

HUGH HADFIELD



31 Days 54 Sketches

JANUARY 2020

In January 2020 I committed to drawing at least one sketch a day, every day, for one-month.

The rules I set myself were:

The drawing had to be made on the day and posted to Instagram;

the drawing should be observational; and

most importantly this was to happen every day - warts-and-all.

This booklet contains the outputs of that exercise.

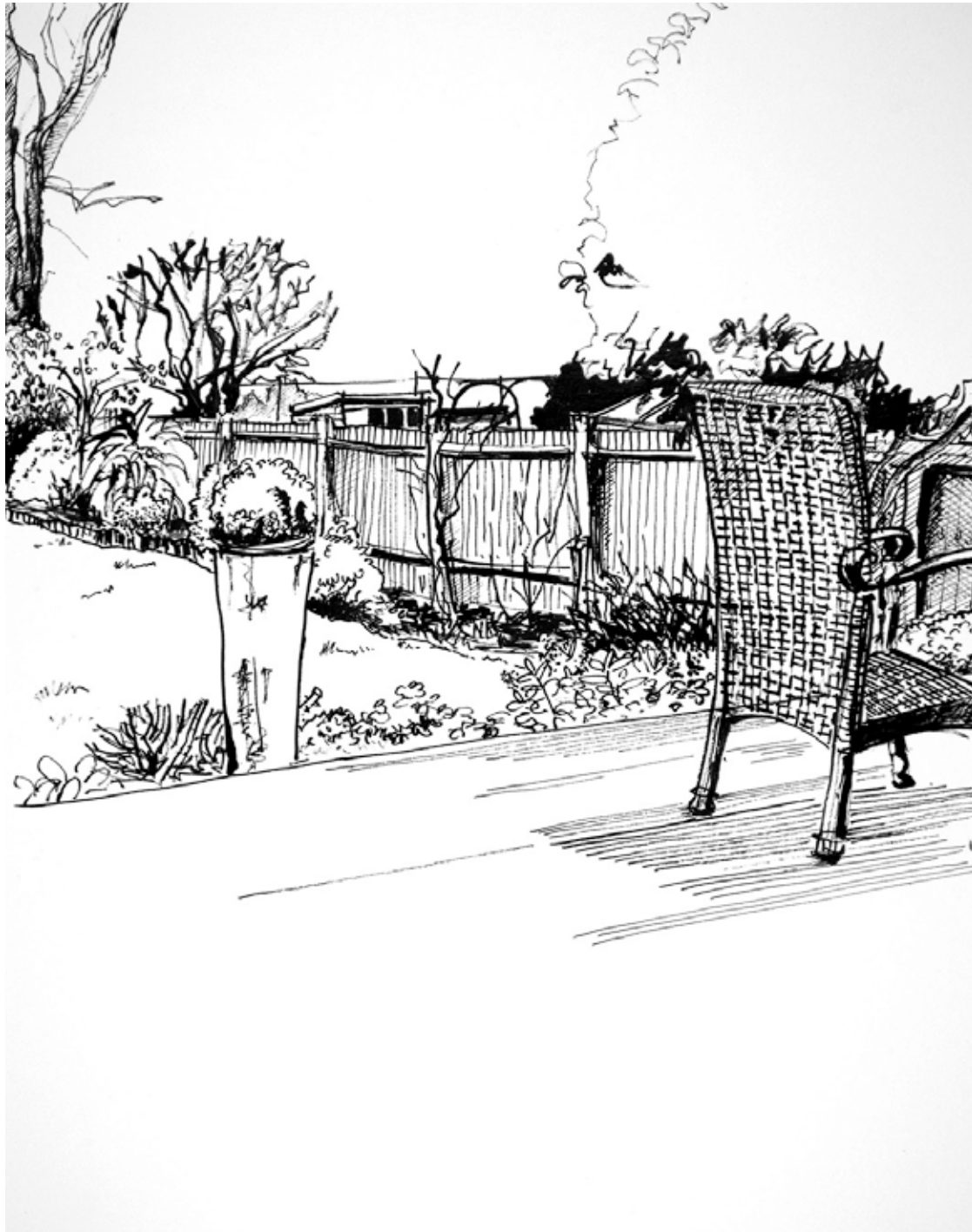


DAY 1

Back garden – view from the kitchen

The first day of a new decade and my first sketch.

