

It's all about

**ART**

Your pull-out guide to the  
SAA's very own art event

## Out and About

Light on the River Var  
in oils with Mitch Waite

## Pen & Wash

Allan Kirk captures  
the moment using  
Stabilo coloured  
ink pens

# Capture the Moment



In a world of overwhelming colour choices, **Allan Kirk** shows how a simple set of **Stabilo Fineliner ink pens** puts colour at your fingertips and lets you lift the mood of those impulsive, on the road sketches

In our world we live with colour every second of every day. It wasn't always like this. Travel back a few generations and colour was a rare commodity. I live in the pastel area of southern France, and until explorers discovered Indigo in India at the end of the 16th Century, pastel (the woad plant) was the only blue dye known in Europe. Only the rich could afford colour.

As an artist working in southern France today I am bombarded with colour; at my last count Winsor & Newton had 95 artists' watercolours. When I draw, I am faced with a myriad of choices for colour: crayons, pastels, paint, and ink. My problem is not lack of colour, it is deciding when to use colour? Which colour? And how? When I am out and about sketching I work a lot in black pen and ink. I do enjoy this medium, but there are certain subjects that need the lift that only colour can provide. For example, July through to September in my region is the sunflower season, black and white tone on its own cannot capture the warm and happy mood of sunflowers. We need colour.

I do often paint outdoors, but in everyday sketching mode, I find that more and more I am reaching for my Stabilo Fineliner water-soluble ink pens. They are easy, clean and flexible and let me work quickly and on impulse. I have them with me at all times. It means I can take advantage of colour sketching opportunities whenever they present themselves.

Here, I have included examples of my Stabilo Fineliner ink pens colour sketching, and I will run through the process that leads me to choose



▽ 'Sunflowers'

Sunflowers

Allan Kirk

colour for the subject. I have also included a step-by-step colour drawing that fully describes the way I work.

I use my coloured pens as drawing tools, and combine their use with a Pentel Aquabrush to wash down the ink line and create large areas of colour. It is easy to create colour sketches quickly and mix colours on the paper in the washing down process.

## Revel Market

We never miss the Saturday market at Revel; local producers compete for trade around the medieval square and market hall. I got this sketch at the corner of the square. I wanted a quick sketch that caught the market's bustle and activity and the inviting mood of the street sellers with their bright coloured umbrellas and produce.

## Sunflowers

I particularly enjoy the way that, in the field,



▽ 'Window'

Window

Allan Kirk  
23 Feb. 2010

sunflowers look like they group together in conversation. The large flower heads full of warm reds with bright yellow petals provide a striking contrast to the slightly bluer leaf and stem. This delicious combination is topped off with cast warm shadows from a strong hot sun.

## Window

I chose the bluish green colours for this work to try to capture the calmness of this window that sits in a quiet courtyard of a busy street in Soreze. The darker and warmer reds and yellows in the window contrast well with the bluish green of the bush and shutters.

## Salad

Lesley asked me to draw this Salad Nicoise, which is one of our favourite lunches with our watercolour holiday groups. Food just looks more delicious with colour. I like the variations in red and brown that the chopped tomatoes and tuna presented.



▽ 'Revel Market'

Revel  
Market

Allan Kirk



▽ 'Salad'

Salad  
Nicoise

Allan Kirk  
March 6 2010

## Door and Window step-by-step sketch

### 1 Stabilo Fineliner line

The first step is to create a line drawing of the door and window and then to roughly add colour shading to the main areas.

Complete the outline door, window and vine trunk in Brown. Indicate the door panels and bricks around the door.

Add the foliage as a jumble of mainly Yellow and Green (36 & 43) lines and squiggles. Add to this jumble some Brown Blue. Add Yellow and Red to indicate flowers on the bushes under the window.

Carefully shade in the window with a combination of Brown, Blue and Violet squiggles. Leave the frame and part of the curtains white.

Add Orange, Pink and Red shading to the walls and shutters. Shade more heavily and add Brown and Blue where dark tones will be placed.

### Materials

#### Stabilo Point 88 Fineliners 0.4mm:

Brown (45)  
Yellow (44)  
Green (36 & 43)  
Blue (41)  
Red (40)  
Violet (55)  
Orange (54)  
Pink (56)  
Black (46)

- Pentel Aquabrush
- Drawing paper - 109 lb weight

### 2 Brush down the coloured lines using Pentel Aquabrush

Brush the coloured lines and squiggles with your Pentel aquabrush. Use the brush carefully to preserve the light parts in the windows, and maintain the main drawing. Also be sure to brush the vine trunk carefully. You will see the colours mix together as you work.

### 3 Additional lines

When the aquabrush step is complete and the paper has dried, add more lines to heighten the colour and tone especially around the window and door. Using your Blue, Brown and Red pens, strengthen the colour and tone around the door and window.

Add Brown, Pink and Red to the shutters to indicate hinges and wooden panels.

Add some loose Blue and Violet lines to the path in front of the door and window.

Add more Orange to the walls.

Finally all over the work add some Blue and Black to indicate the darker tones in the foliage, windows, door and vine trunk.

### 4 Brush down the coloured lines using Pentel Aquabrush

Again, brush the coloured lines and squiggles with your Pentel aquabrush. Use the brush like a pencil to draw the windows, vine and shadows. You do not need to make every line disappear - a

combination of lines and mixed colour adds interest.

### 5 Final Details

In this final step use your coloured pens to add lines and drawing to the work. Do not overdo this step, but try to get an interesting balance between line, colour and tone. You can actually use a little Black in places, especially for the windows in the door, and door handle.

Allan's Step-by-Step lessons can be found on his website [www.stepbystepwatercolour.com/](http://www.stepbystepwatercolour.com/) where you can also find a free lesson to complete a watercolour painting "Blue Window". Watercolour painting holidays [www.tarnincolour.com/](http://www.tarnincolour.com/) cater for small groups from complete beginners to professional artists and run from spring until autumn. For watercolour help and tips visit: [tarnincolour.blogspot.com/](http://tarnincolour.blogspot.com/) For telephone enquiries call 0033 563 820 706.

Details of Stabilo Fine-liner pens can be found on page 125 of your Annual SAA Home Shop Catalogue

