

COLOURWHEEL WEEK: A View through the Window

I'm sure that we all feel that we've never spent so much time in our houses of late, and thinking about this, the challenge this week is to capture a view through your window.

I wanted to set a project, a little like an art brief you'd get at college or university. It's a freer project as in the fact that I haven't included step-by-step instructions, but I've listed some pointers and plenty of other artists' work as inspiration.

The view through our windows are so much part of our lives that we can take them for granted, unless we're fortunate enough to look out over stunning landscapes and gardens. I certainly don't, but there can be so much beauty in the mundane and every day. The views through our windows are also every changing. Whether this is because of the seasons, the weather, the amount of traffic or people passing, one view is never the same.

Take a look at some of these examples by other artists as inspiration:

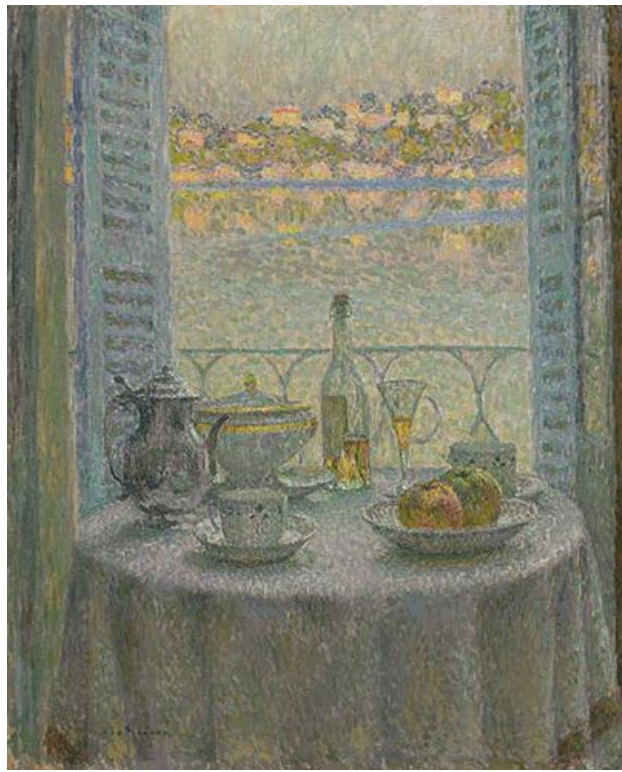
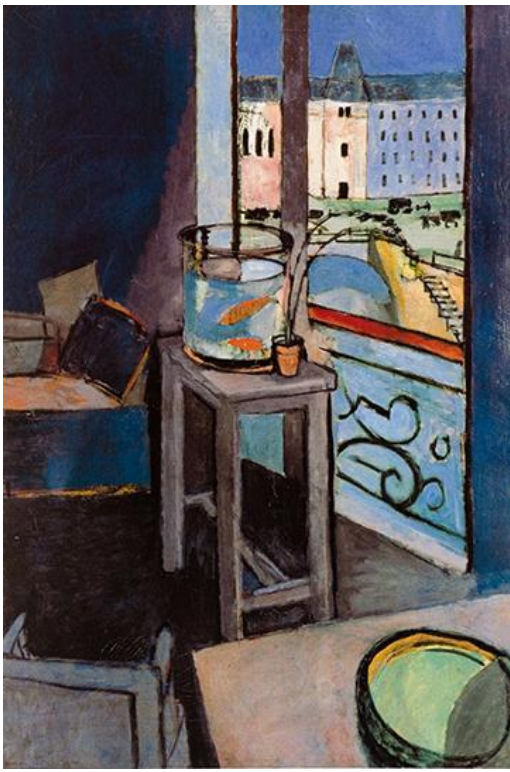


Jools Wilson, Copyrighted image



Todd Mrozinski, Copyrighted Image

In the image above left, Jools Wilson has used a fine liner pen over pencil on cartridge paper to sketch this view from a window in her daughter's flat whilst waiting for something. Placing the books on the window sill, begin to tell a little story of their own. I also really like the view she's captured – simply the rooftops and passing clouds. The drawing would be very different without them! Above right, Todd Mrozinski's drawing, titled 'Bathroom Window View' uses an elongated frame to capture his view. The use of the blind and the window frame help to structure the drawing – again imagine this without it. This appeals to the nosy neighbour in me -my eye keeps being drawn to the window in the neighbouring house and I almost feel myself trying to peer in to try and spot some signs of life.



