An illustration of a St. Petersburg street scene. In the foreground, there are two ornate, black street lamps with multiple lanterns. In the background, a large, domed building, likely a cathedral or church, is visible. The entire scene is rendered in a light gray, sketch-like style.

St. Petersburg

THE ART OF TRAVELER'S NOTES



EKSMO

In early childhood we create bright, expressive pictures easily and with joy. Then, as we develop our speech and writing we often "lose" this remarkable ability. The logic behind this is simple: writing is necessary for everyday life whereas we can get along fine without drawing...

But is that really so? It's no coincidence that painting and drawing are significantly more ancient arts than writing. A drawing is not only elegant, expressive and beautiful, but also extremely efficient. Better to see once than hear a hundred times, goes the true saying from folk wisdom

This book is your assistant and guide on the exciting path to recovering half-forgotten skills. This is not a drawing textbook: it is a self-taught guide to self-expression! With its help you will overcome your initial uncertainty, learn the basic rules of how to position your hand and hone your visual estimation, but most importantly, you will unleash your imagination. Napoleon Bonaparte's advice: "'Impossible' is a word to be found only in the dictionary of fools." — is a good starting point for any life strategy.

In fact, we can all draw. The most important thing is to find your style, and that's not so difficult. Every person is unique not just in his or her fingerprints, but also in gait, gestures, and handwriting: all of your movements are part of what's called a dynamic stereotype, which cannot be repeated.

"With what do you mix your paints?" "I mix them with my brains, Sir," let us keep the reply of an English artist John Opie's in mind.

Trust your own hand, relax, and let go of the fear of the blank page. Draw, outline, shade in, write down phrases that inspire you, create your own aphorisms and draw some more... and soon your notes and drawings will acquire the value of a true work of art. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," encouragement from the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu

This is a very modern book. It will teach you to automatically use what is called mnemonics. Intuition steps in on the heels of the hand. "Art allows us to say even that which we do not know." (Gabriel Laub) This isn't a paradox, but rather a scientific fact.

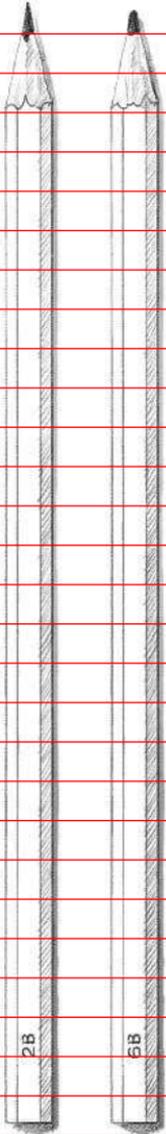
This is a unique book. As you fill in each page, it will become more beautiful and more meaningful. After all, play is a highest form of research. That's what Albert Einstein said, and he knew a thing or two about research.

This is a comfortable book. It's nice to write down your thoughts and draw sketches on the best paper. "I can get by without the essentials, but without the inessentials — never!" A little bit of upper class irony in the spirit of Oscar Wilde never hurt anyone.

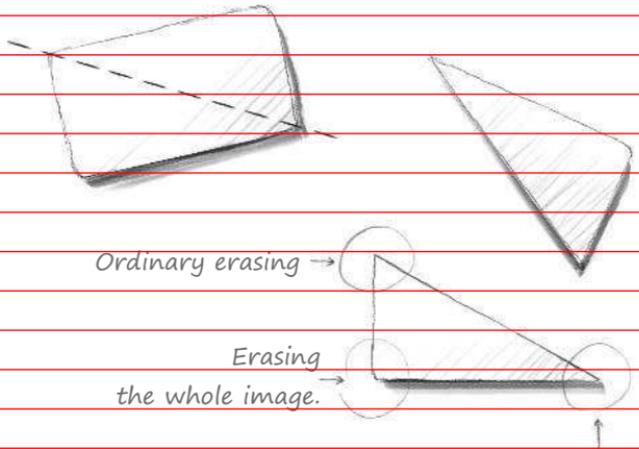
This is a creative book. No lectures, just some outlines for courage and image panels for confidence. Merely a gentle guide for the greatest comfort.

Last but not least, this is a good book. it will teach you how to live vividly, experiencing the one-of-a-kind nuances of existence. Every day of your life is unique and worth capturing.

