USING A SKETCHBOOK



John Piper: Sketch of woman on beach

You can make quick sketches on just about anything. Bonnard used his diary to make scratchy, vibrant sketch notes with an inch long pencil. Others have used scraps of old paper, the backs of old envelopes, opera programmes, as well as purpose made sketchbooks to make quick reference drawings, or record ideas.

I recommend that every artist keep a sketchbook. The need to make sketch notes and record ideas can come at any moment of the day (or night!!) so any sketch book and drawing medium needs to be compact, as well as readily accessible.

Ideas may come in word form as well as visually, so drawings may be peppered with words. They are not to be works of art, so much as records of information. Don't worry if they look messy - they are for your benefit, and will always mean more to you than anyone else.

Look at the sketchbooks of major artists. Though rough, perhaps just a few lines, and maybe completed in mere seconds, they hold a whole wealth of information which can sometimes be seen used and developed in well known works of art.

There is no limit to the kinds of information you might like to record in your sketchbooks, but here are a few things you might like to consider.

shapes	**views**
colours	**tone**
light	**movement**
time of day	**weather conditions**
your own feelings	

If you do not at present have a sketchbook, why not start one! Don't see it as a drag, enjoy using one!