

RUTGERS ART LIBRARY JAN. 2, 2021 MCLOTTIS, ART LIBRARIAN

Showing the world one drawing at a time:
The Rutgers Art Library Urban Sketching Project Fall 2020 & 2021

Megan Lotts, Art Librarian, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey



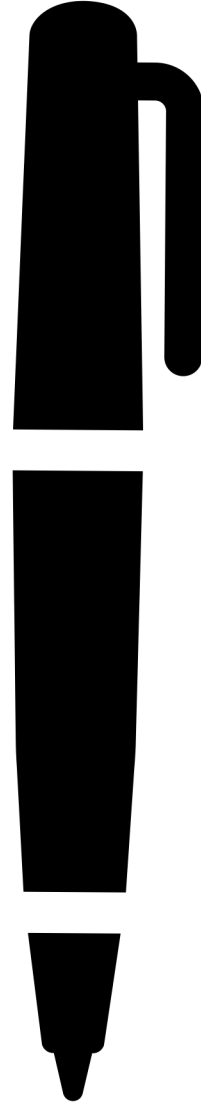
Abstract

Urban Sketching is a movement created in 2007 by Seattle journalist and illustrator, Gabrile Campanario. Although similar to plein air painting (to paint outdoors), a term which was made most well-known by the French Impressionists during the 19th century. Urban Sketching looks at the ideas of visual storytelling in a virtual environment, and the educational value of on-location drawing. This movement encourages drawing spaces and places on location, rather than drawing from photographs. Urban Sketching brings together an international group of people who “Show their world one drawing at a time”. The goal is simple-sketch what you see, in or outdoors, and share online. You don’t need to be an artist, expert or someone who draws all the time.

The Rutgers Urban Sketching project encouraged the Rutgers-New Brunswick campuses to think about life in new ways during a stressful time. During the pandemic, people are in need of activities, like urban sketching, to help them connect, share, and escape their everyday lives. Sketching scenes from daily life elevated seemingly mundane moments, allowing us to see our own world from a different perspective. Urban sketching also relieves stress, hones observational and analytical skills, and forces us to take a moment to stop and “draw the roses.” But also, urban sketching is similar to the scholarly research process. Both rely on observation, analysis, storytelling, and contributing to community knowledge and, both processes use a curated set of data and observations to tell a story that will likely turn into something more.

This project began on November 2, 2020 and ended on December 6, 2020 including building a collection of 96 drawings submitted from members of the Rutgers New Brunswick communities. This Lightning talk will briefly address this project and all it’s moving parts including an urban sketch assignment for student workers, a Rutgers University Libraries- New Brunswick staff workshop, virtual drawing sessions, highlighting collections, a research guide, and an assessment plan. As well this project has been the catalyst for forthcoming engagement and programming that focuses on creativity as part of the scholarly process.

What is Urban Sketching?



Urban Sketchers Manifesto

We draw on location, indoors or out, capturing what we see from direct observation.

Our drawings tell the story of our surroundings, the places we live and where we travel.

Our drawings are a record of time and place.

We are truthful to the scenes we witness.

We use any kind of media and cherish our individual styles.

We support each other and draw together.