For sketches it's good to use pencils with two different types of lead — particularly 2B and 6B. We recommend sharpening 2B pencils to a fine point because they are good for making fine lines, outlines or light shading. 6B pencils should be sharpened so that the pencil lead is rounded. It's better to sharpen pencils with an exacto knife rather than a pencil sharpener.

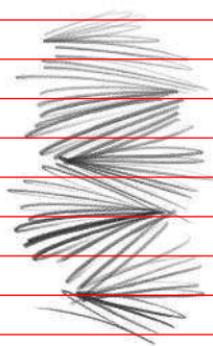
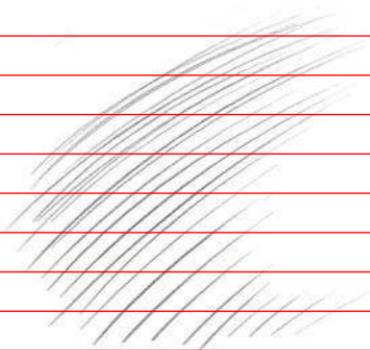
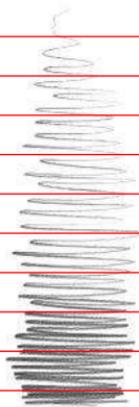
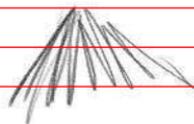
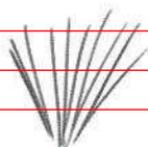
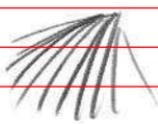


We recommend cutting your eraser in half along the diagonal. This is helpful so that you can lighten your strokes, or even draw with the eraser. An eraser is as much a tool for drawing as a pencil. Each corner of the eraser should be used differently:

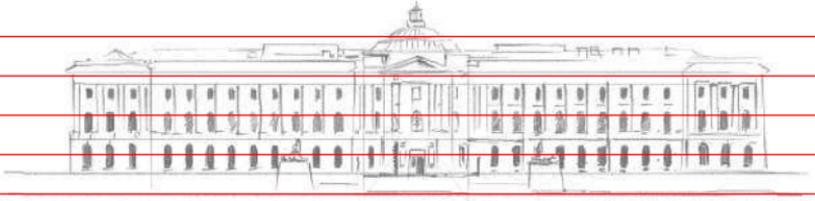
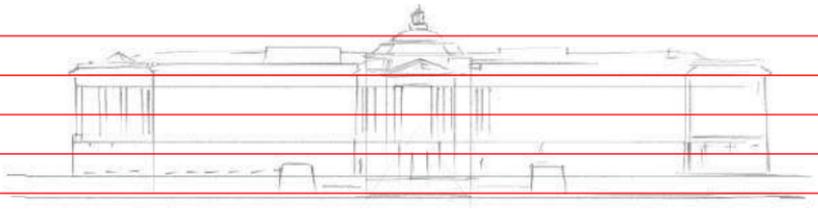


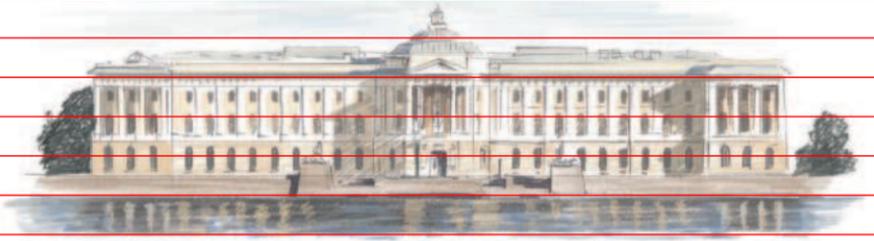
← The pencil's hardness is typically indicated here.

Erasing or making fine strokes



Exercises to help you release your hand
and create a "live" stroke





“Palaces, large pearls strung on the thread of a granite embankment, were hiding in the dark velvet case of their gardens. The moiré service ribbons of interwoven canals were fastened by countless bridge buckles. The city wore the broad blue ribbon of the Neva River over its shoulder like the Order of St. Andrew that it was awarded” — I read once in a tattered book and fell in love with this city forever.

We can determine the relative position of major junctions in the movements of figures with the help of horizontal and vertical guide lines.