Even though the day was grey and overcast I started the year with some colour.



DAY 2

A different point-of-view

I thought it would be interesting to redraw the same subject using different media – this time bamboo pens and Indian Ink.

I was also thinking more carefully about composition; working in triangles.



DAY 3

Through an upstairs window

The sky was bright and cold today and the late afternoon sun cast dark shadows across the lawn.

I tried to be inventive with texture and mark making using a black Sharpie marker pen.

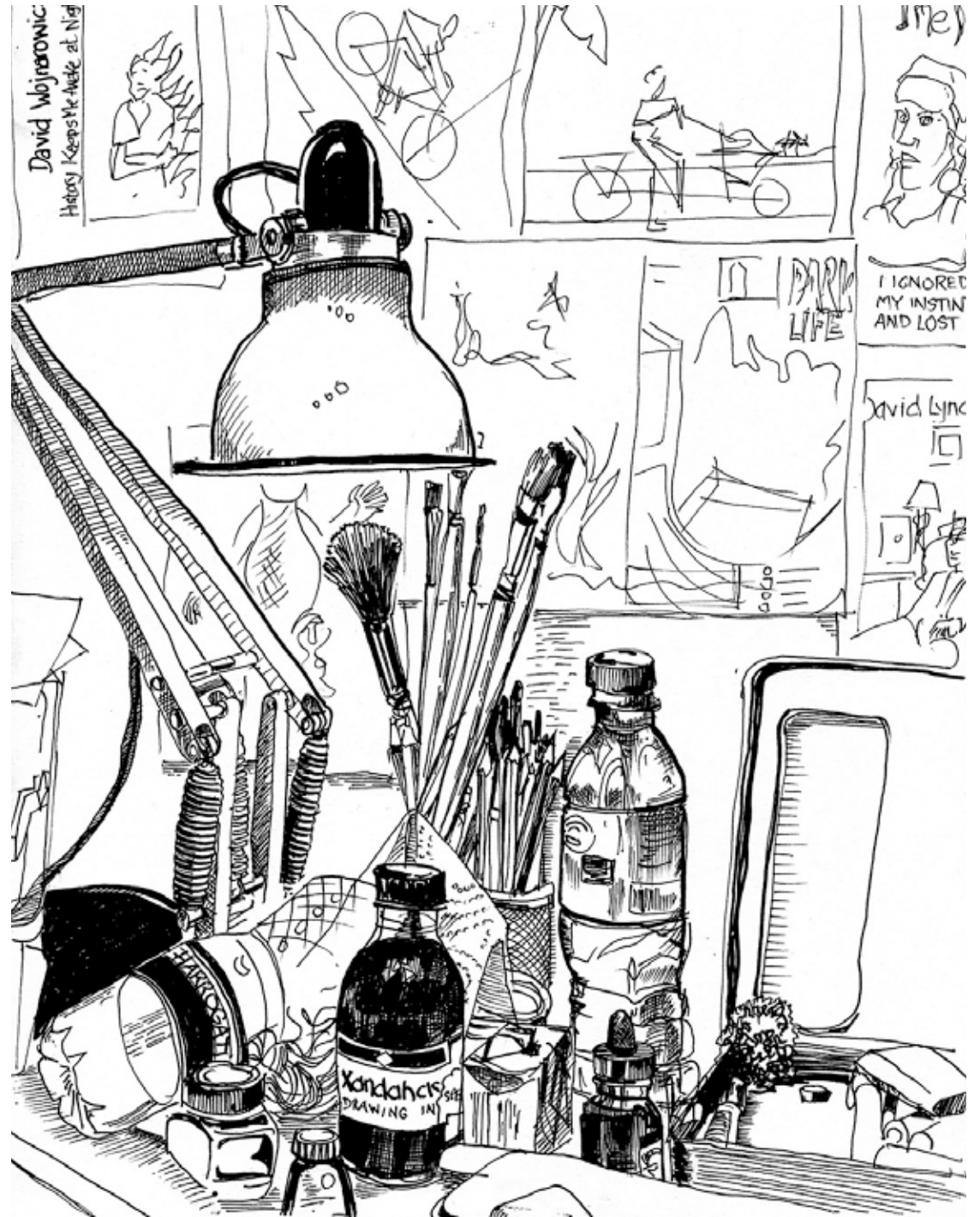
DAY 4

A corner of my desk

I did 10-hours of work on a comic book assignment before stopping to draw this corner of my desk. I'm usually fairly organised, but after a day of intense work things can get pretty chaotic.

