

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Sculpture: the Body and its Language

Instructor: Leonid Lerman
Class Hours: 2pm – 6pm
Dates: Thursday, February 7th – Thursday, May 2nd, 2019
No class: Thursday, March 28th
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course will focus on making use of the figure and is aimed to help students understand the structure of the human figure through direct observation and conversion of perceptual information into a “language of sculpture.” The goal is to cultivate the skills of a young artist in order to create an “image,” based on “timeless confrontation with a present moment.” (--T. McEvilley).

Course Outline

During the course of a semester, class will work on several projects focused around the perceptual work from the figure:

- Sketches in clay with focus on movement, balance, proportions, 8-12”;
- Portrait. Bust from life with complex relation of head to shoulder, life size;
- Basic principles of relief sculpture. Portrait in relief;
- Half-life size figure modeling with focus on gesture, proportions, balance, sense of rhythm and connection between different parts of the body, 24-36”;
- 3-D composition: interpretation of a classical sculpture or painting of the past. Spatial relations in abstract and semiabstract terms (optional).
- Final discussion: the importance of the Modernist critique of traditional conventions for present-day artists interested in working with the human figure.

Learning Outcomes

During the course of a semester students will further deepen their understanding of structure, as inner frame of a human body and its relationship to the surface; Students will learn basic tools, that are necessary for dealing with such fundamental issues as movement, balance, proportions, structure, etc. Students will begin to synthesize their learning experience, such as - understanding the relationship of drawing to the process of form development.

Assessable Tasks

After the discussion and agreement with the instructor, students will be able to establish their own highly individual goals towards the final project.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must attend all classes, with final evaluation being divided as follows: 50% work completed in class and homework assignments; 20% based on participation and motivation; 30% on the final project.

Readings and Resources

- Bammes, G.- “Die Gestalt des Menschen”
- Peck, Stephen Roger - “Atlas of Human Anatomy for Artists”
- Berry, William - “Drawing the Human Form”

- Lanteri, Eduard - "Modeling and Sculpting Human Figure"
- Thomas McEvilley - "Sculpture in the Age of Doubt"
- William Tucker - "The Language of Sculpture"
- Brandon Taylor - "Avant-Garde and After"
- Mathew Megged – "Dialogue in the Void"
- Adolph Hildebrand – "The Problem of Form"
- Wilhelm Worringer - "Abstraction and Empathy"
- Joseph Heller – "Artist's Journey Into the Self"
- Moshe Barasch – "Theories of Art"

Materials and supplies

- 100lb of clay (provided by NYSS),
- Figure armatures 24' - 36',
- Head armature,
- Plywood Board: 24' X 36',
- armature wire,
- tying wire, etc.

School, Department & Class Policies

Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook, as well as any specific instructions given by the Atelier Head (instructor).

Students participating in this Atelier must observe all instructions given for the safe use of any equipment and may not use any power tools unless they are experienced in their use or until they have been instructed in their safe use by the Sculpture Technician or the Atelier Head (instructor). Students must, at all times, conduct themselves with care and with due consideration for their own and their fellow students' safety. To this end, the studios must be kept clean, tidy and in good order throughout the duration of the course.