



## MY DRAWINGS

My drawings always start with a desire to capture on paper the world inspired by a face, a silhouette, an animal or objects and places I discover during my numerous trips abroad. For me, it is very important to represent the object as closely as possible as to how it really looks. This is why I draw from photos or, whenever possible, from the object itself. I feel the need to reach the essence of the subject, to encompass it totally, going beneath the surface to explore the limits defined by its outline. I am interested in the transparency of surfaces that are actually opaque, the repetition of forms on different scales, or the juxtaposition of different angles seen from the same model.

A drawing is also a story, made up of both exciting and hopeless moments. I know that it will be a long story and will give me not only anxiety but also pleasure during the time I spend on it, for time is an ally that gives itself freely. After euphoric beginnings, the creation often becomes difficult and I need to refrain from going to the next step before having finished the draft which I want to be very detailed and accurate. When I'm happy with the draft the colour phase begins, though it's not just colouring but a full partner to the drawing. The colour forgets the outlines

and slips between the lines, evolves on the page without worrying about the subject, helped by the draft but not constrained by its structure.



*Les Princes de la Nuit*



*A Fleur de Thé*



*Chaussure à Son Pied*



Finishing a drawing is a joy, having brought to a close a long-term project. It is also a pain, putting an end to our joined story and the realisation that it is always a bit different from my initial idea. I have to accept this and let it go and live its life.

I never use techniques involving rubbing out, blurring or diluting colours. I obtain the very varied mixes of tones and nuances that characterise my artwork by layering the colours patiently on a very smooth paper. My inspiration has always been, and hopefully always will be, inexhaustible. I don't limit myself to any style or subject, but I equally love drawing objects, animals and humans, although the human body and face have always had a special place in my artwork. Over time, I have developed a very personal style where my colour mixes and delicate lines give birth to imaginary compositions where precise and detailed representations of reality mix with an expression of my interior world. More than 30 years ago, I decided to devote myself to the passion that drawing has always been for me. It has been a big part of my life since my teenage years and I have never regretted that choice.

Maryse-Anne Couteau



*La Blessure*



*Le Passage du Temps*

Many thanks to France Bauduin for translating this article from the original French.

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