

# MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



## SKETCHY BUSINESS

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# Group 41

# MSA LIVE 21

## Team

**Eva Filose** (M Arch 01)

**Alina Marinescu** (M Arch 01)

**Karolina Vachalova** (M Arch 01)

**Rodica Earmacov** (M Arch 01)

**Adriana Tomeci** (M Arch 01)

**Elliot Flynn** (M Arch 01)

**Maria Trif** (BA 01)

**Jessica Jones** (BA 01)

**Jade Kenyon** (BA 01)

**Katherine Nancarrow** (BA 01)

**Kyle Stott-Briggs** (BA 01)

**Andreea-Maria Antoche** (BA 02)

**Cara Russell** (BA 02)

**Yves Phyl Arimas** (BA 02)

**Amber Primus** (BA 02)

## Partners

We have collaborated with the Manchester Society of Architects during this project. This thriving community of both architects and students represent our past, present and future architects and artists of Manchester. Just like us, they are eager to get pen-to-paper and beautifully lay out their ideas. We had workshops with Ewen Miller and Jason Boyle who shared their experience of sketching in practice and then led workshops. These workshops were a great opportunity for students to try new techniques and use sketching skills in new ways to achieve different results.

# Agenda

## Sketchy Business

In partnership with Manchester Society of Architects, we have carried out multiple workshops on various drawing techniques along with post production techniques. This helped students step out of their comfort zone and develop their styles. Our online exhibition showcases the drawings produced from the workshops and is able to reach out to the wider creative community.

WORKSHOPS - The workshops and presentations from guest speakers were an opportunity to share ideas and engage with new techniques. The workshops include:

Collaborators from Manchester Society of Architects:

Ewen Miller - Workshop on speed sketching and drawing process

Jason Boyle - Workshop on sketching design concepts.

Collaborators from Manchester School of Architecture:

David Connor - Presentation on sketching

Ray Lucas - Presentation on artistic demonstration of Architecture and Anthropology

Internal Workshops by 5th years:

Eva Filose - Different types of perspectives in urban sketching

Elliot Flynn - Post production editing in photoshop

Adriana Tomeci - Storyboarding

## OUTPUTS

- Refined individual drawings produced from workshops

- Group collaboration to produce two Jigsaw Drawings

- Guide and process of producing jigsaw drawings to enable anyone the opportunity to participate.

- Online exhibition on social media to engage and inspire a wider audience. It displays the outputs of all the workshops along with the jigsaw drawings.



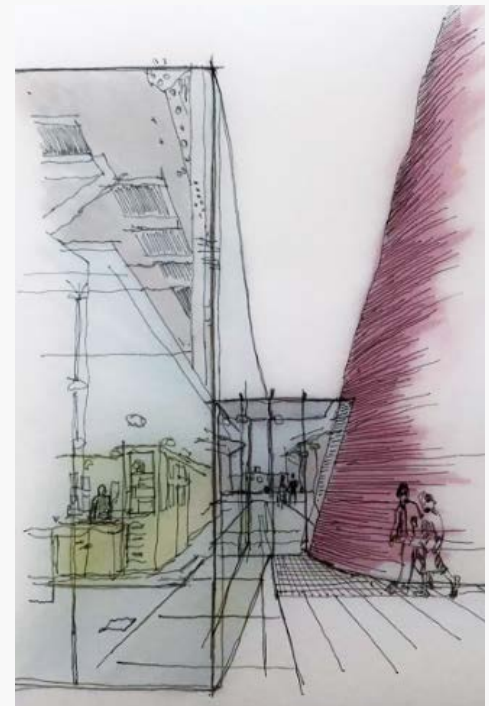
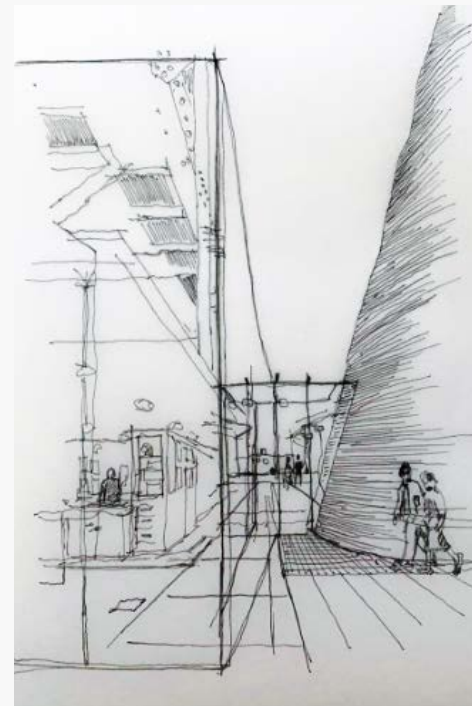
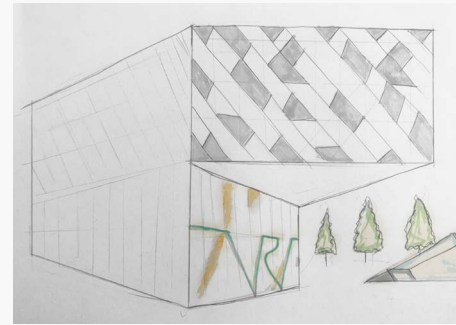
# WORKSHOPS