There's something enjoyable about shifting mental gears and making a picture purely for pleasure.

This was drawn using a Pelikan fountain pen



DAY 5

Poinsettia and bottle – still life

Charcoal and Conte Crayon. I need to experiment to get better marks and textures. I'm back to work tomorrow after the Christmas a New Year break so subjects will be more interesting and challenging, but there'll be less time.





DAY 6

Barbican Library at lunchtime

I was working close to the Barbican Centre today and decided to explore the Library; I've known about it for ages but never ventured inside.

It was packed with students studying and I managed to get a seat tucked between bookshelves at the end of an aisle.



DAY 7

Quick back garden sketch

Limited time and limited light today (getting dark at 15:45hrs), so I decided to use coloured Sharpies and Posta Pens to draw a 30-minute sketch over lunch.

A week ago the tree in the middle of the picture was covered in red berries, and now only the only ones left are in the lowest branches because the birds can't get at them.



DAY 8

Rapid sketches of people

20-people in 20-minutes sketched in the Barbican Centre café at lunchtime. It gets so busy there's no shortage of material.

DAY 9

A tidy corner of my studio

Working at home today so drew what was in front of me.

It's also a bit of a goodbye to my laptop that after five years is getting replaced by an iMac.

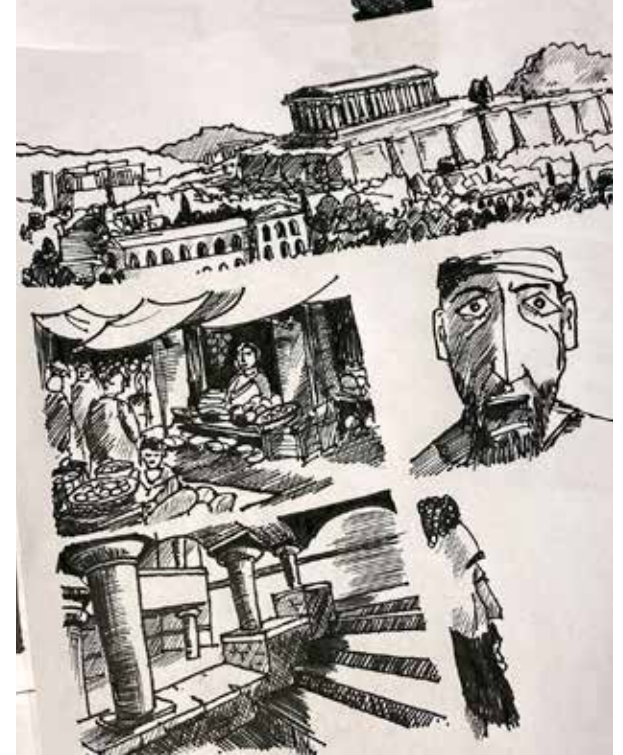




DAY 10

Standing room only

Drawings made on my commute into London today.



DAY 11

Theseus & The Minotaur – comic strip

I was supposed to join the London Urban Sketchers who were drawing at Tate Modern earlier in the day, but when I turned up at the station there was a replacement bus service.

So instead I spent the day working on a comic strip assignment.



DAY 12

Theseus kills the Minotaur

I was still working on the comic strip assignment and after yesterday's progress gave myself a target to finish it today. Three pages and a front cover done in a day.

I was pleased to get these done because I really wasn't sure how they'd turn out.



DAY 13

Lots of people

More rapid drawing in the Barbican Café and on the train home. At least I got a seat today.

DAY 14

Back garden - again

This time in a more expressive gestural style. This image was made in 10 mins (I timed myself). Poster paint (5-minutes), Posca pen (5-minutes).

I really enjoy rapid drawing.





DAY 15

Rapid self portraits

I did 5 x drawings in just over an hour using whatever materials I could lay my hands on. Poster paint was applied using a print roller, stick and sponge. I even used masking tape. Posca pen and coloured Sharpies were added afterwards. Not a great likeness but fun to do.



