

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2019

Sculpture: Structure and the Perceptual

Instructor: Jilaine Jones
Class Hours: Tuesdays, 2pm-6pm
Dates: September 17 – December 10, 2019
Contact Info: see Program Office
Office Hours: see Program Office

Course Description

The underpinning of all visual art is structure; structures are ideas. This course is concerned with how structure functions in sculpture and how it also is present in the viewed world around us. Using a range of materials, we will make an exploratory start (without the use of subject matter) to initiate discussion and viewing of simple principles of structure. Work will then be generated by observation - of still-life and larger scale elements set up in an area and in response analogous sculptures will be developed. The physical and optical experience, the internalized sensations of viewing the set-up, will be addressed as affecting the sculpture's ideas. Concluding activity will be sourced from ideas existent in the students independent or previous work, or a work of art on display in a NYC museum, or a structural concept.

Course Outline

Students will initially be prompted by of a set of simple principles to make several sculptures, or experimental constructions, using a range of materials including clay, wire, wood, and cardboard. Discussion of this work will be the starting point for an ongoing focus on how structure itself is communicating. Again, using a series of materials, which behave differently and bring different issues to importance, sculptures will be made in response to viewing an inanimate set-up in space. Finally, students will choose independently – from either a structural concept, a work of their own (3-d or 2-d), or a work of art (3-d or 2-d) to make one evolved sculpture, or series of sculptures. Primarily evident in this last independent exercise will be that the dynamic structure of the source is explored. Viewing and discussion of the issues and presence of structure in art, current and past, and effects of perception, will interrupt work at least once in the semester as well as a group viewing and discussion at a gallery or museum exhibition(s).

Learning Outcomes

A structural idea can be found and carried far both formally and as metaphor by emulating structures existent in a perceived situation. To expand a foundation of sculptural understanding by considering visual, and through physical empathy, structures which have dynamics such as a contrast of compression and expansion, or a developed direction of gravitational force, or a spatial ordering which conveys specific sensation of closeness and distance, or a motion by an equilibrium of weights. To take on, from start to resolution, the making of a sculpture whereby the underlying mechanics comprises the immediate and essential idea, and which can inform future work including of drawing and painting.

Assessable Tasks

Engagement in the work of the project in the Sculpture Atelier with the faculty present and without. Persistence, experimentation, and evolution in addressing the ideas are expected, through the proposed

processes and materials, to transform towards unforeseen questions and answers. Participation is crucial in the dialogue of the group to discuss the project, precedents, and the ongoing work of the group.

Evaluation and Grading

MFA students participating in this course will receive grades. Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must have good attendance and participation. Students will be informed during the semester if either of these aspects are not being met, passing may depend on the students following up on the Instructor's suggestions and guidance. A passing grade is reliant on the engagement with assigned tasks in a satisfactory manner.

Readings and Resources

Will be assigned throughout the semester.

Materials and supplies

Clay (provided at NYSS)

Rolling pin, canvas

Knife and any clay tools (don't buy until we discuss)

plastic

Wood boards 12 x 24, 10 x 10, 20 x 20 as bases

Tapes of various strengths

Assortment of Heavy Paper

Scissors

Cardboard, bought: same amt as above, or found

Drill (NYSS has a few to share); drill bits

Hammer, Assortment of nails: incl. finishing, wire Brads

Glue Gun, Glue sticks

Glue (Matte Medium, PVA), Wood Glue

String, 1 roll

Wire, find 3 rolls of varying pliability and thickness.

Dowels: 1/8, 1/4, 3/8, 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, 2 kinds: round and square, 36" L (2 of each, 24 pieces at least)

Lumber and board pieces of varying thicknesses and lengths

Clips, alligator, laundry

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.