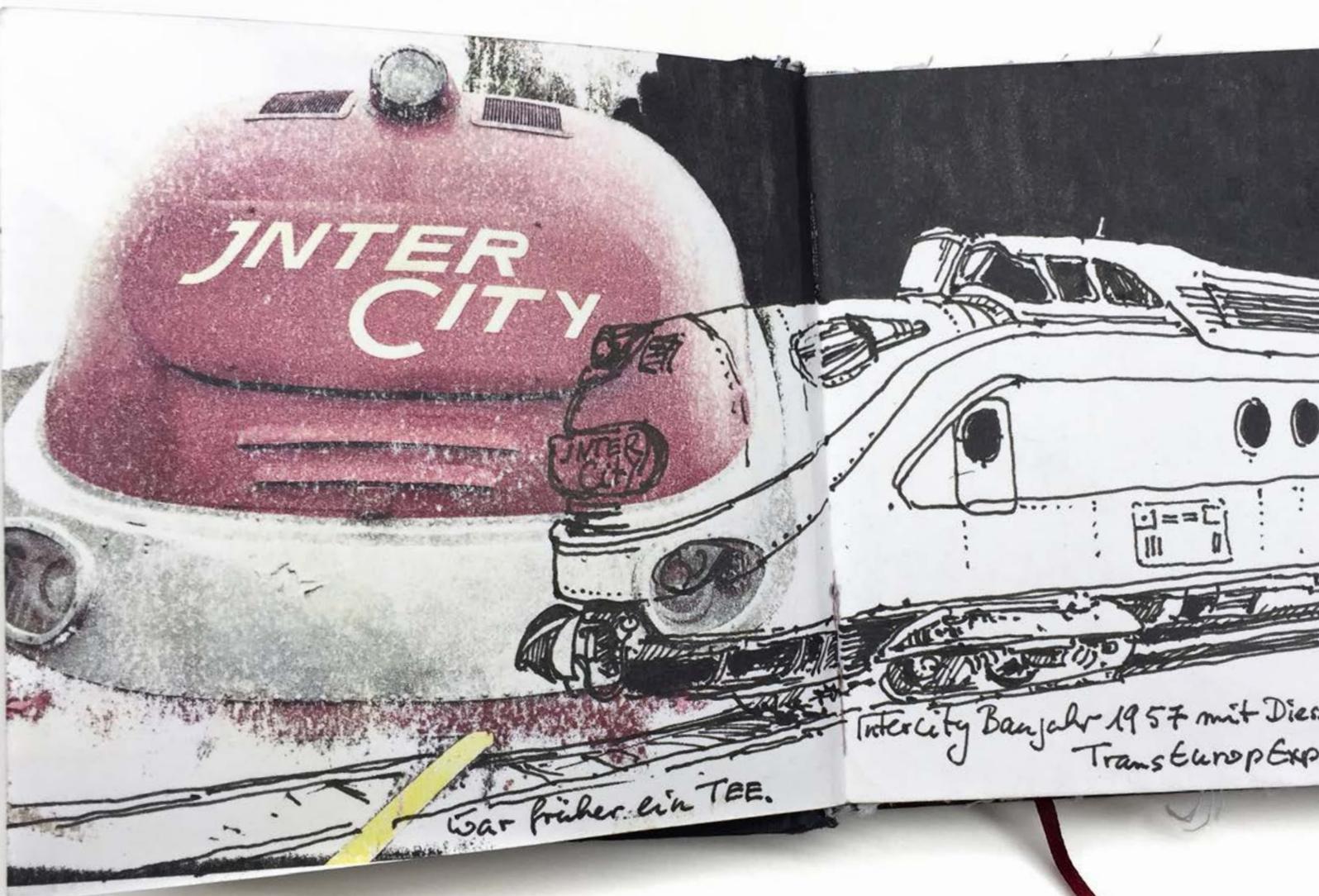


Daniel Nies

Sketchbook

Acetone-transfer-technique



Aceton transfer technique

Dear sketching friends,

To transfer laser copy prints on paper with acetone was a frequently used technique done in the 70`s and 80`s.

I like to experiment with this technique in my sketchbooks since it gives an interesting contrast to my sketches.