## DAVID CONNOR PRESENTATION

For our first workshop, we invited David Connor from MSA to hold a presentation on the role of drawing in architectural design. Through his presentation the students learned how drawing can enable you to create quick site responses while also creating a distinct atmosphere for your proposed design.

## JASON BOYLE WORKSHOP

This workshop looked at the use of speed drawings, starting up with a short presentation for the students. Everyone then had one hour to create a drawing to present to the group with the produced work showing each individual approach from the students! Students were encouraged to think about the process of sketching and to document the journey of their drawing with process photos. The students have learned how planning your work as well as making sure to take informed decisions on each step are key elements in working under a time limit.



Images produced from Jason Boyle's workshop

Images Top Left: Jade Kenyon

Images Top Right: Yves Phyl Arimas

Images Bottom: Jessica Jones

## PERSPECTIVE WORKSHOP

MArch student Eva Filose presented a workshop on different types of perspectives. The students were then encouraged to try perspective drawings and we have seen some very ambitious attempts of 3, 4 or even 5 point perspectives! This helped encourage students to step out of their comfort zone and try their hand at some complex architectural compositions. Getting comfortable with perspectives help to convey ideas quickly and effectively.

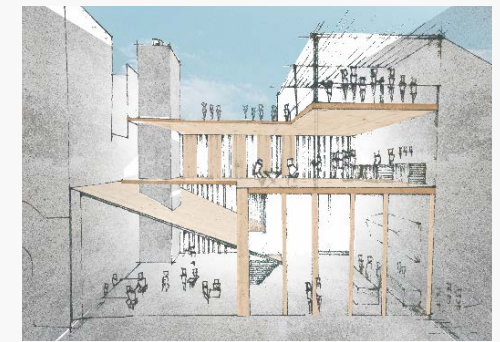
## EWEN MILLER WORKSHOP

The workshop focused on quick ways of presenting and showcasing design ideas. The students were given a Northern Quarter site to work with and after initial site responses looking at the atmosphere, light and sounds of the space, they each had to quickly produce a site intervention. Not only was this a great opportunity for the students to get creative, but the workshop has also helped them work on their presentation skills, as they were communicating their ideas to the MArch students and to Ewen Miller.



## PHOTOSHOP WORKSHOP

MArch student Elliot Flynn led a workshop on post-production techniques in Photoshop. Our students were quick to learn new skills and apply them to enhance their previously created sketches. The activity was interactive as the MArch students took turns in sharing their knowledge and tricks for digital rendering and post production.



Images from Ewen Miller's workshop and MArch workshops on perspective and photoshop.

Image Top: Katherine Nancarrow

Image Middle Left: Cara Russell

Image Middle Right: Yves Phyl Arimas

Image Bottom Left: Andreea-Maria Antoche

Image Bottom Right: Kyle Stott-Briggs



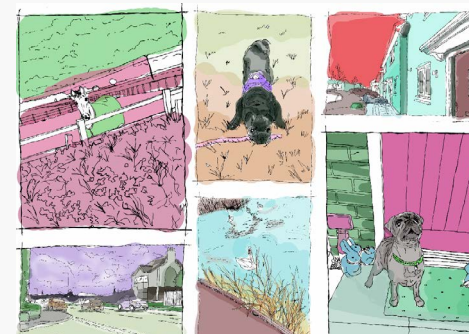
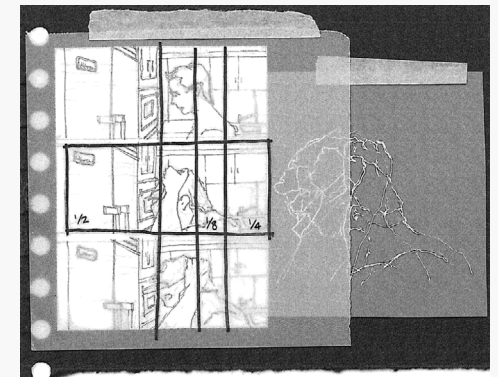
# RAY LUCAS PRESENTATION

This workshop emphasized on the various ways that atmospheres and events can be translated into drawing. It looked at how sketching can become a key tool in the anthropological observations of not only architecture, but also culture itself. Students got to learn how drawing could be used as an instrument to document moments outside the architectural sphere.

