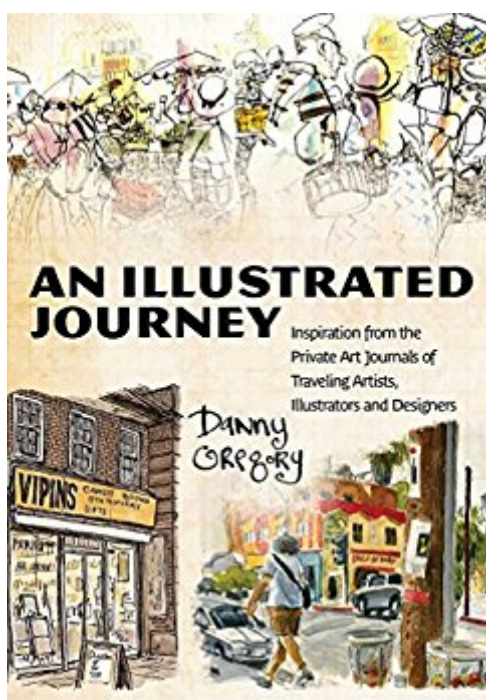


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# An Illustrated Journey: Inspiration From The Private Art Journals Of Traveling Artists, Illustrators And Designers



## Synopsis

Travel + Sketching = Inspiration When we travel, we don't want to follow the same itinerary as everyone who's come before us. We want to feel like explorers, adventurers in undiscovered territory. And that's exactly what sketching can bring to the travel experience. An Illustrated Journey captures the world through the eyes of 40 talented artists, illustrators and designers. You'll experience the wonder of seeing familiar sights through a fresh lens but, more important, you'll be inspired to set pen to paper and capture your own vistas. The really wonderful thing about a sketchbook is that it can be totally private. You don't have to have an ounce of talent to enjoy learning how to really see what's in front of you. But lucky for us, the sketchbooks captured here are lovely, creative, intimate windows into each artist's mind. So, whether you're just returning to the art of drawing, abandoned by most of us after childhood, or you're looking for inspiration to take your illustration work in a new direction, An Illustrated Journey will take you on a wonderful trip of the imagination. All you need to pack are a pencil and a piece of paper.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Putting together examples from people who keep illustrated diaries, especially art from their travels, is a fantastic idea realized by Danny Gregory. First he gave us the gift of showing us his illustrated journals, and now these. It's a beautiful book and will make you want to bring a blank notebook and some pens along on your next trip, whether it's across the world or across the street to the coffee bar. Just do yourself a favor: Get the real paper version of this book. My mistake was succumbing to the need for instant gratification and buying the Kindle version. You will want to see the details on some of these beautiful illustrations, you'll enlarge the art on the Kindle, it will pixelate and no amount of S'mores will console you. Trust me on this.

Danny Gregory's eagerly awaited book, *An Illustrated Journey: Inspiration from the Private Art Journals of Traveling Artists, Illustrators and Designers*, came out a few weeks ago, and after all the anticipation, it does not disappoint. The book is a rich treasury of travel sketches and personal profiles of many inspiring artists. Very similar in format to Gregory's 2008 book, *An Illustrated Life: Drawing Inspiration from the Private Sketchbooks of Artists, Illustrators and Designers*, his latest book profiles 43 travel journal keepers from many countries. Each artist has written a first-person account of his or her background in art and travel, how travel sketching is inspired, and techniques and tools used. Photos of some artists are included, showing them sketching on location. It is particularly illuminating to see the common threads among nearly all the artists - that drawing what they see while traveling enriches their travel experiences, bridges gaps in understanding about other cultures, and evokes memories like no photographs can. It's clear that sketching and traveling have become integrated creative processes for these artists: Seeing new places motivates drawing, and drawing motivates observing more carefully the new places they experience. The meat of the book is a beautiful collection of large, full-color reproductions of art from the artists' travel sketchbooks. These unique, spontaneous views of the world make me want to hop on a plane right now to fill my own sketchbook with the places I visit. Most of the artists included - Miguel "Freehand" Herranz, Nina Johansson, Cathy Johnson, Tommy Kane, Lapin, Veronica Lawlor and Liz Steel, to name a few - are well-known in the blogosphere of the urban sketching/on-location drawing community. A few are less-known discoveries with fresh, surprising perspectives. In fact, if I have any complaints about this beautiful book, it is a tiny one: I wish it had included more travelers who are not professional artists, illustrators or designers, and who are perhaps less well-known. Almost every participant either has an art degree or makes a living using their artistic skills. I have seen online the amazing on-location sketches of so many people who work at "regular" jobs and do not have any kind of art background. I would have loved to see more of them included. Better yet, a

whole volume devoted to the on-location work of non-professional artists would be equally inspiring as this one. How about it, Danny?

I bought this book because I have been reluctant to commit to doing my own journal. The workshop I took on personal journals was technically informative but I still laid back. This book allows the contributing artists to show some of their pages, but also talk about why they do this, and what's going on in their heads. Different stories, common theme. It's not a "how to", but more of a "why to" book. If you like drawing and have thought about journalling, this book is for you. In hindsight, I wish I'd started long ago; the insight I gained from this book motivated me to get going. I started my journal at a local coffee shop (DD). Where it will go this year is a great unknown. Wherever it goes, I'll be there.

I loved this book so much it was near impossible to put down once I started reading! It is simply a sneak peek into the journals of accomplished urban sketchers. Loved pursuing the various styles and approaches represented in the book. I have the kindle version which I read on the iPad. I found the quality on the Kindle iPad app to be appropriate (a bit more zoom would have been even better!). If you are looking for specific "how to" technique, this is not it. If you are a person who learns by studying works of others, you will appreciate this book. It was very enjoyable to read about the different artist profiles, the tools they use and how they approach urban sketching. This is a book I will come back to time and time again. Love it!

Although I enjoyed the wonderful sketches by the numerous artists, I really enjoyed their comments even more. As an artist, I am inspired to try travel sketching... again. To hear the ups-&-downs of these artists as they got into sketching outdoors is encouraging to me as I work through my own ups-&-downs. I also like their comments on their sketching supplies. This book was wonderfully done with a good balance between artwork and stories, plus having a basic format of info from each artist which aids in comparison.

I purchased this book on my kindle for android before leaving for an extended road trip. What a treat it was to read slowly and casually each artist's section at the end of a tiring day. It was a great way to unwind after a day on the road. I appreciated the way Danny Gregory followed a similar outline for each artist's story. Each artist listing their favorite materials for sketching was also enlightening. The only thing I disliked is the illustrations do not enlarge on my tablet. That might not be a problem

on a real Kindle. I like having it on my tablet, and just the other day found myself going back and rereading some of the passages. I would recommend this to persons interested in sketching and keeping a journal, although as a mostly armchair traveler I did like seeing each artist's interpretation of the various places they visited.

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