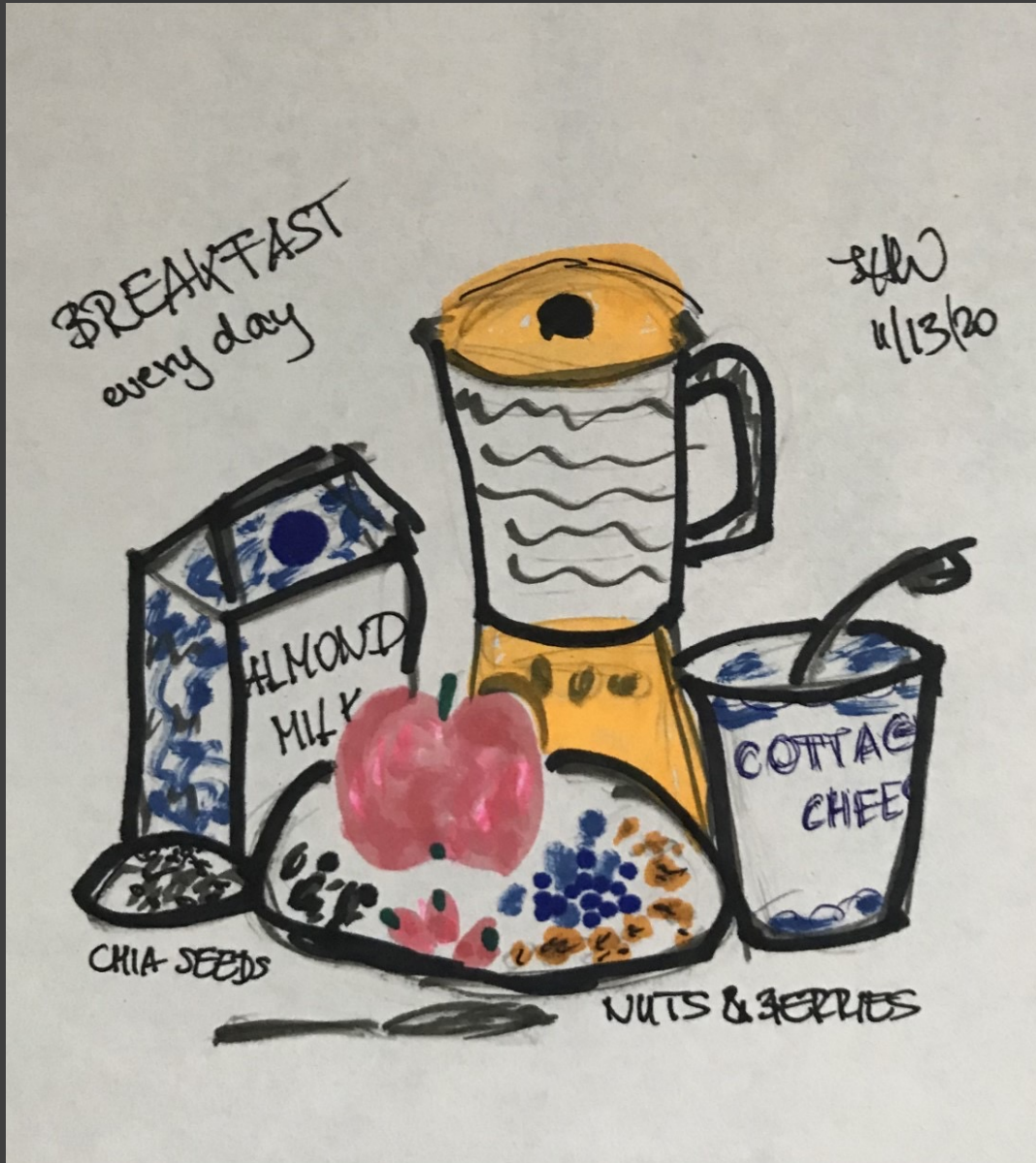
We share our drawings online.

We show the world, one drawing at a time.



Drawing vs Sketching





What happened?

Libguide

- Info about Urban Sketching
- A gallery of Urban Sketching created by RU students and alum for inspiration
- Scholarly resources in the RUL collections.
- Publicity & Prompts
- Gallery of images created by participants of the project

[Find](#) [Services & Tools](#) [Get Help](#) [Places & Spaces](#) [Info for...](#) [About](#)

[Library](#) » [Research Guides](#) » [Rutgers Urban Sketching](#) » [Home](#)

Rutgers Urban Sketching: Home

[Home](#) [Urban Sketchers](#) [Virtual Exhibit](#) [Resources](#) [POSTER](#) [VIDEO](#)

Rutgers Urban Sketching

RUTGERS URBAN SKETCHING
#rutgersurbansketching #ruusk2020

Project Coordinators

[Richard Alomar](#), Department Chair of Landscape Architecture, Associate Professor, and Director of Office of Urban Planning.
[Megan Lotts](#), Art Librarian, Rutgers University Libraries- New Brunswick

Project Partners

Mason Gross Art & Design- [Julie Langsam](#)
The Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy- [Juan Ayala](#)


Special Thanks

Art Library, Reference Assistant- Brandon Kalika
Special Collections & University Archives- Tara Maharjan

Have a comment about this project?

