

URBAN Sketching

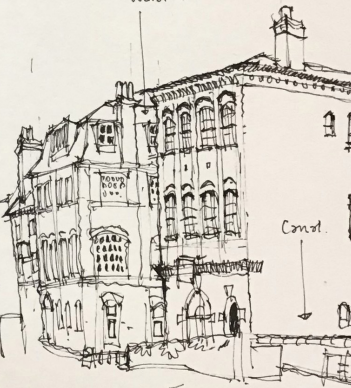
Jewellery Quarter Trail

Pick up a sketchbook and a pen or pencil and go urban sketching with this self-guided tour of some of the Jewellery Quarter's fascinating historic buildings and landmarks. Curated by Artist Ed Isaacs in collaboration with the Jewellery Quarter's Townscape Heritage Project and Cemeteries Project and the RBSA Gallery.



JQ
JEWELLERY
QUARTER
CEMETERIES
PROJECT





Ludgate Hill Sketch

Explore & Sketch

This is a fascinating way of exploring a neighbourhood and recording your travels and where better to have a go than Birmingham's renowned Jewellery Quarter. Here you will find buildings and streets full of character and an area with a unique industrial heritage.

Take your pick from five fascinating locations to sketch.

Key Hill Cemetery

1

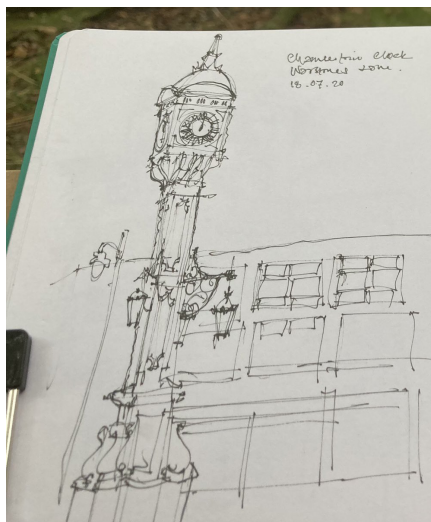
The earliest cemetery not attached to a church in the city, this is where its non-conformist citizens were buried. Its site in a disused quarry, catacombs and elaborate tombs all make this a dramatic and atmospheric place to draw.



Chamberlain Memorial Area

2

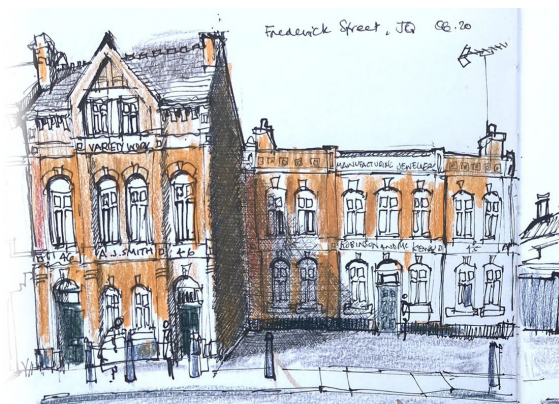
This is the Jewellery Quarter's hub. The memorial clock tower, Warstone Lane Cemetery lodge and surrounding buildings are all worth drawing and you can even sketch from a table outside the Rose Villa pub whilst having a well-earned drink!



Frederick Street

3

19th century factories and workshops, some of which were once grand houses, characterise this locality. You can sketch the individual buildings or get up close and draw some of the architectural details.



Dayus Square

4

There is a lot to draw here in an area that contains historic buildings, new residential developments and a trendy pub. Look out for the premises of Alabaster and Wilson, a jewellery factory that retains almost all of its original features.



Canal Side off Livery Street

5

Descend the steps close to the junction of Livery Street and Water Street and you will go back nearly 250 years to a world far from the busy streets above. Locks, gloomy bridges and all the canalside paraphernalia are just crying out to be sketched.



Tips for urban sketching

You will need

- **A sketchbook** – any will do, but a clipboard to rest it on whilst drawing can be very useful.
- **Pens or pencils for drawing.** Disposable fineliners such as Staedtler or UniPin are good; both are waterproof so that you can lay a watercolour wash over them. Pencils should be soft such as a B or 2B to give a darker line.
- **A small watercolour sketching box** or coloured pencils.
- A lightweight sketching or camping stool.



Perspective and foreshortening can be tricky. It is worth practicing this and holding your pen or pencil at eye level as a way of measuring.

There is never a shortage of things to draw – even the most mundane things can be interesting. Just draw what takes your fancy. It can be street scenes, an individual building or interesting architectural detail. Cars, lorries and people are always interesting to draw.

The urban sketching community

Many people join urban sketching groups and it is great way of getting to know new places and new people. There are groups in most big cities, including Birmingham, and they often meet monthly. They always welcome new people along to their ‘sketch crawls’ and there is no charge. You can find out more about the movement generally and whether there is a local group by visiting the website www.urbansketchers.org.

Local groups usually co-ordinate their activities via Facebook and you can find them using the search facility.



About Ed Isaacs RBSA

Ed is a Midlands-based artist and his interest in townscape, architecture and drawing led him to take up urban sketching. He is regularly out and about in Birmingham and the Black Country. He joins local urban sketching groups and has led groups for Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage. He runs regular urban drawing courses for the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) of which he is a member.

You can see example of Ed’s work on Instagram (@edisaacsRBSA) or on Twitter (@IsaacsEd).

The RBSA has its gallery in the Jewellery Quarter. While you are in the area, why not pop in to see one of its regularly changing exhibitions and its downstairs craft and jewellery shop? It’s located on Brook Street, just off St. Paul’s Square.

Find out more about the
Jewellery Quarter
visit www.jewelleryquarter.net

