

documenting my life in sketchbooks

by EYEZAYU

here are just some guiding principles for why i'm doing what i'm doing, and hopes for the future. thanks for reading (:

i want to record my life for my family and i. i'm definitely the sentimental type... and since life feels like 98% normal moments punctuated by 2% of big milestones, i'd be sad to know that i didn't capture the more mundane. and i'd like for family and future kids to see who dad was and how he lived.

i want to master something. mastering something is always gonna be impressive, and it just opens up the door for a lot opportunities i think.

i want to make as much art as possible and be proud on my death bed. my gosh am i a sucker for volume. tell me that you've made thousands of paintings or songs or whatever else can be made in that quantity, and i'm gonna fall to my freaking knees in awe. doing something at that scale is beyond respectable, and i know that the more i make, the prouder i'm gonna be when it's time for me to go bye bye.

i want to digitize every sketchbook. honestly i think being sentimental and liking to document are so similar. a loose sketch from my girlfriend, goofy candid pictures, and honestly even dirty napkins have been saved before. digitizing is a just a way to make sure i'll always be able to access my past. and perhaps i can have the largest digitized sketchbook collection of an artist in the world??

i want to contribute to the art world. i don't know exactly how, but i know that hundreds of documented sketchbooks would compel a future isaiah to pick up a pen and embody the ethos i absolutely love: make the art you want to see. and dang, the world would certainly benefit more from people simply making the stuff they wish existed.

i don't want to post regular progress on social media. it's kinda an all around stifling process in my opinion. i start to worry about comments or likes or whatever, and i'm less comfortable with experimenting. whenever i do decide to post on social media, the purpose would be for the sake of contributing more depth and context to the project, not to grow a following.

i don't want to sell the any sketchbooks. i view this project as contribution to the world like an open source project. and beyond the digital version, i would like for people to be able to see all the real sketchbooks, and fragmenting it through private collectors feels like it defeats the purpose.

origins

i was practicing to be an animator back in 2024, but found that i absolutely hated the process. small 60 second projects would take weeks to complete which absolutely pissed me off because i just wanted to make something in a day. and my inability to draw made it impossible to execute on anything ambitious. so for a time, i stopped opening krita and just drew in my sketchbook to practice drawing. but in march of 2025 as i was drawing, i did the math of how quickly my current sketchbook would be finished if i continued at the same rate. or doubled it. or quadrupled it. the idea of finishing a sketchbook was exciting, and *especially* in ~15 days. i thought, "heck, if i can do 2 a month, we're hitting 30 sketchbooks finished in a year."

i happened at that time to have a pocket sized sketchbook with just a couple spreads drawn on, so i figured this was as good of any a place to start.

completing that sketchbook in such a short amount of time was cathartic, and by the time i stamped the last page with my thumb, i had another sketchbook just like it to start again, and i was determined to complete it just as quick.

as the second, third, and fourth got done, i had at this point given up on animation and decided that filling up sketchbooks simply for the sake of it was all the joy i needed. and the subject matter i was studying began to move from pinterest to my own life. i was documenting the music (if any) i was listening to at the moment, the date, and the exact time whenever i'd finish a spread. i was putting down thoughts and feelings on the pages too, whether surface level or not.

and so the sketchbooks became far more personal. a collection was starting to form and it was resembling a visual diary of short 2-3 week spans of my life. and as i continued to finish five, six, seven, and eight, the thought of this becoming a life long pursuit seemed doable. i had aspirations to not only draw in the sketchbooks, but have a portfolio that scanned every single page of every book so i and anyone else could flip through any bit of work i've done. and that's what i plan on doing for as long as i'm able.