Have a comment about this project please leave your thoughts at the following [LINK](#).

Rutgers Urban Sketchers

A black and white line drawing of a street scene. In the foreground, there are several large, leafy trees. Behind them, there are buildings with multiple windows and doors. A person is visible walking on a sidewalk in the distance. The drawing is done in a sketchy, expressive style.

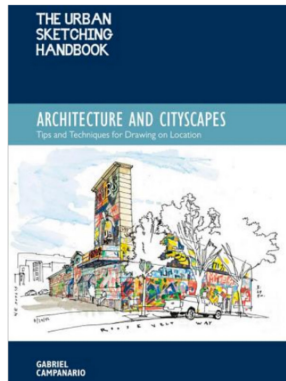
[Voorhees Mall, Fall 2017- Brady Smith, MLA candidate, January 2021](#)



Urban sketches from L to R: Brady Smith, Mouli Lo, and Richard Alomar

Rutgers Urban Sketching Project

#Rutgersurbansketching and/or #ruusk2020



WEEKLY PROMPTS:

- Nov. 2-6:** Draw 3 places in your day.
- Nov. 9-13:** Draw your lunch.
- Nov. 16- 20:** Draw what is out the window.
- Nov. 23-27:** Draw a friend, family or pet.
- Nov. 30- Dec. 4:** Draw your day.

Create, Share, & Document RU Life...

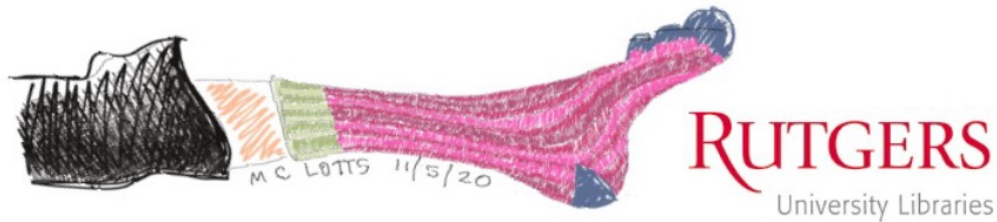
Please join the Rutgers University New Brunswick's community by documenting, sharing, and collecting drawings from Rutgers remote campus life as we know it. This project is a collaboration between the Department of Landscape Architecture and the Rutgers Art Library.



Poster

Rutgers Urban Sketching Project

#rutgersurbansketching and/or #ruusk2021
or send drawings to megan.lotts@rutgers.edu

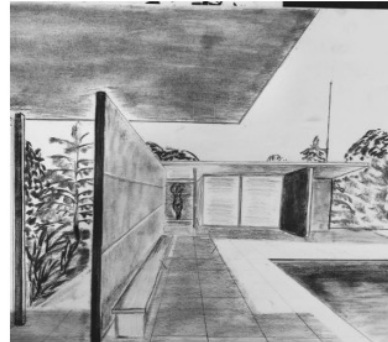


Have questions about this project please contact **Megan Lotts**,
Art Librarian at megan.lotts@rutgers.edu. Learn more at the
following website. <https://libguides.rutgers.edu/urbansketching/home>.

WEEKLY PROMPTS & EVENTS:

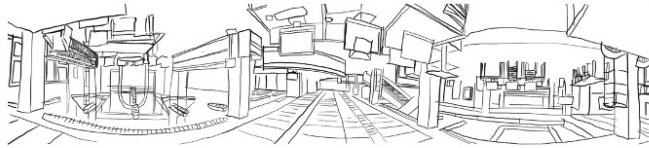
- Nov. 1-5:** Draw a landscape or the sky
- Nov. 3:** EJB Virtual Drawing Session w EJB Design
- Nov. 8-12:** Draw an indoor setting you visit daily
- Nov. 9:** Draw Voorhees Mall (meet on Art Library steps, noon)
- Nov. 15- 19:** Draw what you see out a window
- Nov. 17:** EJB Virtual Drawing Session w EJB Design
- Nov. 22-26:** Draw a friend, family, or pet
- Nov. 29- Dec. 4:** Draw a meal