Demovideos

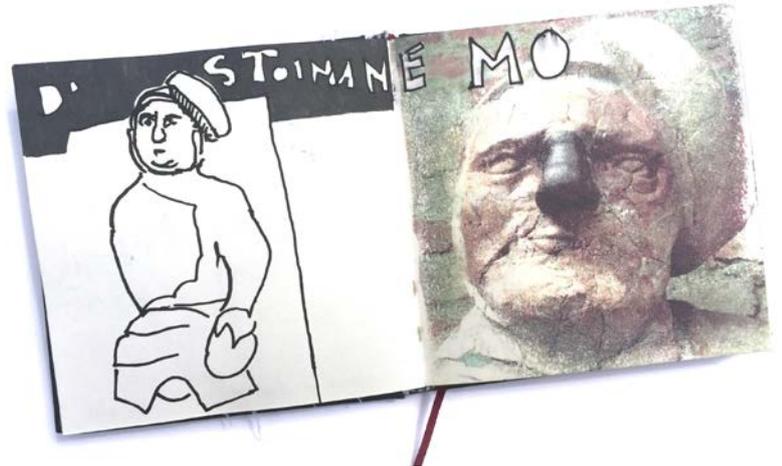
I made two demovideos, one in german and one in english language:

Transfertechnik mit Aceton

Transfer technique with acetone

Have fun experimenting!

Herzliche Grüße,
Daniel Nies, june 2017



More then 1000 of my sketches on Flickr:

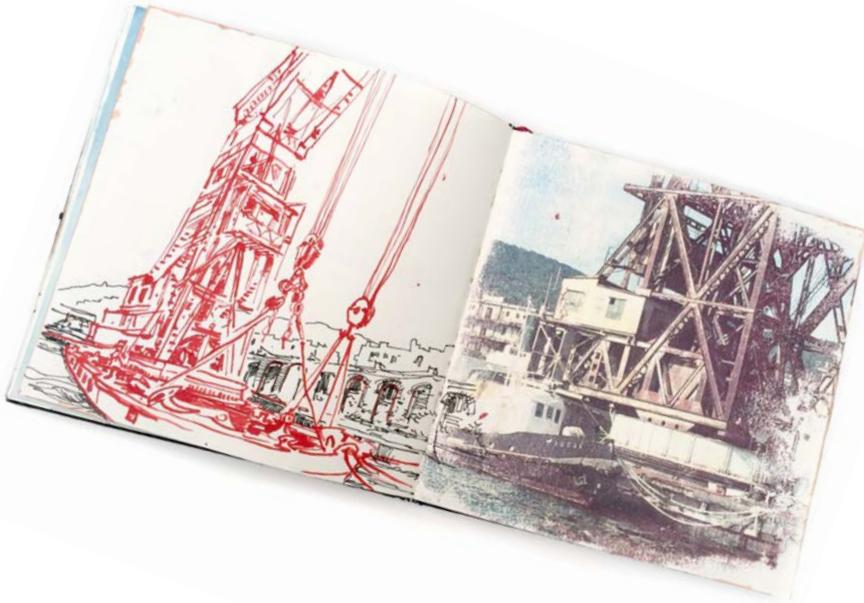
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/danielnies/albums>

More on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/zeichenwerk

my group about sketchbooks:

www.facebook.com/groups/DasSkizzenbuch/



Picture-transfer with Aceton

With the so called »acetone-transfer-technique« laser colour copies can be transferred into your sketchbook. It is important that the pictures are printed mirrored. If you use mirrored printed laser colour copies, the transfer appears in the sketchbook the right way round. Beside the sketchbook and the colour copies you also need protective glasses, acid-proof gloves, a bucket water (in case you come in contact with the acid), acetone, absorbent wads of cotton wool and last but not least acid-proof foil.



Attention!

Acetone is toxic and corrosive!
It is essential to follow the topical safety regulations and execute this technique only outdoors with sufficient ventilation!
Safety first!

