

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2019

Sunday Morning Drawing: Doubting & Daring

Instructor:	Rosie Lopeman
Class Hours:	Sundays, 10 am – 1 pm
First Class:	Sunday, September 22, 2019
Last Class:	Sunday, December 8, 2019
*No Class:	Sunday, December 1, 2019 – Thanksgiving
Contact Info:	See Program Office

Course Description

The objective of this course is to practice trusting the unpredictable nature of our own perceptions; to cultivate attentiveness and patience in drawing; to establish a foundation of seeing that can sustain and fuel the creative path – wherever it may lead.

We will be drawing from direct observation. As we attempt to make a drawing that is true to our experience, we will observe the tropes we use on the page (e.g. different kinds of mark making, or compositional decisions), and see what assertions underlie them. As we cultivate these decisions, we slowly deepen our experience of the world around us.

Students will be urged to shift away from old habits and expectations. The class is a chance to be completely process oriented, in order to clarify our aims in drawing.

Course Outline

The class will be based in direct observation for the full 11-week duration. We will be working from the model and still life, and occasionally from other artwork if needed. Some questions and topics we will explore include:

- How do you draw relationships? What kind of marks can respond to the space inbetween things?
- How can we use drawing to search for a powerful image?
- How do the tools used affect your seeing?
- How does the passage of time relate to the stillness of images?
- How can you stay present and open in your drawings? Can you start to tell the difference between actual engagement versus phoning it in?
- What level of simplicity or complexity is needed?
- How does size and scale affect the experience?

- How can we take our work seriously?

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn a foundational practice of seeing and drawing that can serve as an anchor, or entry point, in their ongoing creative process.

Assessable Tasks

The number of drawings completed per class will vary. Any assignment will be limited to the three-hour class. Students should expect to have approximately 11 finished drawings and many exercises completed by the end of the semester. Sketchbooks should be used frequently, both in and out of class.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must have good attendance, participate in critique, and engage in a genuine inquiry through drawing assignments. All three of these criteria must be met. In addition to the criteria for a passing grade, students who take risks and show serious ambition will receive a High Pass. If students meet only two of the above criteria, they will receive a Low Pass. For example, if a student has poor attendance but is engaged and participates when they are present, they will receive a Low Pass.

Suggested Optional Readings

Against Interpretation, Essay by Susan Sontag
Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry, essays by Jane Hirshfield
Writings, Agnes Martin
Mean Free Path, Ben Lerner
Day Book, Anne Truitt
Eva Hesse's Published Journals
Nature and Art Are Physical, Rackstraw Downes
Gorky's Granddaughter – Online Archive of studio visits
Painters on Painting – Online Blog
This is Water – Speech by David Foster Wallace (youtube)

Materials and supplies

Paper:

- 8"x10" or larger sketchbook of any kind, to use in and out of class.
- 18" x 24" pad of heavy drawing paper. Canson or Strathmore.
- 10-15 large sheets of 140 lb watercolor paper, 22"x30". (If you ask for student grade, you should be able to find something for about \$2/sheet)

Mark makers:

- Jumbo charcoal

- Vine charcoal
- One packet of compressed charcoal (optional)
- Pencils: 2H, 2B, 4B 6B
- Staedler eraser
- Kneaded eraser (optional but recommended)
- Dip quill pen (speedball is fine, with various sized nibs)
- 3-5 Assorted brushes. At least one large brush.

Fluid materials

- One Bottle of Black Sumi Ink (Yasutomo, in the green bottle is good)
- 1 quart white gesso (student grade/art store brand)
- 1 quart black acrylic paint (student grade/art store brand)

Other supplies:

- Scissors
- Mat Knife + Blades (Stanley) (optional – but good for cutting paper down to size)
- Flathead screwdriver (for removing staples and replacing blades in mat knife)
- 1" White Artists tape (no blue tape)
- Staple gun + staples (Light or heavy duty)
- Pushpins (optional)
- Straight edge ruler (3' or meter)
- Cups and jam jars for water/ink
- Paper towels

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 Instructor.