Postcards



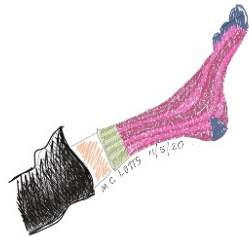
Buttons

Zine



WEEKLY PROMPTS & EVENTS:

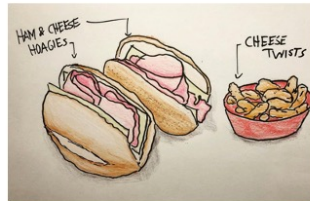
Nov. 1-5: Draw a landscape or the sky
 Nov. 3: EJB Virtual Drawing Session w EJB Design
 Nov. 8-12: Draw an indoor setting you visit daily
 Nov. 9: Draw Voorhees Mall (meet on Art Library steps, noon)
 Nov. 15-19: Draw what you see out a window
 Nov. 17: EJB Virtual Drawing Session w EJB Design
 Nov. 22-26: Draw a friend, family, or pet
 Nov. 29-Dec. 4: Draw a meal



CREATE @
The RU Libraries
<https://go.rutgers.edu/createRULNB>

Learn @ Urban Sketching,
 Cootie Catchers, Zines,
 & more...

SUBMIT Your Sketches
#rutgersurbansketching
 and/or
#ruusk2021
 or send sketches to
megan.lotts@rutgers.edu



Jordan Davis, 2020

<https://go.rutgers.edu/rutgersurbansketching>
 Or at



Learn more about RU
 Urban Sketching
 On our website

Learn about
EJB Designs

Contact:
draw.ejbdesigns@gmail.com



*check out
 EJB's website
 by scanning
 the QR code
 with a smart
 phone.



Have Questions?

Megan Lotts,
 Art Librarian
megan.lotts@rutgers.edu
 848-9322-7189

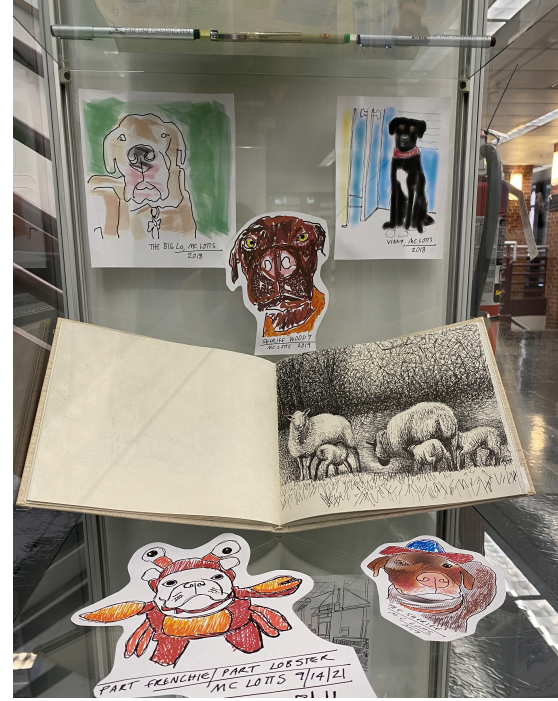
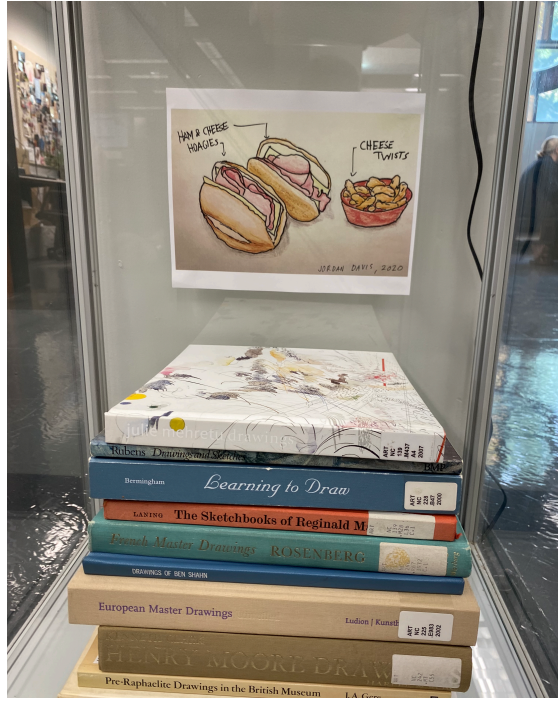
Urban Sketching
 Fall 2021 Zine