1. Place the copy

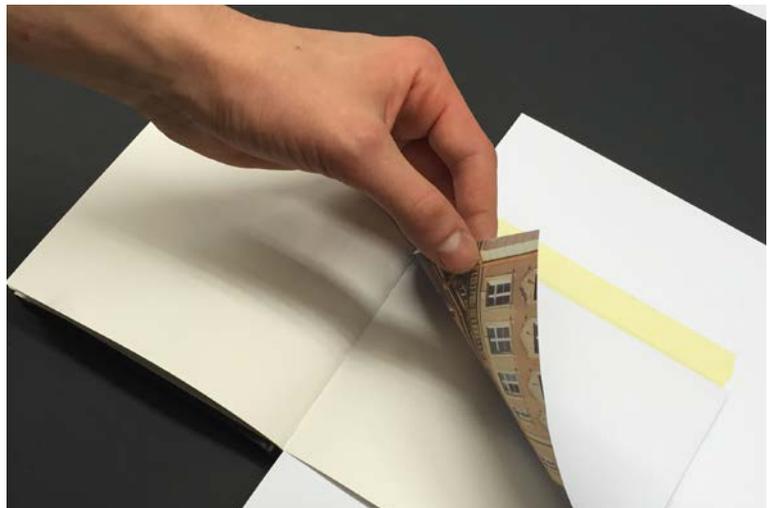
Position the laser colour copy on the chosen page of your sketchbook. You prevent the acetone from trickling through onto other pages of your sketchbook by placing some sheets of paper and a acid-proof foil underneath.

TIP: If you want to transfer your image full bleed it is essential to print your image slightly larger than the format of your sketchbook. 3mm are sufficient.



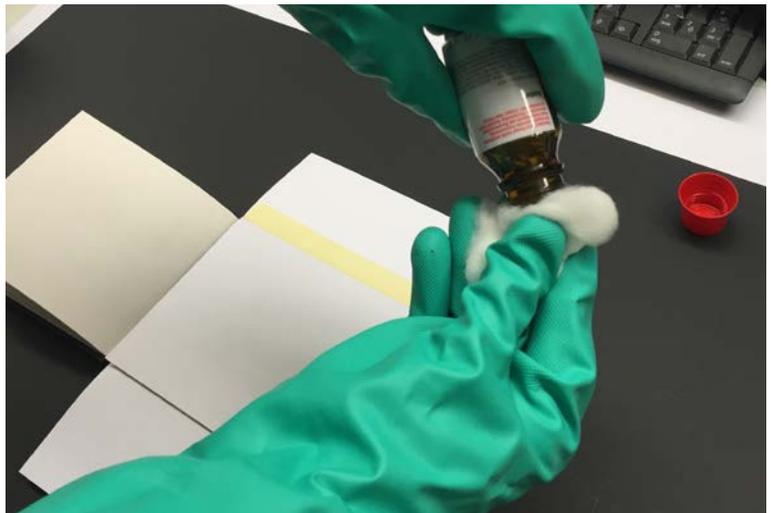
2. Fix the copy

In order to prevent the copy from slipping you should attach it with a tape to the underlying paper.

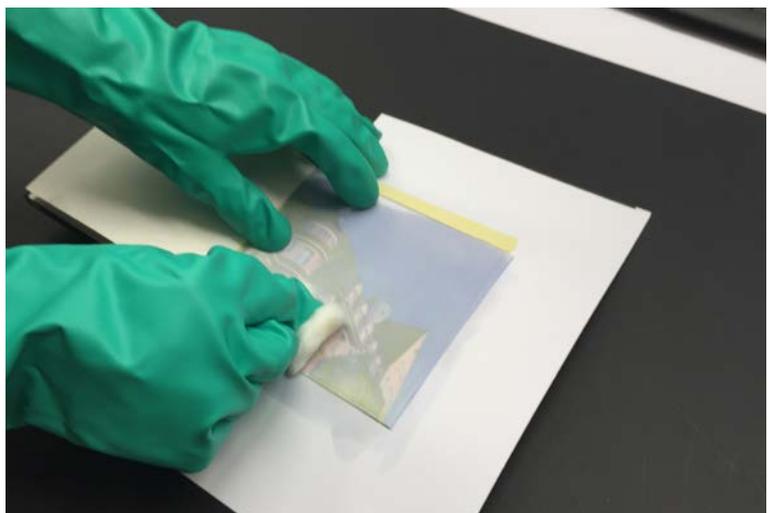


3. Acetone-transfer

Be aware of all the mentioned safety precautions, the protective glasses, the acid-proof gloves and sufficient ventilation. Carefully soak the cotton ball with acetone. Close the acetone bottle immediately so the acid can not tip or run out.