DAY 16

People watching in the Barbican Centre

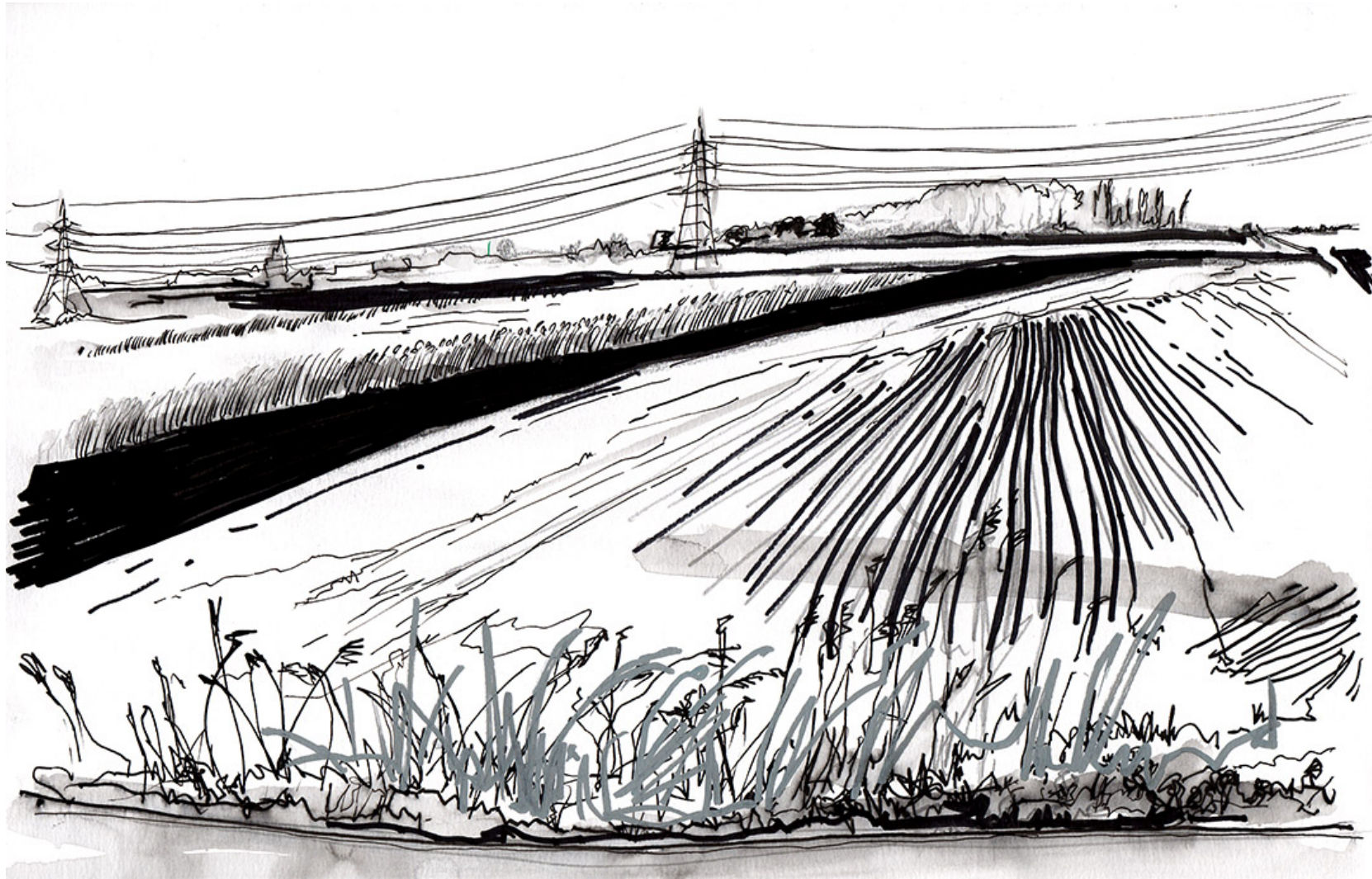
Trying to combine drawing approaches and materials to make the images more dynamic. I like where this is going but much more to do.



DAY 17

More people practice

Building on yesterday's experiments – more of the same. I'm enjoying drawing with coloured pencils.



