage**

Add elements of collage to some of your pages before going outdoors to work as this will inspire you to approach the page differently

Use hand painted papers to add texture to your collages

Work in layers taking each component one at a time

Use mixed media – collage, draw/paint over this

 

Artist Clover Robin Instagram @clover\_robin [www.cloverrobin.com](http://www.cloverrobin.com)

**Combine all or any of the above**

**The more you experiment, the more you will learn about the strengths and limitations of your materials.**

**Have fun!**

Claire Hiett

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