

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2020

Friday Evening Painting on Paper - VIRTUAL

Instructor: Kaitlin McDonough
Class Hours: Fridays, 6:30pm – 9:30pm
First Class: Friday, September 25, 2020
Last Class: Friday, December 11, 2020
No Class: Friday, November 27, 2020 - Thanksgiving
Contact Info: kmcdonough@nyss.org

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 will be placed on fierce looking, light and value, mark-making and touch, scale and materiality, atmosphere and air, tone and energy. We will work from observable spaces and objects in our respective locations and from our various senses. This series will also focus on the cultivation of each participant's respective motivations, methods and subsequent meanings in painting.

Course Outline

Class meetings will present visual situations and themes and the majority of class time will be spent making paintings from observation – from each participant's respective space – 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 (or other format) 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 List

- Writings of Agnes Martin
- Writings of Bridget Riley
- Writings of John Berger
- CVJ by Julian Schnabel
- Turps Banana Painting Magazine

Materials and Supplies

- Old magazines / scrap paper (or similar) to be used for collage
- Glue (Elmer's, a glue stick, matte medium – whichever you are most comfortable using)
- A range of paper; please try to have approximately 10 sheets of paper on hand for each class. (Suggested weight 140lb. or more, suggested 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).
- Black and white acrylic paint
- 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 (a range of colors, including black and white)
 - 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 and easel (not required, suggested if possible; alternatively, a work-table or floor space)
- **As this is a virtual course, meeting on Zoom and utilizing Padlet, all participants should have reliable internet access, a way of photographing your work digitally, and a computer or other through which to access the class.**

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.