

JULY
15-18
2026

14th INTERNATIONAL
URBAN SKETCHERS SYMPOSIUM

Toulouse

WS 20

DIETMAR STILLER

MY
WORKSHOP!

**BRUSH PEN
DRAWING
IN URBAN SKETCHING**

Stiller
ATELIER

1

LEARNING GOALS

Understand the brush pen as a versatile tool

Learn how to control line width, pressure, and texture to express depth and emphasis in urban sketching

Apply a structured approach to sketching

Learn to build a scene step by step e.g. from top to bottom, considering perspective and composition

Integrate a focal element ("hero") in your sketch

Learn how to make specific elements stand out and bring life to the scene

Use grey or color shading

Learn how to apply quick & dirty washes to enrich the mood and atmosphere of your sketch

PART 1

Introduction and Warm-Up Exercises

- Handling the brush pen
- Variability of strokes and line control
- Pen pressure / sloppiness vs. precision
- Ink flow on different paper qualities
- Shading with textures, washes and hatching

WARM-UP EXERCISE

Black-and-white „NOTAN“ thumbnail sketch



NOTAN
ONLY BLACK
AND WHITE



4 LEVELS
WHITE
2 GRAYS
BLACK

FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM TO KEEP IN TOUCH: @SKETCH.MYDAY



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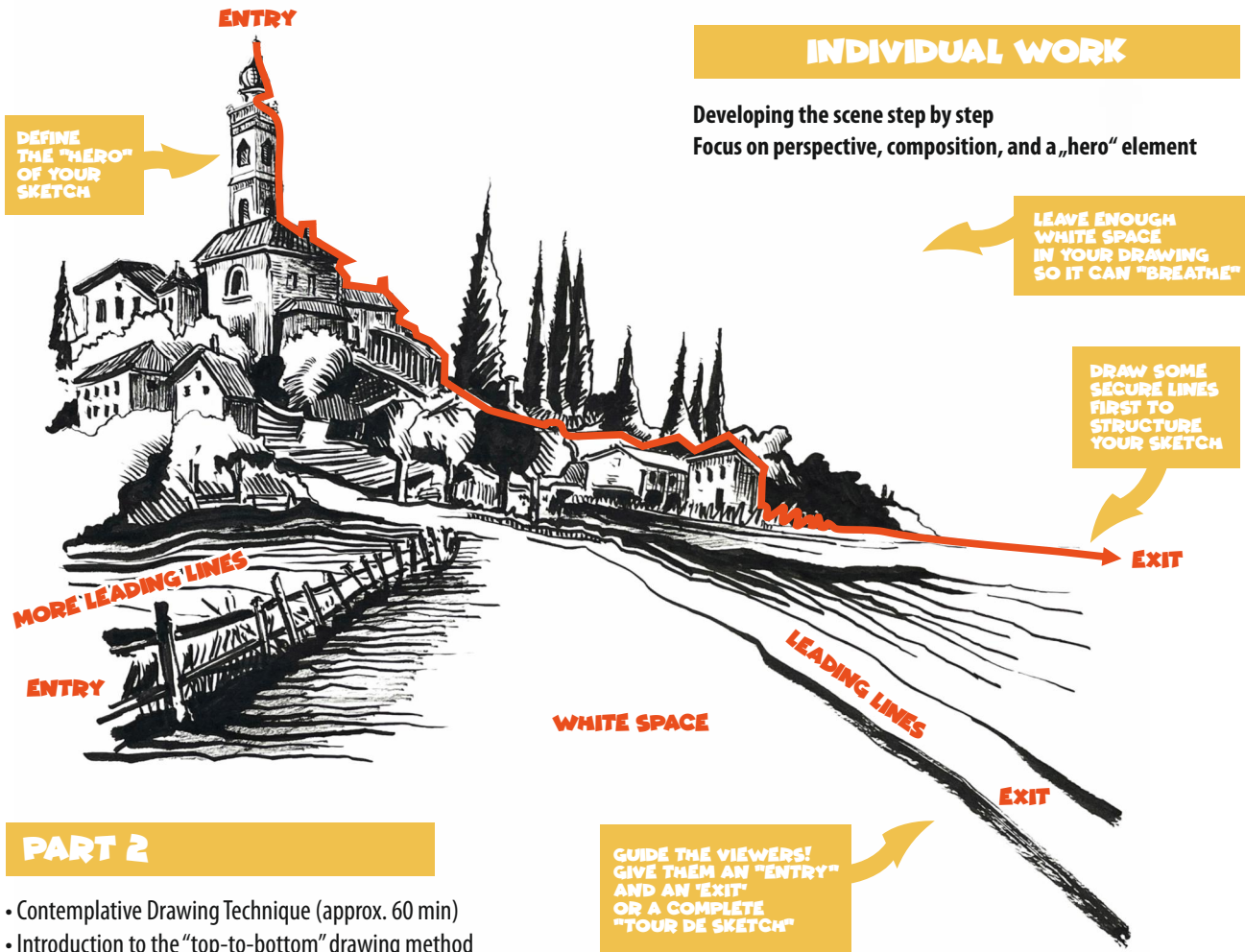
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PART 3