DAY 18

Roadside landscape near Ely

I stopped on the side of the road to draw this winter landscape just outside of Ely in Cambridgeshire. It sky was clear and cold.



DAY 19

Ely canal

I stopped the next day in almost the same place to draw next to a canal. The weather was clear and cold, and my portable stool kept sinking in the mud.



This canal image was made across two pages of an A3 sketchbook and uses Sharpies, coloured pencils, Posca pens and a brush pen.



DAY 20

Everyone on their phones

Almost everyone in my carriage was glued to their phones.

DAY 21

Flowers in a vase

I enjoyed drawing these flowers. I used a thick nib on a dip pen and black Indian Ink to make nice expressive lines.

I would have added some colour but the ink was wet and I would have missed my Instagram posting deadline.







DAY 22

Life drawing at the Westminster Quaker Meeting Rooms

I'm so pleased I went along to this life drawing session run by Soho Life Drawing. It was my first time at this Covent Garden class.

The drop-in sessions are twice a week on Monday and Wednesday evenings for 2-hours.



DAY 23

Five-minute sketches

Inspired by the 1, 2 and 5-minute warm up sketches and an inspirational Instagram posting from Melanie Reim (@melreim on Instagram), I decided to make a series of 5-minute drawings on the train.

DAY 24

Drop-in drawing at the National Portrait Gallery

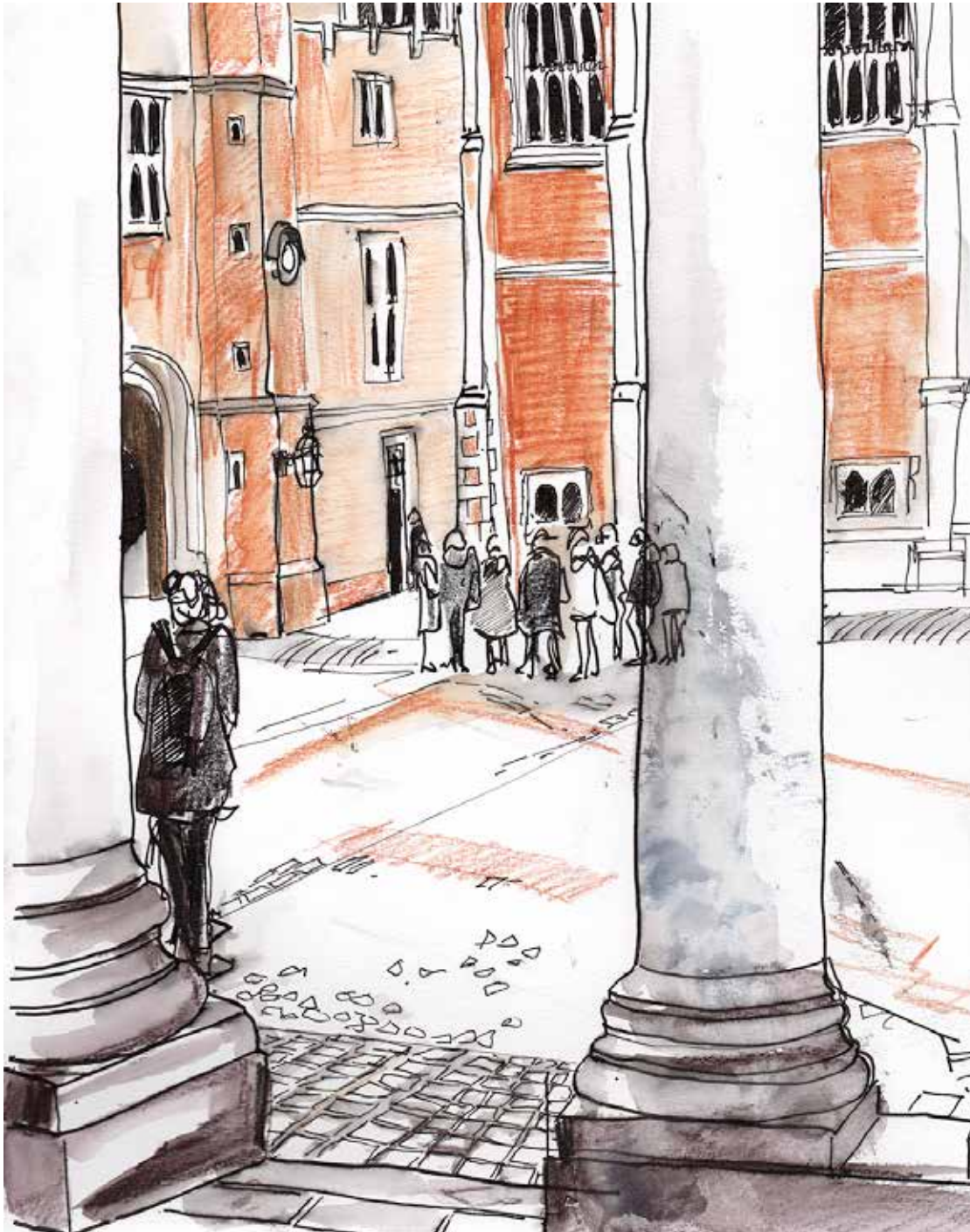
Every Friday evening there's a Drop-in Drawing session at The National Portrait Gallery. It runs from 18:30hrs for 2-hours and is free.