# STORYBOARD WORKSHOP

This creative workshop was coordinated by MArch student Adriana Tomeci. Based on her experience with Ray Lucas' Research Method module from this year, the tasks focuses on identifying the atmosphere and showcasing the points of interest through drawing and analysing the camera movement, sounds and lighting. This is a useful observational exercise in which students will learn how to make informed decisions on how they want to visually communicate their ideas, applicable to all of their work.

Students were able to create unique storyboards of individual journeys. This is a great way to practice storytelling through sketching!



Images from MArch storyboarding workshop

Image Top Left: Katherine Nancarrow

Image Top Right: Amber Primus

Image Bottom Left: Jessica Jones

Image Bottom Left: Andreea-Maria Antoch

# JIGSAW DRAWING

This piece is the result of Group 41's collaborative drawing effort.

By taking the existing skills of students and applying them to the task of recreating a small section of a larger piece, the result was a drawing demonstrative of the artistic capabilities of the whole group, yet also readable as a single piece of work simultaneously.

The first piece selected was a photograph of the corner of Albert's Square, adjacent to the town hall - with an eclectic mix of building styles to challenge students to broaden their approach in use of new media and drawing technique. A statue was also overlaid onto the final photograph to add a little more variety and a sense of depth to the piece, introducing elements of foreground and background, shifting the focus of the piece.

This also encouraged students to manage their time effectively between the focal point and backdrop in their final work; there was a 1-hour time limit on this task so time management became an integral part of producing a successful drawing. The element of time management is a crucial skill in the course, so many of our workshops were timed to help students develop this skill.

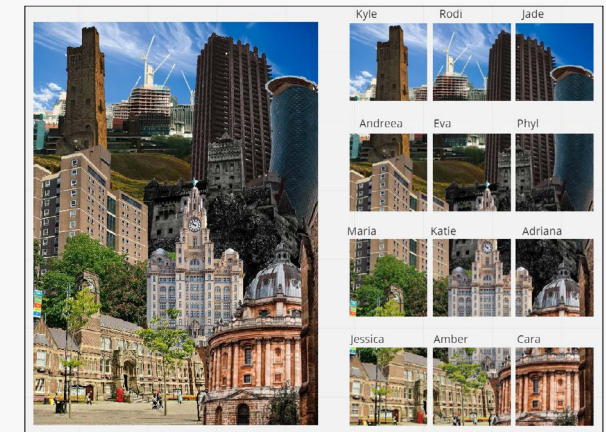
The second time this style of piece was produced, it was one of the final outputs of our project, to help students exhibit the skills that they have learned throughout the 2-week course. Intended to highlight their revised and more experimental approach to sketching, wherein they were encouraged to use unfamiliar media or new techniques: perfection was not the goal, rather to create something that each person could be proud of individually, as well as something through which everyone could recognise the value of a collaborative effort - a key theme of our project.

This piece featured a collage of buildings, each one relevant to a single student in Group 41. Similar to the first jigsaw drawing, students could select their own media and technique to create their section, to fantastic effect as shown on page 13.

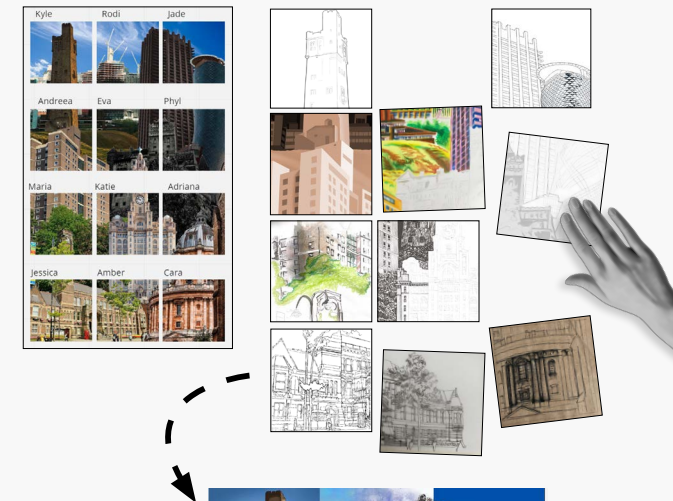
The overall drawing process can be found on page 11, and the final drawings produced from the first and second instances of this task can be found on pages 12 & 13.

