25 Sketchbook Prompts to Start 2025

(The prompts highlighted in color will be demonstrated during the live online class on Wednesday January 8th, 2025 with Instructor Adrienne Hodge)

- 1. *Three Blind Shoes:* Do 3 blind contour drawings of your shoe(s) using primary colors (markers or colored pencils).
- 2. Zoom Studies: Find a photo in your camera roll and zoom in/crop the photo until the subject matter is unrecognizable—then sketch 2-3 thumbnail sketches of the shapes, forms, texture, & value in the cropped photos. Add embellishments if desired.
- 3. *Negative Space in Your Pocket:* Remove the contents of your pockets or purse—sketch the negative space of these items.
- 4. *Pet Comic:* Make a comic strip or storyboard page about your pet or a pet in your friend/family circle.
- 5. Camera Roll Roulette: Close your eyes, scroll back in your camera roll, and tap on a random photo—set a 10-20 minute timer and draw this photo.
- 6. Emotional Weather Report: Make a list of emotions you are feeling. Then, set a 10-20 minute timer and draw some doodles that match your current emotional state (think of lines, colors, shapes, and forms that match these emotions).
- 7. Musical Interpretation: Listen to a song and illustrate how it makes you feel.
- 8. *Everyday Object:* Choose an everyday object and draw it from at least three different angles (above, below, from the side, etc).
- 9. Fashion Sketch: Design an outfit inspired by your favorite colors or styles.
- 10. Food Art: Illustrate a favorite dish or dessert in a creative way.
- 11. Daily Gratitude: Illustrate something you are grateful for today.
- 12. *Limited Color Nature Study:* Choose 2-3 colors (or multiple shades of each color) and illustrate a leaf, rock, or other object from nature using only these colors.
- 13. Object Transformation: Pick an everyday object and give it a fun twist (ex: turn a coffee mug into a creature).
- 14. *Finish the Image:* cut or tear out a snippet from a newspaper or magazine image, and glue it into your sketchbook. Then, complete the drawing or image. Add embellishments as desired.

- 15. Wrinkle Study: Draw a crumpled up wrapper or piece of paper.
- 16. Local Landmark: Draw a well-known landmark or building in your area.
- 17. *Texture Challenge:* Find 5 interesting textures in your environment (ex: carpet, grass, tree bark, wool sweater, tortilla chip, etc). Then, draw 5 small boxes and illustrate these items or parts of these items.
- 18. *Character Study:* Draw your favorite character from a movie, tv show, cartoon, or book.
- 19. Seasons: Illustrate a seasonal theme–fall leaves, winter snow, spring blooms, or summer sun.
- 20. *Alter Ego*: Create a character that represents what you'd be like if you were someone else.
- 21. Favorite Quote: Illustrate a quote that inspires you. Incorporate decorative elements around the quote.
- 22. Catch a Moment: Sketch a scene from your life today capturing a simple moment in time.
- 23. *Time Capsule:* Draw items that represent your current interests in life at this moment that you would include in a time capsule to be opened in the future.
- 24. *Insect Exploration:* Draw a close up view of an insect, focusing on its intricate patterns and details.
- 25. *Cultural Inspiration*: Draw something that represents a culture you admire like traditional clothing, architecture, or imagery from a cultural festival.