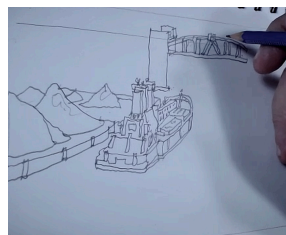
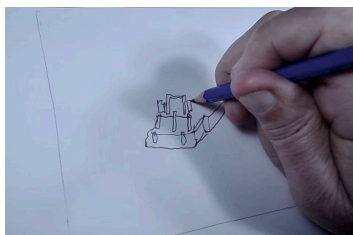


EAA March Zoom Demonstration
Monday, March 3, 2025 @ 7:00p.m.
David Rankin - "Shape Sketching Procedures"



Our presenter for March is David Rankin. Cleveland native, and known for his quick sketches and watercolors. Tonight via Zoom, 25 members were able to follow along for a demo in urban quick sketching, followed by a quick watercolor demo. David touched on the importance of being able to present via Zoom post covid, as artists were able to stay connected when we couldn't be in person. This option is sometimes just as important today, as David did a wonderful demo on Zoom. His first suggestion, go for a drive, pick your location, and take a photo of what you are going to sketch. After you find your subject, you can sit with your sketch book, and start with your main feature, just by sketching out the basic shapes. David uses a smaller sketch book with a 9B pencil for his quick sketches in the field. Best practice for the quick sketch, start with a shape that looks easy to draw (*more on this in the box below*). In this case, David started with the shape at the back of the barge, i.e., the shape that appeared closest to him in the photo. Once you have your main feature finished, you can then build onto it continuing to use your basic shapes. You should take 15-20 minutes per sketch.



After David was done with his quick sketch, he showed us how to apply watercolor, in roughly the same amount of time as his original sketch took. Using Google Earth, you could sketch places from all over the world. David was very encouraging for everyone to give urban sketching a try. You don't need every detail, and it doesn't have to be perfect, to be a wonderful sketch or watercolor. Watch on EAA's YouTube channel....[click here](#).



... MORE GOOD INFORMATION ...

- David created this **Shape Sketching** pdf to remind artists of the various procedures and to provide the practice images he couldn't get to share in the Chat on Zoom. [Click here](#).
- **Where to start sketching a complicated scene?** David also provided this insight and pdf.
"I begin by trying to recall what it was that caught my eye first? Why did I spend that first microsecond visually interested by this image? That's only however if the study of an image comes spontaneously into my gaze.
If however I am practicing and simply examining images with the intent to practice drawing... I begin differently. I've included an image of bridge structure being built over the flats. In this case I am actually engaging the central most powerful piece of advice I can give you!
I look at a subject with a precise goal... an objective! I'm looking for a "SHAPE"... One small single shape... amongst a thousand bits & pieces of the whole image.
In this seemingly simple quest I am looking for a small shape that appears to me to be a shape that looks easy to draw... a shape to begin drawing.
The most powerful and easy way to practice & enhance this unique skill is what I refer to as **Mediation Drawing**. Practicing this procedure is remarkably easy. And results are immediate. I use this technique with a wide range of subjects...but the one that is the easiest is Drawing Flowers. With flowers or plants, in many cases, I also select shapes to draw first by their closeness to me. I'll draw a shape that's closer... and develop it from there." [Click here for pdf](#).