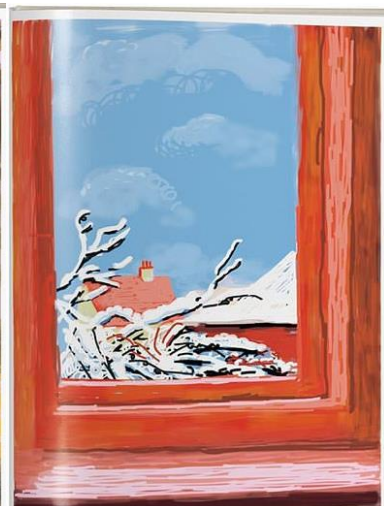
'Interior with a goldfish bowl', Henri Matisse 'La Table Ronde', Henri le Sidaner, copyrighted images



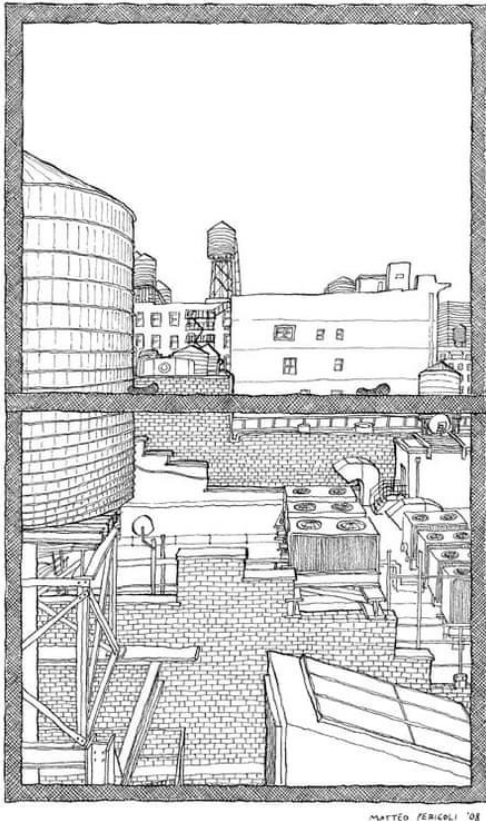
All of the artists on this page, have painted numerous views from their windows.

Henri le Sidaner created a number of paintings featuring views through windows and doors, as a subject or key feature. Matisse was no exception.

The images to the left are taken from a book by David Hockney entitled 'My Window'. There's something very seasonal about his work and I really get an impression of the ever changing view and a sense of place and time of year.



David Hockney, copyrighted images from 'My Window'



Matteo Pericoli, Copyrighted Image



Felicity House, Copyrighted Image

Matteo Pericoli is an architect and illustrator which is very evident in his drawing above of a view from Philip Glass' New York Apartment. The use of line and geometric shapes, including the use of the very simple, stark window frame, make an interesting drawing. Felicity House is a Dorset based artist, working primarily in pastels. There's a lovely use of colour here– the muted, more neutral colours to describe the interior whilst the yellows and greens and earthy tones depict the exterior. It's a cool haven on a warm day.

There are lots of decisions to be made. Consider:

- Which window has an interesting view?
- Which angle will you draw it from?
- Will you include any of the interior or just the outside? Do you want to include any of the frame?
- What medium will you use?

Top Tips:

- A pencil, piece of charcoal or fine liner, all create beautiful drawings and even if you're wanting to create something in colour, I'd recommend starting in black and white first. Do lots of quick, small thumbnail sketches. These can all be of the same view if you want but try varying the position you're sitting or standing in or try different ways to incorporate the window frame or panes of glass. By moving closer or further away from the window, you'll end up with different views! Take a picture of your chosen view as this will be ever changing!
- Once you're ready to start your main drawing or painting, block out the entire scene first. Don't get too caught up in detail too soon! Simple shapes can be used at first for buildings, frames or trees. It will help you to see the whole composition. These can be adjusted as you go. Think about your biggest object and place this into your drawing. This will help you to think about the scale and proportion of other objects.
- The window frame or panes of glass in the frame can really help us to break down the image – it acts as almost a grid whereby we can reference parts of the image against.
- Afraid of starting? Just sketch and doodle. Don't be too precious. Set a timer and allow yourself five minutes per sketch. These are not meant to be perfect (this is why I often do this with a Sharpie or fine liner as the mark is permanent and I can't then erase) but just the fact that you're drawing and looking will get you motivated. Allow yourself time to really see what you're so used to!