

B B C BITESIZE

Kate: Annotation for me is just kind of labelling what you are doing, why you're doing it, what can be improved, what you like about something. It just makes it all more coherent.

I like to do it on post-it notes so it feels more casual and I can always take it off afterwards.

Sometimes writing directly onto the page can be a bit intimidating especially in a new sketchbook, so writing it on a different bit of paper and sticking it in or writing on a bit of masking tape and sticking it in - it's kind of like having a conversation with yourself, like "It's going to be okay, I'm working it all out."

You might draw something quickly and spontaneously and write something next to it and then you'll forget about it for a while and come back to it and because you've got that note next to it, you will remember why you drew that and it will make a lot more sense to you.

It's good to have the genuine thing - your original thoughts and you can develop them but it's good to keep everything and not throw anything out.

Annotation for me is just my random stream of consciousness working its way onto the page. As well as the annotation that's straight from your head I think it's good to step back and really do some analytical annotations so use artistic terminology as well for example juxtapositioning and contrast and colour palettes.

It doesn't make the drawing itself any more valid or impressive but it shows why you've done it and your thought process behind it. I did a drawing of a girl with flowers growing out of her and that by itself seemed quite, not mundane but it just seemed quite vapid and then the title was, "From my rotting body flowers shall grow and I am in them and that is eternity" which is an Edvard Munch quote. It made a lot more sense along with the title.

Sometimes you can't see the goodness in your work or you get too focused on the bits that haven't worked but, yes, I definitely think it is important to recognise what you like about your work. Sometimes the beginning of an idea comes from annotation and then you can actually turn that into art.