## JIGSAW DRAWING PROCESS

01. Collage of students' photographed buildings is produced, and split into 12 segments, each assigned to a student who will recreate the image in their chosen media/technique.



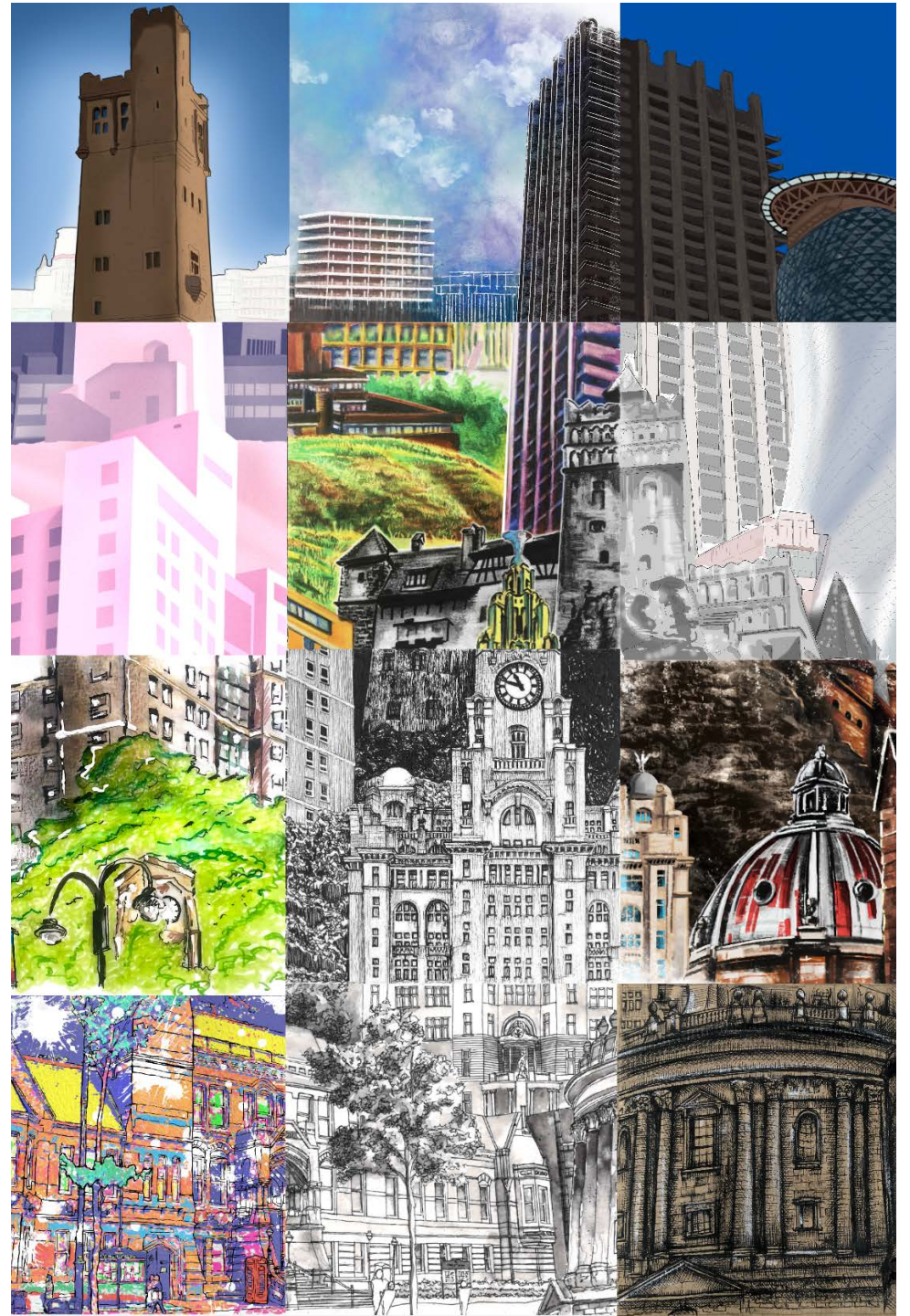
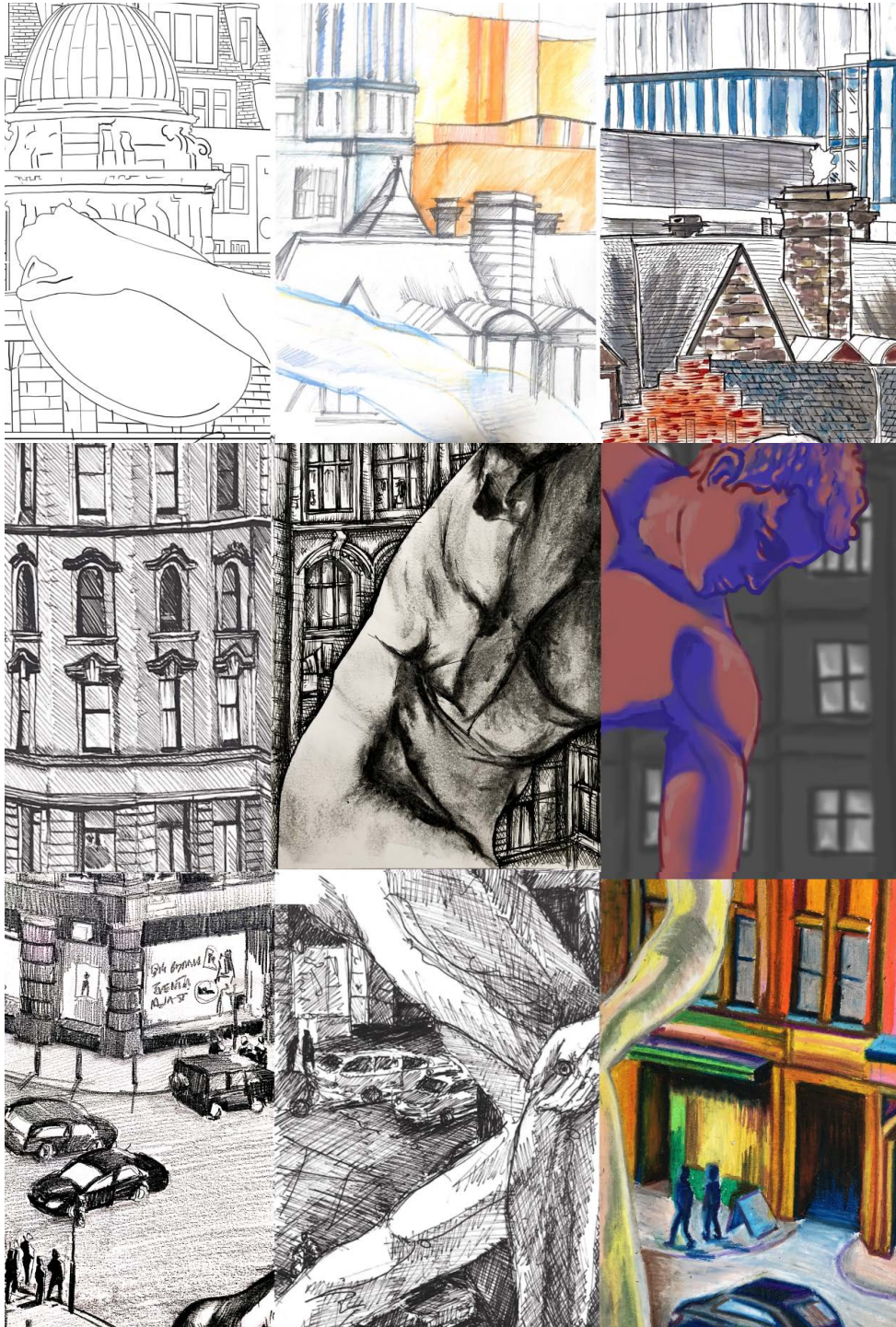
02. The segments are recreated by students in their chosen media/style, shown here using photographs of the in-progress drawings from the students.



03. The final piece is assembled once all segments have been completed, to create a multimedia image featuring work from all students - to fantastic effect!









# ONLINE EXHIBITION

## EXHIBITION - SOCIAL MEDIA

Sketchy Business has been looking at ways to bring the blog closer to our public and showcase the fantastic work produced by BA and MArch students. Throughout the two weeks of MSA Live, our group had a very active social media presence on Instagram, using it as a platform to inform about the team, the workshops and exhibit the sketches. The username @msa\_sketchy\_business has gained attention from students, tutors, alumni or people outside of our course. We have been constantly featured by the official Manchester School of Architecture and Manchester Society of Architects social media pages.

