

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2020

Friday Evening Painting on Paper

Instructor: Kaitlin McDonough
Class Hours: Fridays, 6:30pm – 9:30pm
First Class: Friday, February 7, 2020
Last Class: Friday, April 17, 2020
Contact Info: kmcdonough@nyss.org
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Through sensitive perception and engagement with materials, this course will expand one's ability to see relationally. Participants are invited to use a range of collage and water-based materials such as ink, watercolor and acrylic to translate what they perceive (including, but not limited to, what one perceives through sight) into a visual system of organization, creating works that will range in duration and scale.

Emphasis is placed on active looking, light and value, mark-making and touch, scale and materiality, atmosphere and air, tone and energy. This series will also focus on the cultivation of each participant's respective motivations, methods and subsequent meanings in painting. All levels of experience are welcome.

Course Outline

Class meetings will present visual situations and themes, typically including a live model, and the majority of class time will be spent making paintings from observation or through a suggested alternative strategy. Formal aspects of drawing and painting will be emphasized so as to better integrate these elements within the overall content and emotional tenor of the work. Works on paper will vary in size, media, strategy, duration and focus.

Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to heighten attention and sensitivity to one's actions during the act of painting on paper and to heighten attention and sensitivity to the viewing of works. Participants will learn to translate three-dimensional space into two-dimensional marks; to respond energetically as well as analytically to observed space and form; to cultivate studio habits that will lead to self-sufficiency; and to begin to recognize strategies for art-making which bring them joy and elicit a response of 'yes'.

Assessable Tasks

Paintings on paper will be developed during each class session; participants should expect to complete a combination of long works and/or multiple short works during each session. It is suggested that all students keep a sketchbook in which they build, independently, upon the class strategies which they find to be the most useful to their own practice.

Evaluation and Grading

For MFA students, grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students should demonstrate engagement with their work, strong participation and attendance, and a striving to find a balance between effort and ease in making. A grade of High Pass will be reserved for students who demonstrate the above to an exceptional degree. Please refer to the Student Handbook for the attendance policy; three unexcused absences will result in a lower grade and possibly failure.

Suggested Reading and References List

- Writings of Agnes Martin
- Writings of Bridget Riley
- CVJ by Julian Schnabel

Materials and Supplies

- Old magazines (or similar) to be used for collage
- Glue (elmers, a glue stick, matte medium – please bring whichever you are most comfortable using)
- A range of paper; please bring approximately 10 sheets of paper to each class. Recommended weight 140lb. or more, recommended size (approximately) 18" X 24". *You are welcome to experiment with different types of paper during each class & throughout the course.*
- Containers for water, at least two (can be clean jars or other plastic cups).
- Please choose **at least one** of the following (you are welcome to bring more than one):
 - Watercolors (a tray set is great)
 - Ink (black and/or colored)
 - Acrylics (please bring black and white and at least three colors)
 - Gouache
- Brushes for whichever material you will be using of those listed above (at least 2 or 3 brushes, if not more, of varying sizes, [one sable recommended for watercolor and/or ink])
- Artist tape or masking tape
- Paper towels
- Drawing board (recommended; there are boards available at the School, but you may prefer to have your own)

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.