Afterwards you rub the backside of the the laser colour copy with the acetone-soaked wad ball. The acetone dissolves the toner of the laser copy and transferres it on your sketchbook page. Work carefully and quickly because the acetone evaporates very fast.



Lift the colour copy carefully to see if the transfer worked out fine. If the result appears not the way you expected it, fold the copy back and rub it again with the acetone-soaked wad ball.

TIP: Attach the colour copy just on one side to the underlying paper so you can easily fold it up. The copy can be peeled of best when it's still wet.



5. Remove the copy

Now it's time to carefully remove the laser copy. Usually a yellow shimmer remains on the backside of the page. For this reason it makes sense to use the technique on both sides of the sketchbook page.



Selective picture-transfer

After transferring images full-bleed to single pages of our sketchbooks we'll now see how a selective picture-transfer with acetone works. This part of the acetone-technique makes it easy to integrate only parts of a photo to a sketch and gives it a unique touch.



1. Define the transfer-area

First of all it is important to decide, where you want to place your motive. In this example I show you how a picture of a banana tree is transferred to the right side of the sketchbook, by sparing the drawn leaf. The outline of the drawn leaf will be traced on the transparent paper (template).



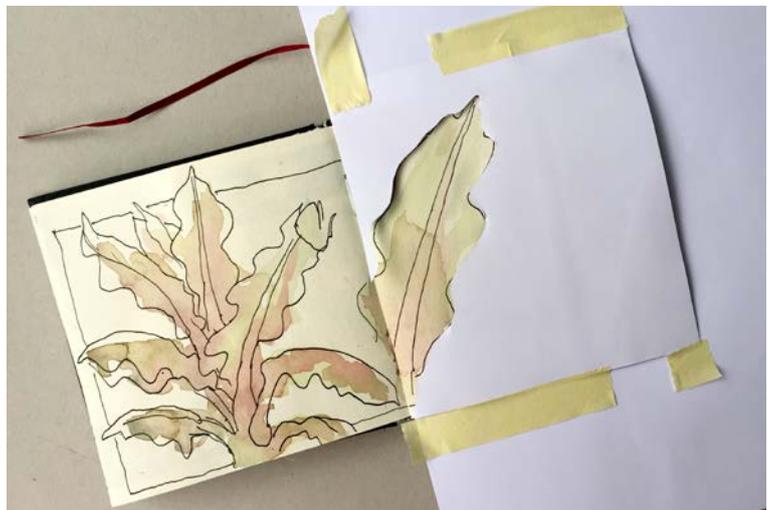
2. Transfer the transfer-area

In the next step the transparent paper is placed mirrored on the laser copy. Elements that you don't want to transfer have to be cut out. In this case the drawn leaf. This works quite well with scissors. If you have more details a scalpel might work better.



3. Place the copy

Attach the prepared copy in the right place in your sketchbook. You prevent the acetone from trickling through on other pages of your sketchbook by putting under some sheets of paper and an acid-proof foil underneath.



4. Acetone-transfer

In this step you transfer the selected area to your sketchbook page.

5. Please note that...

Existing drawings can be etched and changed uncomely by the acetone. That's why you should test it before.

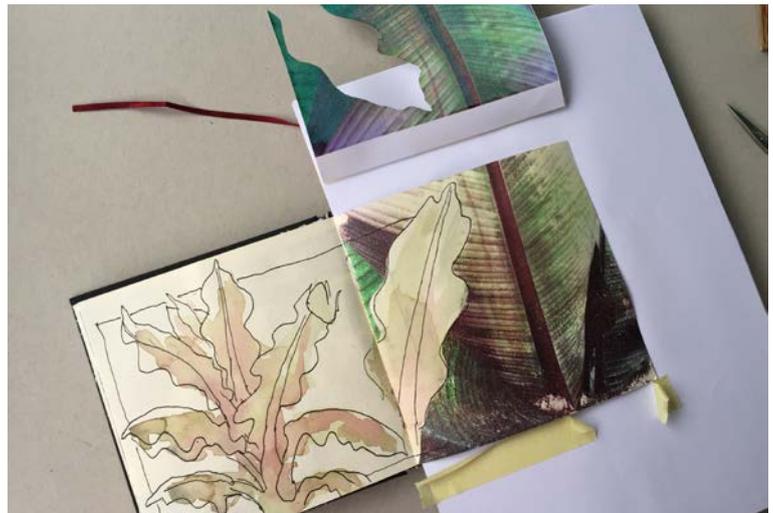
In the last workshop we experienced that:

No transformation or variation:

- Pigmentliner by Staedtler
- Super5 penholder with Super5 ink

Slight variations:

- Molotow acryl pencils
- Molotow Belton Street-Art colour cans



6. Finishing

Later on the page can be completed.



