

Walking...is drawing. It is a catalyst to understand and engage with the specificity of the area and helps create a sense of place. It connects us to the architecture of a place and to its people; it helps us better understand the cultural dimensions of a place; and it grounds us in the complex texture of a local environment.

When we walk, we begin the process of mapping, observing, and perceiving the visible/invisible paths that shift and transform beneath our feet. Walking provides opportunities to tap into (shared or individual) history and memory. To make a mark and tell stories in the natural and urban landscapes, either real or imagined.

Exploratory Walk: 2- Looking down and looking ahead

Tools: Body, pencil, 2 sheets of paper, two envelopes, view finder (old slide, paper cutout, or use thumb/index finger)

Time: Approx. 2 hours, RT

Location: Walk from your home to your local library, can be 20-30 minutes away)

Close your eyes and listen.

Hum a favorite tune, softly. Imagine the song has three colors (C1, C2, C3)

(Breathe: inhale, exhale)

Hum your favorite tune, softly, letting the colors weave in space.

Open your eyes

(Breathe: inhale, exhale)

Write down those three colors.

Close your eyes

(Breathe: inhale, exhale)

(Take out your viewfinder and use it as a framing device during this walk)

Look straight ahead, then look left and right

Look directly down at your feet, and then look left and right

Search for one of your colors (C1) closest to where you're standing

Write down color, what it is, and where you were looking at

(Ex. green grass looking down, green fence looking ahead, green chair looking ahead, etc.)

Walk to that spot where C1 exists

[Do this 5x for each color, following each color point in the direction of the library.]

When you arrive at the library, place the sheet of paper with color/descriptions in the envelope.

Write down your start and end points (perhaps an intersection or point near your home). Date it.

Seal the envelope and write "Exploratory Walk—Connecting Colors, home to library" in the front.

Tuck the envelope on a bookshelf in the "Local" section.

Now, do the same walk and color exercise as you walk home from the library.

Are you looking at the same color points?

When you arrive at home, place the sheet of paper with color/descriptions in the envelope, write down your start and end points, and date it. Seal the envelope and write "Exploratory Walk—Connecting Colors, library to home" in the front.

Tuck the envelope on a bookshelf.

Close your eyes and listen.

Hum a favorite tune, softly.

(Breathe: inhale, exhale)