MC Lotts 2020

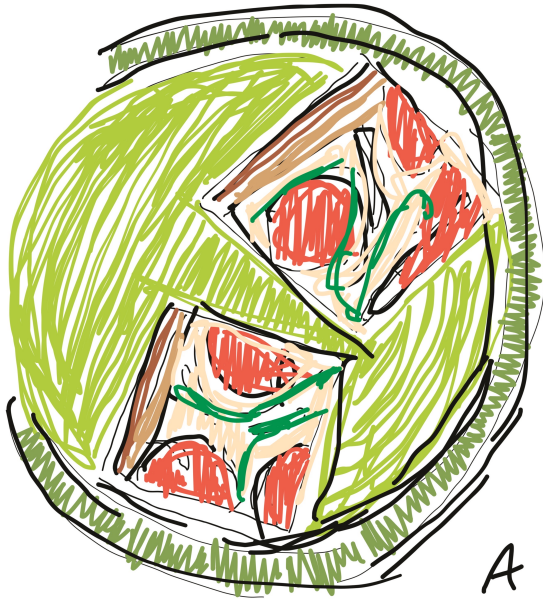
*scan the code to learn more.





Exhibit

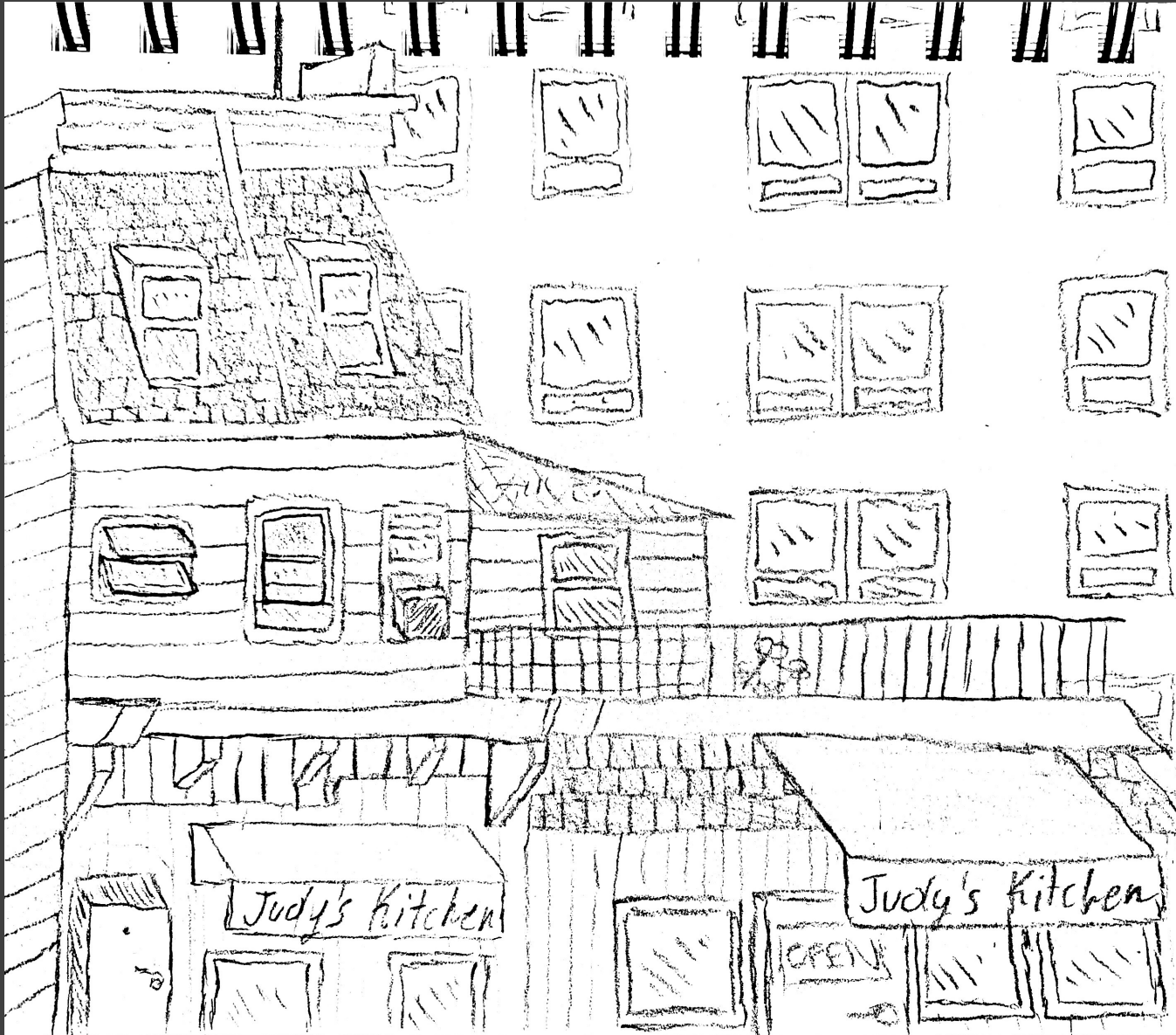
I ♥ PIZZA | I EAT IT WHEN
HAPPY OR WHEN I'M S