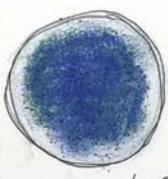
Examples







FÄRBERRAID
(DYER'S WOOD)



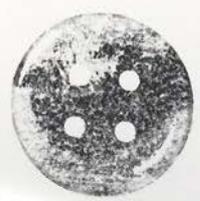
Zur Färbung von Blau diente lange Zeit des Färberraid.
Nach dem Waschen und Trocknen des Blattes wurde es in
seinen Brei gemahlen und mehrere Gänge und Trocknungs-
prozesse unterzogen. Die Waichfärberei galt als schwierig,
besahlt sie nur erfahrene Blaufärber durchzuführen konnten.
Die bis zu 1,5 m hohe Pflanze stammt ursprünglich aus den
Höhengebirgen im den Kaukasus. Heute auch in Europa beheimatet.



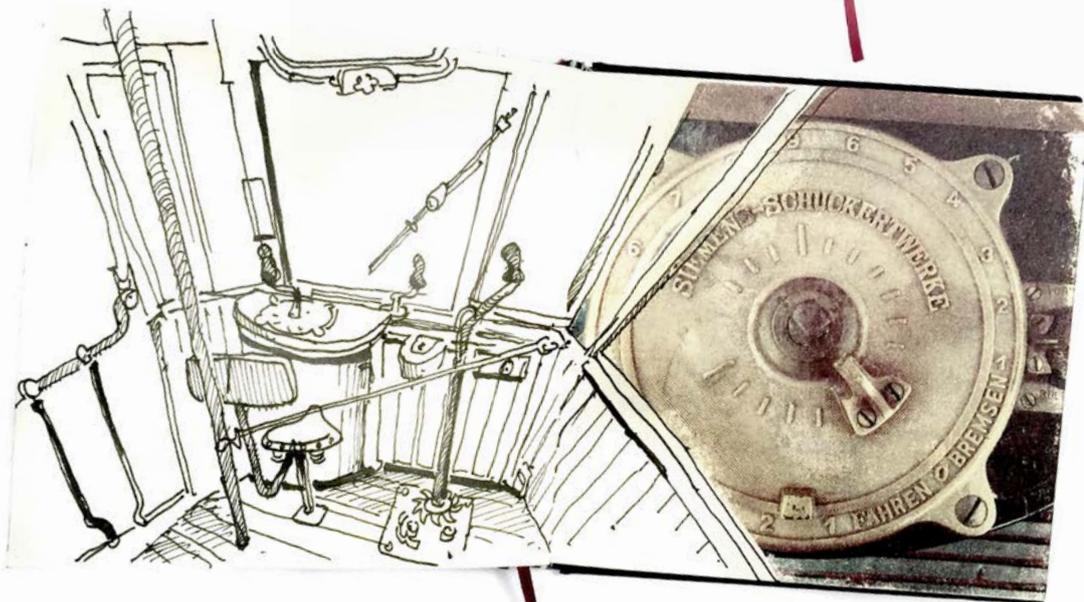
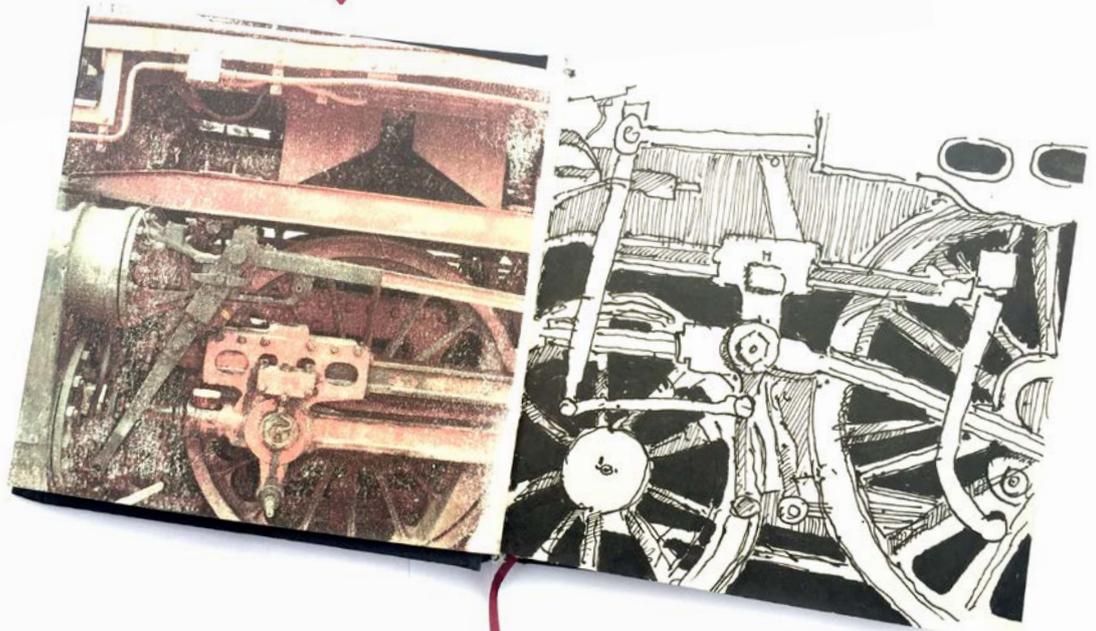
tiim Studio für
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T +49 201 91001 50 / F +49 201 91001 131
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Lederjacke 1930



