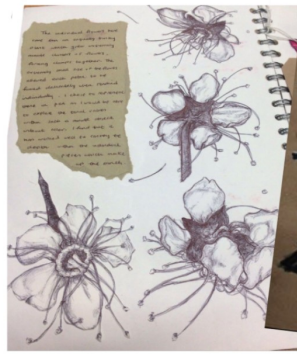


# The Drawing Room

Tony Girardot



## Why do you need a sketchbook?

Our compulsion to draw starts as children when we are able to hold a crayon, but as puberty approaches we begin self-critiquing our abilities to draw realistically. Self-consciousness is mostly to blame and subsequently we lose confidence, also, we've forgotten the real reason why we had the urge to draw in the first place. Putting a pencil to paper shouldn't be about making art as prescribed by convention, or even to please others, but as a way relate observations of the world by visual inquiry. This is something that can be done anytime like taking notes or jotting down a thought. I recently heard a podcast of the artists Arabella Dorman and Gerald Scarfe sharing views on using their sketchbooks in the theatre of war. Although photography is the preferred medium it was interesting to hear how they favoured a quick sketch over a photograph. For Arabella, sketching was visceral and had an immediacy when responding to a scene, it was more memorable than a photograph which could easily be forgotten. Gerald Scarfe found he gravitated toward depicting the character and plight of the Vietnamese people when in Vietnam rather than to record events.

For an artist the sketchbook is an essential personal note book, a timeline of thoughts and observations in both a pictorial and narrative form which evokes and recalls emotional memories.

