

Off the Rails Arthouse Sketchbook project

We need to keep our spirits up and our minds ticking over!
This project is for everyone and no previous experience is required just a bit of imagination!

So what is the idea?

All you need to do is find a sketchbook and then fill it with things relating to a theme chosen from a long list.

The sketchbook

Over the years I have collected loads of sketchbooks that have never been touched or have a couple of pages filled in. I am sure that many of you will also have a stash hidden away.

If you don't have a suitable book, ask friends and family they may be able to give you one, alternatively you can make up your own- collect all sorts of paper or card e.g use computer paper or bits of found paper, maps, envelopes, packaging etc. then stitch them together to make a book. Or use old diaries or notebooks.

The themes

Choose a theme from the list below.....there are some cracking themes and perfect for imaginative interpretation! If you are going to participate please get in touch and tell us which theme you have chosen, it would be good to know if certain themes have been more engaging.

Fill your sketchbook with.....

Drawings, photographs, writings, collections, collage, thoughts, jottings or combinations of them all. You may be a musician or an actor and have a very different approach to the sketchbook. It is all about thinking and developing ideas.

Here are some pointers to get you started:-

Be imaginative, turn things on their head, look at the theme from different perspectives, some pages may be very simple, some extremely complicated.

Use a variety of media and techniques, even if you are focusing on the written word think about what you are writing with and how it is presented on the page. Cut out sections, add bits, fold, hide, reveal.

Work at your own pace, you don't need to work in it everyday. You may need time to ponder the theme whilst doing something else. Time is on our side. Enjoy the process. For many of us a sketchbook is a private place to explore ideas and thoughts and visually put them into some sort of order. It can be shared or not, the choice is yours.

And then what.....

At some point in the future Off the Rails Arthouse would like to host an exhibition of these sketchbooks, possibly at the end of the year or early next year. We will have to see how things pan out before making any firm decisions but that is the long-term plan. In the meantime through Off the Rails Arthouse website and social media we will encourage sharing sketchbook pages..... it is your choice no pressure!

The project is inspired by The Brooklyn Sketchbook project.

Themes

In 50 years
Ask me how I can help
The first ever
Hope
Things that change other things
In 10 minutes
Along the line
Dancing on the spot
What the patriarchy taught me
2 metres
The view from up here
Last orders
Diagram
Stocktake
The books that made me....
Hidden moves
At the end of the garden
Best before
Fill me with stories
Things found under car seats
Travel with me
The companion books
Transatlantic
It's summer where you are
It's winter where you are
Nothing new
Time traveller
Opposite day
Unchartered waters
Monochromatic
Long trips and short phone calls
Encyclopaedia of.....
Writing on the wall
A path through the trees
Stitches and folds
Heroes and villains
Forks and spoons
Superheroes in everyday clothes
Make mine a double
Great hopes and massive failures
In 10 minutes
Bottles and jars
Distance and time
Photo log
Memoir
Super clothes on everyday people
In 10 years
Right here, right now
Familiar friends
Lifeline