

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2021 Sculpture Marathon

Instructor: Sarah Peters with Guest Erin Jones
Class Hours: 9am – 1pm ; 2pm – 6pm daily
Dates: Tuesday, September 7 – Friday, September 17 (no class: Sunday, September 12)

Course Description

This Marathon will focus on making sculpture through the lens of art history. Work will be generated through research and filtered through the artist's intuitive response to materials and form. Class critique will emphasize the relationship between image and meaning as we analyze of shape, form, texture, rhythm, geometry, symmetry, and proportion. Connections between figuration and abstraction will be highlighted.

Course Outline

Students will come to the first class with 25 images of art historical objects. These initial inspirations will be transformed and manipulated through numerous visual and structural interventions throughout the two weeks of the Marathon. We will make both studies and finished works in clay, cardboard, plaster and mixed media. The focus of the making is the student's instinctive gestures over time made in response to objects created in the past. Rather than beginning with a concept and fulfilling through execution, ideas will be developed through the discovery of form.

Learning Outcomes

Through participating in this Marathon, participants will:

- Develop skills in the organization of space and the use of line, shape, color, texture, geometry, symmetry, placement, arrangement, lighting, and proportion;
- Develop an understanding of the connection between material choice, craftsmanship and meaning;
- Become familiar with a wide range of contemporary sculpture practices;
- Learn to contextualize their own work in relation to contemporary art and art history;
- Develop an enriched vocabulary so that they may better critique their work and the work of their peers, and become confident and engaged in a group critique;
- Enhance skills with sculptural materials and techniques;
- Develop critical skills necessary when responding to contemporary sculpture in terms of formal aesthetics and subject matter.

Assessable Tasks

Week 1: Clay and mixed media sculptures made in response to imagery and objects found in art history. (4-6)

Museum research trip

Week 2:

Plaster monoprint relief sculpture (6-8 or more)

Clay relief and press casting (2-3)

Slide presentations throughout the Marathon

Evaluation and Grading

NYSS 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 address the ideas and commit to the activity/exercises through continuous involvement; Be ready with materials to begin each session; Participate in and be receptive to the dialogue of the group; Produce at least the sculptures listed in Tasks.

Readings and Resources

Matter of fact, poems by Eamon Grennan

Camera Lucida, Roland Barthes

Materials and supplies

For clay sculpture:

- Wood clay modeling tools – (NYSS has tools for student uses and you are also encouraged to bring your own)
- Water Clay (provided by NYSS)
- thin plastic sheeting (for covering clay) (provided by NYSS)
- thicker plaster sheeting (provided by NYSS)
- Pieces of raw canvas 6" x 6" or larger (for clay building)
- Old t-shirts for cutting up and keeping clay wet
- Spray bottle for water (available at NYSS)

For mixed media projects (optional):

- Cardboard or chipboard
- Found objects
- Glue gun – (available at NYSS, but recommended to bring one if you have it)
- glue
- Clips
- Scissors
- Xacto knife
- Tapes of various strengths

For plaster projects:

- Dust mask
- Rubber gloves
- Plaster (provided by NYSS)
- mixing buckets
- plastic (heavy duty 3 mil for casting on)
- vaseline
- wood strips for making larger armatures - drill and screws (available at NYSS)

Optional:

- Fluid acrylic paints - for tinting plaster, for painting objects, dipping fabric
- Things for embedding:

You can embed almost anything in your reliefs but I like to keep the depth of whatever I am casting under 1/2" to keep the relief shallow and easy to hang. Some examples are below but we can try anything!

- heavy fabric (upholstery, burlap, canvas, fringe, etc)
- small objects
- sand, shells, small rocks, glitter

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 and on the School's homepage nyss.org with regards to Covid protocols and entry procedures. Students are expected to be on time and to attend all classes. Classes missed due to Covid related precautions will be excused.