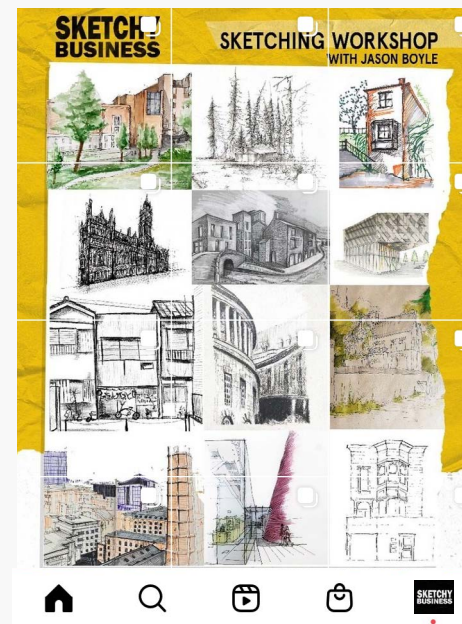
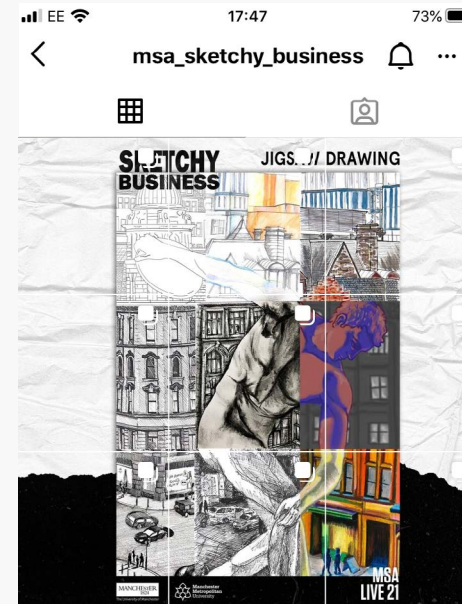
As part of our final exhibition, we have used the social media platform to our advantage and pushed the notion of the feed one step forward by creating collages spreading across multiple posts on our page, reflecting the aesthetic of Sketchy Business.

One of the first multi-post work was our first Jigsaw Puzzle exercise. Our BA and MArch students were given a puzzle piece of a more extensive composition and were asked to draw it in their own style. The end result is a unique composition, where complementary drawings enhance one another. Afterwards, we have asked the students about the experience, and they shared

some insight into the preferred art technique with the rest of the group, such as materials used or creative process, which were then shared on our Instagram feed.

Because of the success of our first jigsaw exercise, we decided to do it again! But this time, students had to choose one building representing them in the college, which was subsequently divided into 12 pieces. In this exercise, students can showcase what they have learned during the 2 weeks of MSA Live and their personality and art style. This exercise aims to allow collaboration between the students with a visible result in the time of Zoom meetings.

Our social media engagement has become an open-end exhibition. Other students have shared their work in progress or final sketches using the @msa\_sketchy\_business page as a user-friendly and accessible gallery to showcase our shared passion for drawing!



## REFLECTIONS

Kyle - I gained a new perspective on sketching and moved to a more positive outlook on having my own style.

Amber - I've enjoyed experimenting with different styles and it has given me the motivation to sketch more in my everyday life.

Andreea - I have learned to have more confidence in my sketching skills, and I have received very helpful feedback.

Cara - I have found the workshops engaging, inspiring and productive across the two week project.

Jessica - At the start of the two weeks, I was nervous to sketch however all of the workshops have now helped to gain my confidence.

Phyl - Confidence in sketching and focusing on specific details to draw were the main things that I took from this project.

Jade - It has been great to have small workshops learning new skills, that I will use throughout my time at architecture school.

Katie - I have learnt to trust myself and have been inspired to sketch more and more within and outside of Architecture.

Maria - I found myself enjoying drawing again, not just as a demand for my work, but something that relates directly to what I want to describe and represent.



## ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

## LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

## SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

## EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

## STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

## LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

## QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:  
**[b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk)**

## BLOG

[live.msa.ac.uk/2021](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2021)

## SOCIAL

**#MSALive21**

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## WEBSITE

[www.msa.ac.uk](http://www.msa.ac.uk)