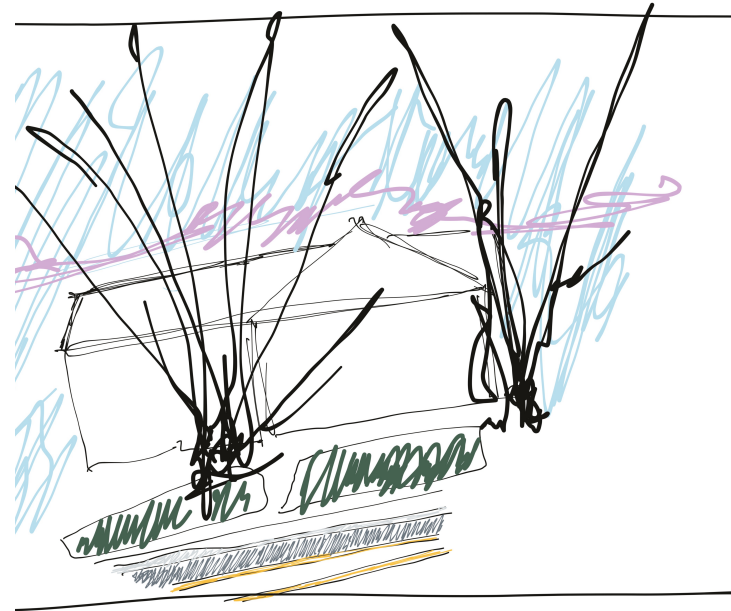
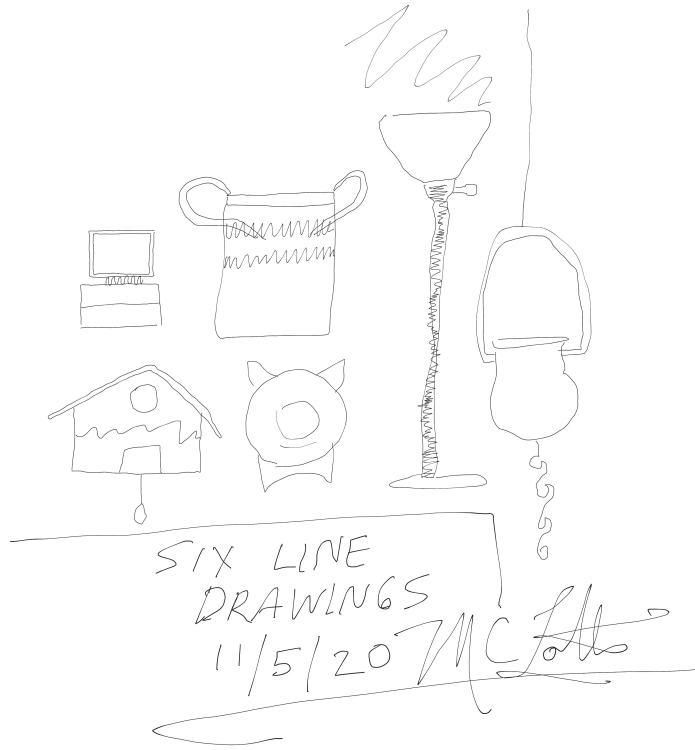
A GRANDMA PIE
A COCA-COLA.