This session was absolutely packed with probably 100-people attending.

They are run by a resident artist around a specific theme.

Rather than drawing from the art on display I enjoy drawing people drawing. They stay still for a long time and usually have interesting postures.





DAY 25

Hampton Court Palace

Hampton Court Palace is close to where I live, so close that I take it for granted. I haven't visited for years so thought I should go and find a place to sketch.

It was a cold dreary damp day and I got very cold fingers.

I was quite pleased with the back and white sketch. Although it's not a great picture I drew it using a dip pen, which is the first time I've done this out-in-the-open. So it was a bit of a breakthrough.



DAY 26

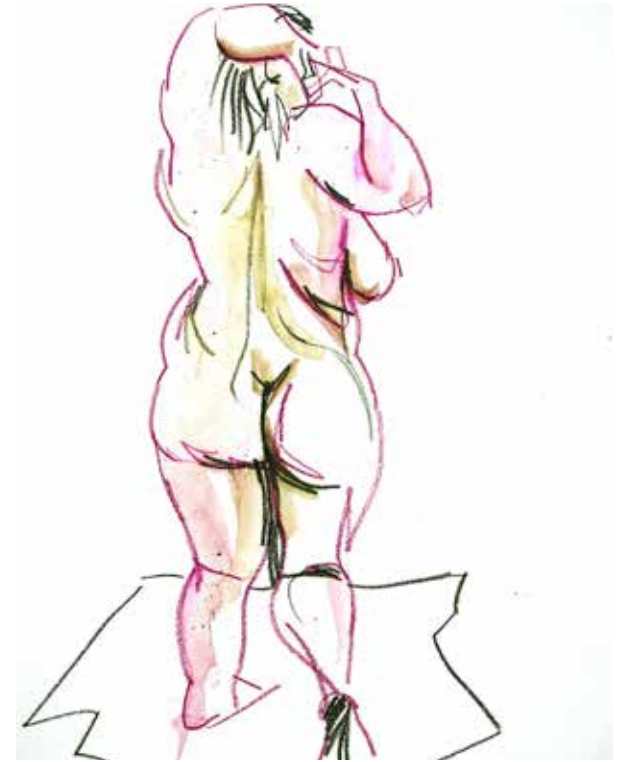
Coloured paper still life

I ran out of white paper today and had to use up some large A1 sheets of coloured paper that I must have bought some time ago for a project. I'm glad I did.

These drawings were made using Posca pens and coloured pencils.







DAY 27

Life drawing Monday

I enjoyed last week's life drawing and went back for some more. I felt like I was approaching the drawing with a new level of confidence and wanted to experiment.



DAY 28

Freakish doll still life

I worked at home today so was scrambling around the house to find something interesting to draw. Then I remembered the weird doll I'd bought in a charity shop for some other project.





DAY 29

Soho life drawing

I'm really enjoying the Soho Life Drawing classes. These were drawn using acrylic Posca pens.





DAY 30

A sketch over lunch

More drawing over a sandwich in the Barbican Centre Café.





DAY 31

Another Friday night Drop-in Drawing session at The National Portrait Gallery
This evening's theme (that I ignored), was related to Surrealism, although it did feel a bit Surreal with Brexit happening at 11pm the same evening.