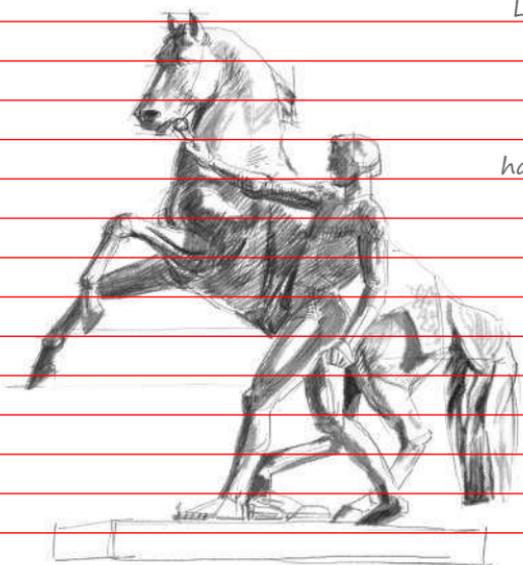
The bridge was named after a construction engineer Lieutenant Colonel Anichkov:

ANICHKOV BRIDGE.

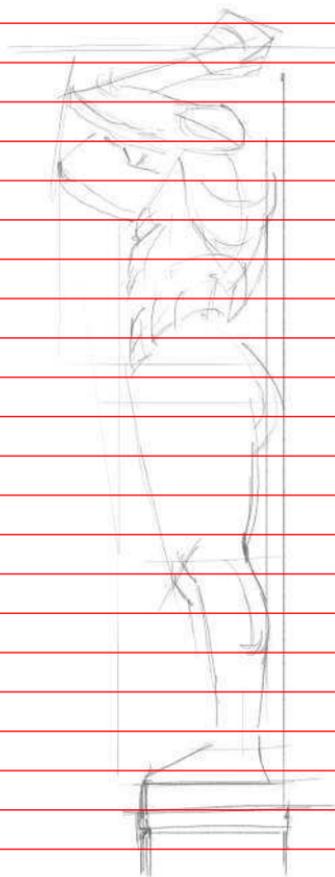
In almost three-centuries of its existence the bridge has been rebuilt several times.

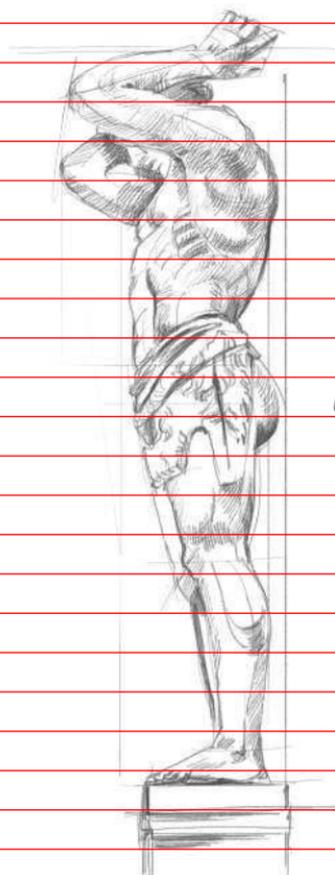
Klaudt's horses straining to jump off the pedestals have originated the corresponding folklore.

Its zesty frivolousness, however, is fully compensated by the good-natured amiability of the folklore texts themselves.



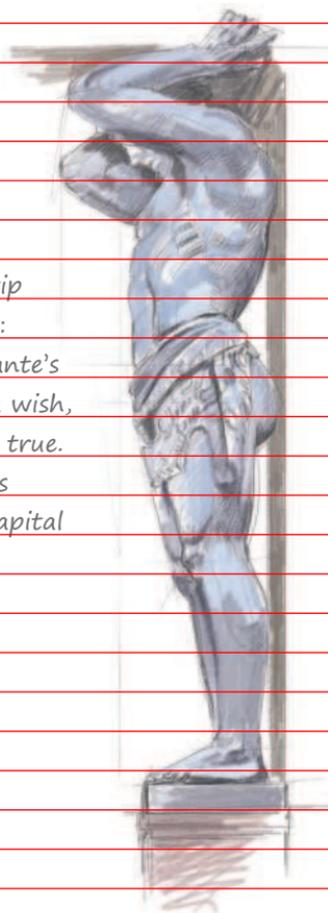
THE ATLANTES
AT THE
NEW HERMITAGE
BUILDING





And here is a tip
for everybody:
if you hold an atlante's
big toe and make a wish,
it will surely come true.

All inhabitants
of the Northern Capital
know that.



The shadows that lie
on the object itself
can be drawn
in strokes or wide
sweeping spots.
The main thing
is to convey
the volume and
corporeality.