- The fun of (water) color
- Enhance the the brush pen sketch with color or only use gray

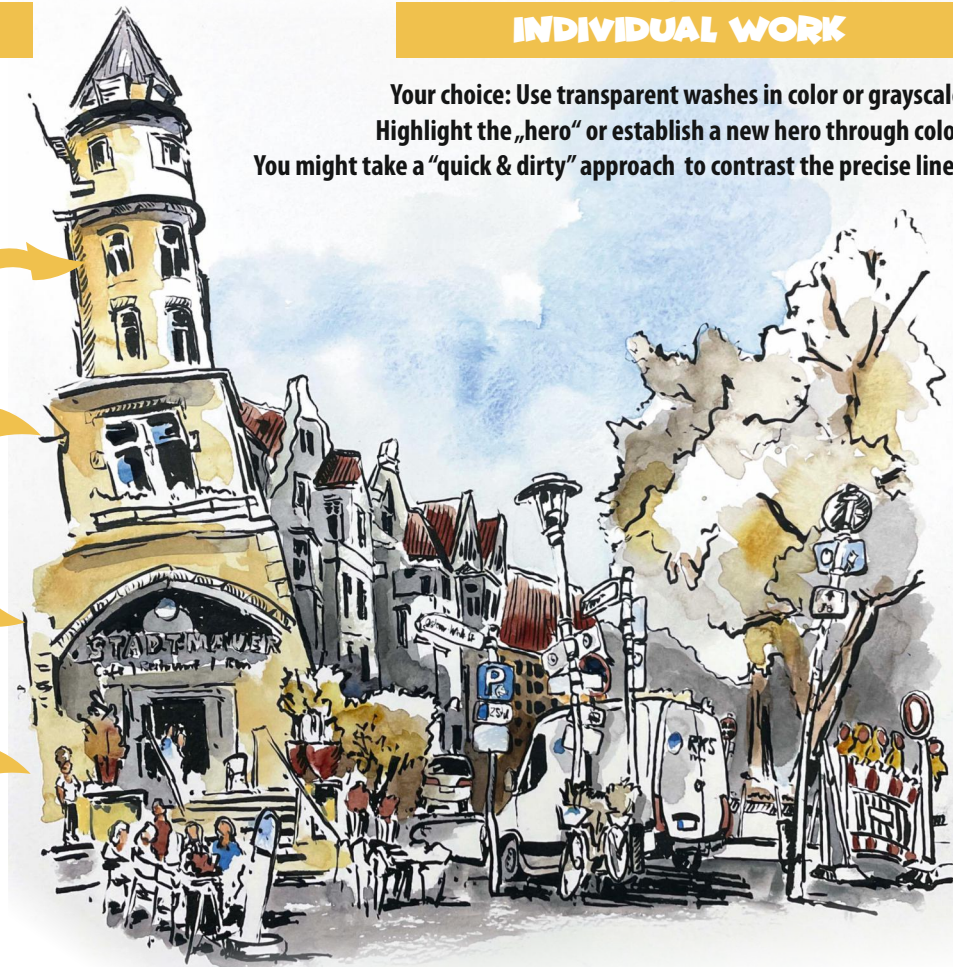
KEEP THE FOCUS
ON THE "HERO"

NOTICE
WARM AND
COLD COLORS

GUIDE THE VIEWERS!
NOTICE:
THE BLUE SPOTS LEAD
THE EYE THROUGH
THE SKETCH

NOTICE
DON'T FILL IN
THE SHAPES -
COLOR LOOSELY

ENHANCE
FOREGROUND
AND BACKGROUND
THROUGH
TONAL VALUES



INDIVIDUAL WORK

Your choice: Use transparent washes in color or grayscale
Highlight the „hero“ or establish a new hero through color
You might take a “quick & dirty” approach to contrast the precise lines

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SOME EXAMPLES



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