+ Platanstulpe



Acetonmarker DIY

The acetone-transfer-technique can also be used selectively and with small templates like headlines. Everyone can easily make a »do it yourself Acetonmarker«. Try it out!

First of all you need empty markers (Copics work great). In order to fill the marker with acetone you have to pull out the big point of the marker. After that you drop the acetone with the help of a pipette right into your marker.

Pay attention to the necessary safety measures and label the acetone marker to make sure this pen is recognized as toxic and corrosive. Store it out of the reach of children!

Important: The font has to be mirrored. This can easily be done with Adobe Indesign, Microsoft Word or in some cases with your printer as well.



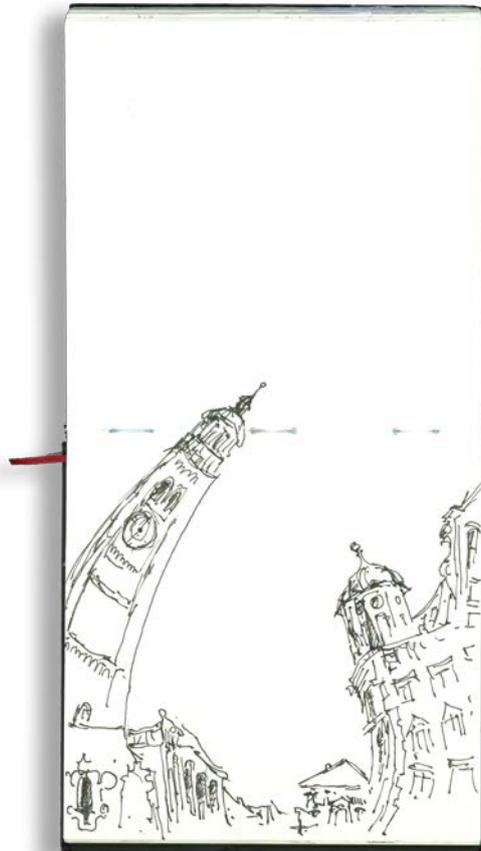
Adobe Photoshop & Co.

If you would like to work even more selectively, you are able to perform an intermediate step digitally with Adobe Photoshop.

Afterwards you return again in the analogous world in order to transfer your digitally provided image to your sketchbook.

1. Scan your drawing

First of all you scan your drawing. It is helpful to grasp the complete sheet format digitally.



2. Place the photo

The elected picture is placed over the scanned drawing. In this case it's a photo of the sky. The photo (sky) has to be placed as the top layer in your layers panel. It can be depicted transparently by reducing the opacity. This works best with the scroll bar in the layer operating window. If the layer is depicted transparently, underneath placed layers become visible.

