

Notes on Sketchbook Usage

For those of you who draw primarily on ipads, a sketchbook may feel outdated. It is not. It is a powerful tool for formulating ideas and traversing the idea-to-reality pipeline. On the 'Essentials' section of our Supply List, I've included a 9"x11" sketchbook. Here is why and how you should use it.

Use it as a catalog of your influences. You should always be on the lookout for artwork or anything that speaks to you visually and recording it in your sketchbook. Use the printer in the AOMA office to print out references and glue them into your sketchbook. It is not enough to have your references saved digitally - it is much more convenient to have all of your art stuff consolidated into one physical location.

Draw sections of other artworks that you want to incorporate into your own artwork. Make notes about your observations. Experiment with materials in your sketchbook before making an attempt on your actual artwork. Create miniature thumbnails and value studies before undertaking an ambitious piece. Your sketchbook should be a private laboratory that contains your behind-the-scenes efforts for artwork that ultimately faces the public.