

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Summer 2021 Marathon COLOR - Virtual

Instructor: Kaitlin McDonough
Class Hours: 9am-1pm ; 2pm-6pm
Dates: Wednesday, June 2 – Tuesday, June 15 (no class on Saturday and Sunday)
Contact Info: kmcdonough@nyss.org
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This Marathon will elevate and expand our sensitivity to all aspects of color. Placing practice before theory, we will explore the wild richness of color functionality and mutability. Exercises will deepen our understanding of hue, tone, saturation, deception, intervals, boundaries and color relatedness. We will prioritize conclusions drawn from what we observe firsthand and will trust our sense of sight above any preconceived notions of how a color might behave. Using colored papers and the teachings of Josef Albers, we will sharpen our awareness of the many ways that colors shift, bend, vibrate, radiate and co-create on the page. We will internalize a deep awareness of color and ways to work with color confidently. This course will be taught online using a combination of Zoom meetings and Padlet discussion boards. All levels welcome.

Course Outline

Through direct trial and error, we will explore, create and examine:

- Relativity of light: grayscales
- Relativity of hue: making one color look like two different hues, making two colors look like the same hue
- Relativity of light: relative light and dark in different and opposing hues
- Color relations: finding the middle color between two hues
- Subtraction of color: the effect of a ground on the hue that it carries
- Color deception: simultaneous contrast and after-image
- Color mixture in paper: Illusion of transparency
- Color boundaries and plastic action
- Color intervals and transformation: saturation
- Harmony and expression
- Masterwork studies in collage: color instrumentation

Concepts will be presented and ample time will be spent working individually to unpack and create with each property of color. Presentations, online discussions and virtual gallery visits will complement our studio work.

Learning Outcomes

This course will heighten students' sensitivity to properties of color (hue, tone, value, saturation, temperature) and color relatedness. Participants will learn to assess color activity and understand the mutability of color, leading to a more nuanced reading of color situations and a more refined usage of color in one's own projects. They will also gain a vocabulary with which to understand and to discuss the nuanced properties of color.

Assessable Tasks

Each color topic will lead to the creation of multiple "color trials". The completion of these studies will be reviewed, assessed and critiqued. Masterwork transcriptions will be assessed for nuance, sensitivity and ambition.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis for NYSS MFA students. To achieve a 'Pass' grade, students must attend class on a regular basis, prepared with their assignments ready for review at the beginning of each session; exhibit a commitment to investigating the respective questions of the course; participate in group discussions. 'High Pass' will be reserved for students who do the above and show exceptional growth and effort in all of these areas.

Suggested Reading and References List (**we will look at these together during the course*)

Josef Albers, *Interaction of Color*

Jan Verwoert, *"Emergence: On the Painting of Tomma Abts"*

The writings of Bridget Riley

Materials and Supplies

- Color-aid Paper Set (full set of 314 colors, 6" X 9")
- Exact-o knife (extra blades may be helpful)
- Metal ruler (for cutting)
- Plastic cutting mat
- Rubber cement (you will likely use 3 to 5 containers during the full Marathon)
- Rubber cement eraser (recommended)
- 18" X 24" sketchbook white paper
- Magazines for collage (additionally, any found paper can be helpful for collage work)
- Masking tape
- Small sketchbook/notebook (optional for note-taking)
- It is essential that all participants have access to a computer; functional internet connectivity; and a way of photographing and uploading their work (a digital camera or smartphone with a decent camera).

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.

NYSS Student Conduct for Virtual Learning

In order to maintain a virtual space wherein participants feel at ease to share and learn openly with one another, the New York Studio School prohibits participants in virtual classes from recording, taking screenshots, or otherwise copying any portion of New York Studio School's online courses. While participants are free to share images of their own coursework, sharing or posting images or recordings from a virtual class on social media is prohibited without the consent of the instructor, models, and students from class. Course content is solely for registered students of the class and cannot be shared with others. By participating in virtual courses, students are aware that the New York Studio School may record and archive Zoom meetings, Padlet pages, and other content from the course.