3. Create a selection

Now you can create a selection with Photoshop. With the lasso tool you can trace the contour of the architecture. It is practical to store the selection. So it can be loaded again later.

4. Fill the selection

Create a new fill layer on top and fill it with white colour. After that you have to put the transparency subjacent layer »sky« to 100% again.



5. *Fading out*

Now fade out the layer with your sketchbook and the drawing. It is important that only the parts remain that should be transferred into the sketchbook.

6. *Mirror*

Now the picture has to be mirrored so it is shown the right way round in your sketchbook afterwards. This works best by clicking »mode« and »flip horizontal«.

7. *Print*

Finally it's time to print your picture. It is important to print it with a laser printer. Ink-jet prints don't work. However, it is possible that some colour laser prints might not work as well as others. It all depends on the toner. Test it!



8. *Transfer with acetone*

Attach the prepared colour copy in the right place in your sketchbook and continue as described on the last pages.

TIP:

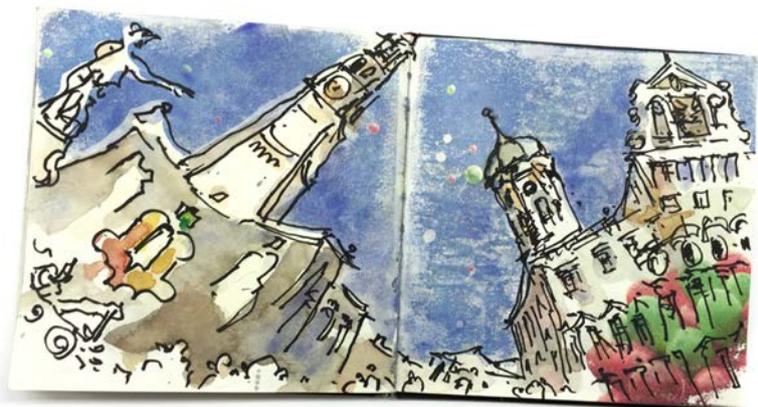
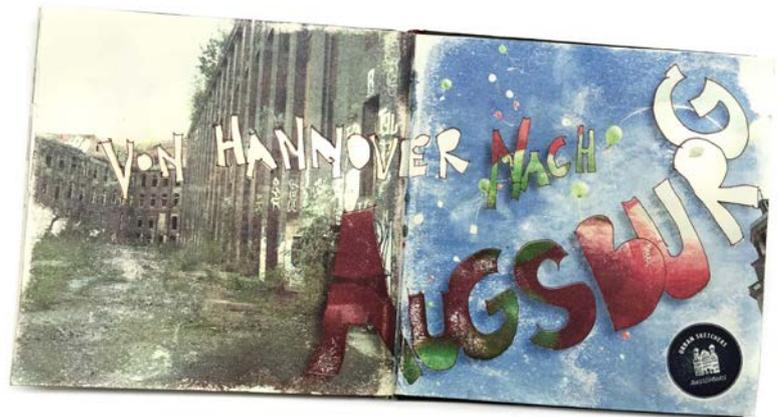
With the help of your smartphone flashlight the laser colour copy can be placed precisely. Nevertheless, certain inaccuracy while transferring can look quite interesting.

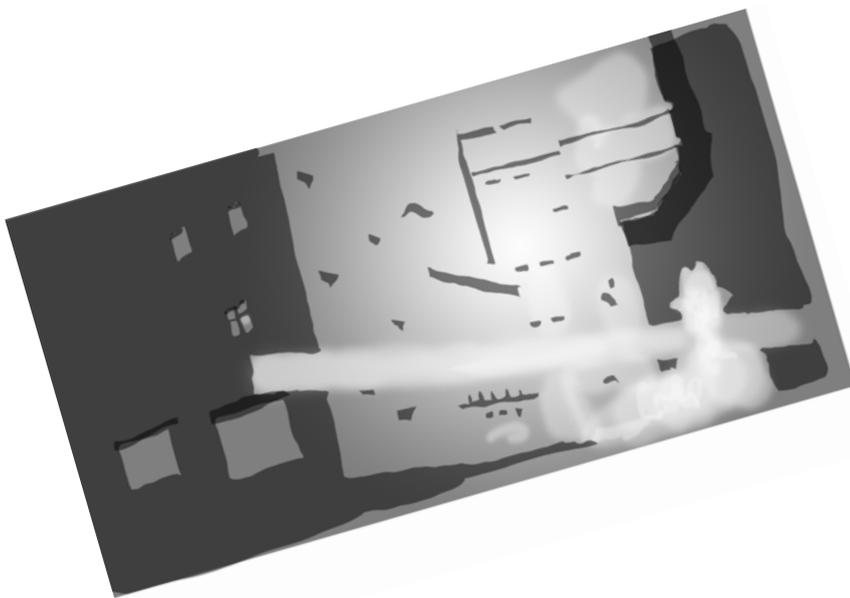
Note:

