

THE ANIMAL SKETCHBOOK PROJECT

AGES

Teens

Adults

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Calling all artists and doodlers to a summer-long sketchbook swap! Here is how it works: Participants check out a sketchbook for two–three weeks and fill it with animals (however many pages they want and in any style). At the end of the loan period, they return it for another sketchbook (if desired) and continue. The only rule is that the sketches must be of animals (or animal-like—insects, monsters, and magical creatures are great!). The end result is a playful cross-section of art and animal observations from your community. At the end of the summer, you might create a slideshow of some favorite drawings and host a meet-and-greet for participants. If you have space, consider shelving the series. Inspired by the Sketchbook Project of the Brooklyn Art Library.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Buy a set of matching hardbound sketchbooks. Number and catalog them for ease of checkout. Set up an eye-catching sketchbook display, and create a handout with the rules and regulations for your library's sketchbook project, including the date for any end-of-summer festivities. Paste a copy of the rules onto the inside cover of each sketchbook.

RESOURCES

Web

The Sketchbook Project: <https://www.sketchbookproject.com/>

Drawing Inspiration for Adults

Making Comics (2019) by Lynda Barry

The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds (2015) by John Muir Laws

The Field Guide to Drawing and Sketching Animals (2019) by Tim Pond

The Art of Animal Drawing: Construction, Action Analysis, and Caricature (1993) by Ken Hultgren

TIP:

Be sure to remind patrons to sign and date their pages!

TIP:

With artist permission, post sketchbook excerpts on social media. Local art is always a crowd-pleaser and will help generate interest. You could also turn favorite drawings from the sketchbooks into bookmarks or posters to promote library programming.

ADAPTATION:

For children, host an animal draw-a-thon! Make simple booklets out of printer paper and let each child fill up their own booklet. Hold a contest to see who can draw the most animals in the time allotted (and/or the most detailed, the most realistic, the most colorful, the cutest/scariest, etc.). Give animal-themed prizes.

TIP:

For YA drawing nonfiction, see Chapter 01: Animal Character Design and Chapter 01: Animal Anime and Manga.

Adult Animal Fiction

The Animals at Lockwood Manor (2020) by Jane Healey

Ape House (2011) by Sara Gruen

Black Leopard, Red Wolf (The Dark Star Trilogy #1) (2019) by James Maron

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead (2019) by Olga Tokarczuk

The Guest Cat (2014) by Takahi Hiraide

If Cats Disappeared From the World (2019) by Genki Kawamura

Niki: The Story of a Dog (2009 [1956]) by Tibor Dery

Spill Simmer Falter Whither (2017) by Sara Baume

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle (2008) by David Wroblewski

The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra (Baby Ganesh Agency Investigation #1) (2015) by Vaseem Khan

Water for Elephants (2007) by Sara Gruen

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves (2014) by Karen Joy Fowler

Where the Crawdads Sing (2018) by Delia Owens

TIP:

For adult fiction with animal protagonists, see Chapter 01: Folded Book Animals; for adult fiction about pets, see Chapter 04: We Rate Pets.