



# 7TH ANNUAL SWISS URBAN SKETCHERS SYMPOSIUM

Prepared by: Geneva 2025 Organizing Committee

Period covered: 4-6 September 2025

From Thursday to Saturday, the 7th annual Swiss Urban Sketchers Symposium brought together sketchers from around the world for three days of creativity and community in Geneva. The program featured 52 workshops, each three hours long with 12-13 participants. To reflect Switzerland's linguistic diversity, workshops were offered in French, English, and German. In terms of artistic medium, roughly half of the workshops focused on watercolor or ink & wash, while the rest explored a range of media including markers, gouache, digital sketching, colored pencils, and mixed techniques.

## By the numbers:

- 207** participants with four-, three-, or two-workshop passes
- 37** participants with sketchwalk passes
- 19** instructors
- 4** organizers
- 24** volunteers



## Instructors

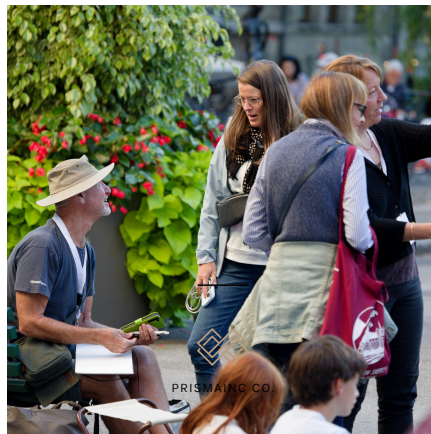
Before the official start of the Symposium, the workshop instructors gathered for a welcome dinner and a special tour of the Caran d'Ache factory. The Geneva 2025 instructor lineup included: Alán Ramiro (Portugal), Albert Kiefer (Netherlands), André Sandmann (Switzerland), George Philip Dean (United Kingdom), Isabell Seidel (Spain), J. P. Kalonji (Switzerland), John Hollander (Switzerland), Katie Woodward (United States), Lapin (Spain), Liz Steel (Australia), Marielle Durand (France), Marion Rivolier (France), Maru Godas (Spain), Michel Dufourd (Switzerland), Róisín Curé (Ireland), Santi Sallés (Spain), Sarai Aleman (Spain), Susanne Brem (Switzerland), and Uma Kelkar (United States/India). Notably, J. P. Kalonji and Michel Dufourd are both from Geneva.



## Sketchwalks & Public Events

Participants sketched at some of Geneva's most iconic landmarks, including Parc des Bastions, the Broken Chair (United Nations), the Rotonde du Mont-Blanc (Jet d'eau), and Cathédrale Saint-Pierre. These locations offered participants the chance to learn about the city's history while sketching on site.

Two public Drink & Draw events were held at Halle des Îles and Place du Bourg-de-Four. These close quarters offered artists the chance to focus on portraiture and conversations. The public sketchwalk took place at Bâtiment des Forces Motrices near the hosting venue. Social gatherings included an opening aperitif on Thursday and a closing aperitif on Saturday, the latter featuring a sketchbook exhibition, raffle and awards, silent auction, and the announcement of the next Symposium city.



## Organizing & Volunteers

The organizing team, Africa Santos, Krystyna Dislich, Maurice Perry, and Roxanne Moore, spent 15 months preparing for the event and share a sincere thank you to the previous year's organizing committee as well as USK Switzerland board for all the advice and guidance during this time. During the Symposium, a remarkable

group of 24 volunteers helped bring the event to life. Thank you for your boundless energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. The event would not have been the same without you.



## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to:

- City of Geneva & Salle du Faubourg for serving as our hosting venue for the Symposium
- Swiss Confederation and Loterie Romandie for the financial support
- L'Astuce Beaux-Arts for serving as our local art supply partner and receiving many of the Goodie bag items
- Baohong, Caran d'Ache, Clairfontaine, da Vinci, Daniel Smith, Escoda, Faber-Castell, Hanhnmühle, Leuchtturm1917, Roman Szmaj, Royal Talens, Schimoni Art, Schmincke, Stillman & Birn, and Winsor & Newton for providing art supplies for the participants
- Caran d'Ache, Clairfontaine, da Vinci, Hanhnmühle, Roman Szmaj, Schmincke, Stillman & Birn, and Winsor & Newton for joining us onsite in the art market
- Les Studios Casagrande for the beautiful photographs
- World Radio Switzerland, Tribune de Geneve, and 20 minutes for covering the event



