

# "What's He Building?"

## Illustration Assignment

*Illustration is more than drawing the listed elements of the text.*

**Materials:** Thumbnails: Graphite pencils, Paper,  
Rough: Graphite pencil, Paper  
Final: Black and White Scratchboard  
In-Class: White Prisma Color pencil, black paper, scratchboard

**Size:** Proportional to 10" wide x 8" high (Landscape)

**Assignment:** The Los Angeles Times Living Section article, *Living In Our Own Heads*, uses the Tom Waits song to explore how our subjectivity and psychological frame of mind creates the way we see the world. Use the song to create an illustration to accompany the article while exploring subjective perception of the world.

**Critique one:** 15 Black and white thumbnails (use full value) in proportional boxes.

**Critique two:** 3 black and white pencil roughs (Bring Scratchboard and Scraper tools to class for technique practice)

**Critique three:** The final art is due which will be done on 8" x 10" scratchboard. Mount on black illustration board and turn in the thumbnails, roughs and in-class work associated with the project.

Thumbnails= 5 points possible  
Roughs= 10 points possible  
In-class work= 5 points possible  
Finished Art= 15 points possible

**35 points total are possible for the project**

**Final art will be mounted with 2-inch borders on black board with a Tracing paper cover flap and heavy dark gray cover flap. Tape a 9" x 12" envelope on the back. The envelope will contain: B/W thumbnails, B/W Rough, in-class work and reference material.**

## What's He Building?

Tom Waits

What's he building in there?  
What the hell is he building in there?  
He has subscriptions to those magazines  
He never waves when he goes by  
He is hiding something from the rest of us  
He is all to him self...I think I know why  
He took down the tire swing from the pepper tree  
He has no children of his own you see  
He has no dog... he has no friends  
And his lawn is dying  
And what about all those packages he sends?  
What's he building in there?  
That hook light on the stairs  
What's he building in there?  
I'll tell you one thing he is not building a playhouse for the children  
What's he building in there?  
What's that sound from underneath the door?  
He's pounding nails into a hardwood floor  
I swear to god that I heard someone moaning low  
I keep seeing the blue night of a TV show  
He has a router and a table saw  
And you would believe what Mr. Stitches saw  
There is poison underneath the sink of course  
And there is also enough formaldehyde to choke a horse  
What's he building in there?  
What the hell is he building in there?  
I heard he has an ex-wife  
In somewhere called Mayors Income Tennessee  
He used to have a consulting business in Indonesia  
What's he building in there?  
He has no friends but he gets a lot of mail  
I bet he spent a little time in jail  
I heard he was up on the roof last night signalling with a flashlight  
What's that tune he's always whistling?  
What's he building in there?  
What's he building in there?  
We have a right to know