All the steps shown before might appear quite complicated. Certainly it is advantageous to have basic Photoshop knowledge. However, the combination of analog and digital techniques holds lots of potential.



Examples





Interessante Links

Ältere Newsletterausgaben

Alle bisherigen Newsletterausgaben sind online freigeschaltet:

Am besten funktioniert der Download, wenn nicht mehr als 4-5 Dokumente gleichzeitig geladen werden!

Die kostenfreien PDF-Dokumente finden Sie unter folgendem Link:

www.zeichenwerk.de/galerie

Galeriname: Newsletter

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(bitte achten Sie auf Groß- und Kleinschreibung)

Einzelbilder für Ihre Präsentationspläne

Es stehen zusätzlich Bilder im Format 6x6 cm, 300 dpi zum kostenfreien Download bereit:

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Galeriname: Fruehjahrsimpressionen

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Galeriname: Sommerimpressionen

Passwort: ZeichenwerkS

Galeriname: Newsletter:Bilder

Passwort: Zeichenwerk

Bisherige Themen

Das Zeichenbrett und andere Hilfsmittel

Seiten mit Aquarellfarbe einfärben

Elfchen und Haiku

Skizzenbuchseiten mit Kaffee einfärben

Skizzenbuchseiten farbig anlegen

Isometrie

Bildtransfer im Gartenplan

Linoldruck im Gartenplan

Möbel im Grundriss

Funktionsplan

Das Skizzenbuch Teil 2

Das Skizzenbuch Teil 1

Bäume zeichnen Teil 2

Bäume zeichnen Teil 1

La Gomera

Wissenswertes über Scanner

Quadratmethode Teil 2

Quadratmethode Teil 1

Ansichtsperspektive

Schnittperspektive

Sommerimpressionen

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Photoshop Shortcuts

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Räumliche Zeichnungen

Felsen, Wasser, Stauden

Winterimpressionen

Felsen und Wasser: Ansicht

Herbstimpressionen

Felsen und Wasser: Grundriss

Bäume in der Ansicht

Baumsymbole im Grundriss

Personen für die Perspektive

Freigestellte Bäume

Pflanzen in Südtirol

Visit my Youtube channel:

The following clips are on my channel, most clips are in german, some are in english.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Fgl-BA47XHjR6UkiRqjd4A>

[Großformatige Papierbögen grundieren](#)

[Skizzenbuch mit Aquarellfarbe grundieren](#)

[Skizzenbuch mit Kaffee](#)

[Sketchbook Seiten sprayen](#)

[DIY Zeichenbrett](#)

[DIY Drawing Board \(Engl.\)](#)

[Sketchbook Manchester \(Engl.\)](#)

[Sketchbook Venice\(Engl.\)](#)

[Skizzenbuch Venedig](#)

[Sketching under Water](#)

[Einen Garten in der Isometrie zeichnen Teil 1](#)

[Einen Garten in der Isometrie zeichnen Teil 2](#)

[Transfertechnik mit Aceton](#)

[Transfer technique with acetone](#)

Über 1000 meiner Zeichnungen auf Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/danielnies/albums>

Daniel Nies studied Landscape Design an der Colorado State University, USA. He worked in landscape architectural firms. in 1995 he founded his firm Zeichenwerk where he offers graphic workshops for garden designers.

www.zeichenwerk.de

He ist the author of the book „Zeichnen in der Gartengestaltung“, Ulmer-Verlag. The book is available in german and russian language.

Daniel an Urban Sketcher and a correspondent for Augsburg of the Urban Sketchers Germany blog.



Daniel`s sketches on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/danielnies/albums>

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