TWO OF MY FAVORITE TREATS AFTER
A HARD CORE WEEK OF WRIT

Getting buy
in...



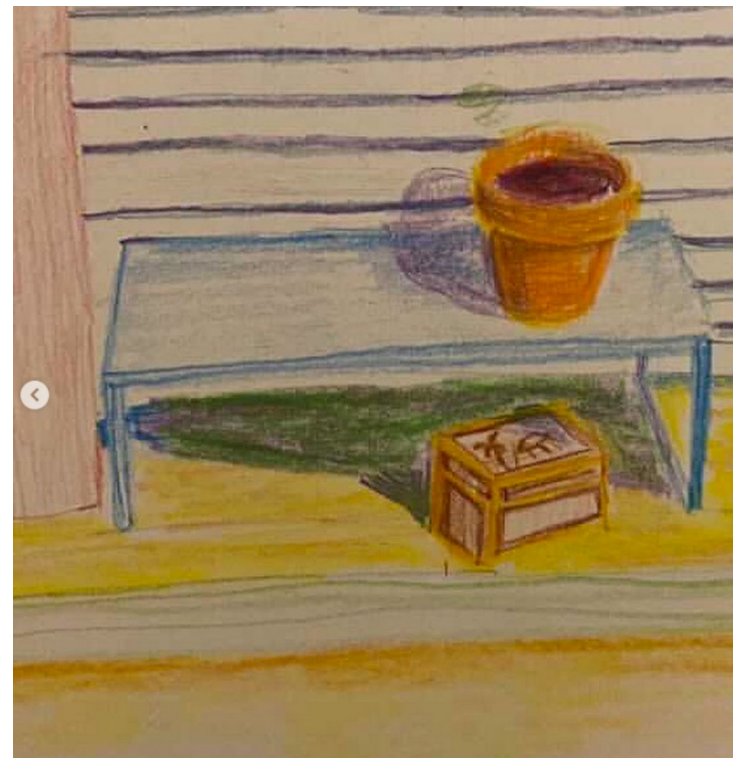
Art Library
student
worker
assignment



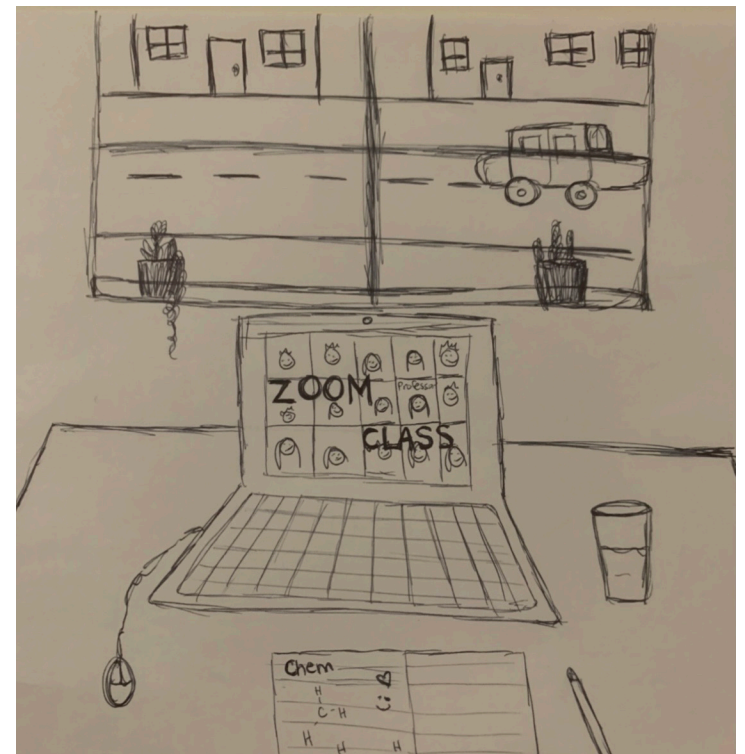
MCLOTS 11/19/20 5pm
URBAN SKETCHING GROUP



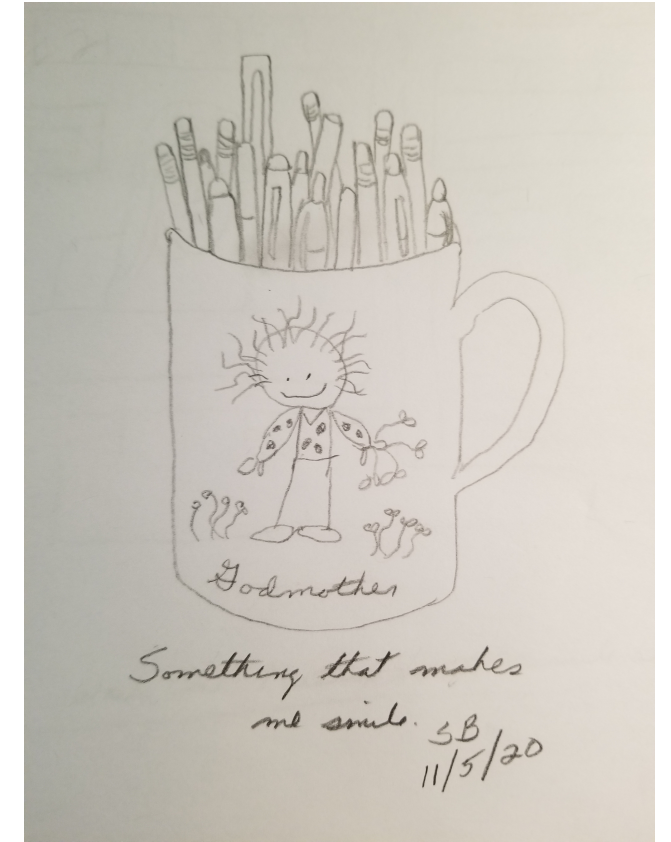
RUL Urban Sketch Workshop



Images from project



Images from project



Images from project



Assessment
& what did
we learn?



Conclusion

Learn More...





Questions & Thanks

Megan Lotts, MFA, M.L.I.S
Art Librarian

**Rutgers, The State University of New
Jersey**

(848)932-7189

megan.lotts@rutgers.edu

www.meganlotts.com

Twitter: @MCLotts



References

- "En Plein Air painting." Wikipedia. Last modified November 10, 2020.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/En_plein_air
- "Urban Sketching mission." Last updated in 2020.
<http://www.urbansketchers.org/p/our-mission.html>
- "Sketching Definition." Google Dictionary.
<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=dictionary#dobs=sketching>.
- "Sketch Definition." Google Dictionary.
<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=dictionary#dobs=s sketch>.
- Lotts, Megan. "Rutgers Urban Sketching Project to Launch in November"
<https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/news/rutgers-urban-sketching-project-launch-november>
- "EJB| Designs." Rutgers Edward J Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy Website. Last modified , 2020.
<https://bloustein.rutgers.edu/students/organizations/ejbdesigns/>.
- "Mona Lisa." Wikipedia. Last modified November 10, 2020.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_Lisa