

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2022 Drawing Marathon Establishing the Horizon Line

Instructor: Clintel Steed
Class Hours: 9am-1pm ; 2pm-6pm ET
Dates: Thursday, January 18 – Friday, January 28 (no class on Sunday, January 23)
Contact Info: Program Office

Course Description

In this Marathon, we will study the power of the horizon line. We will work from the still life and the model, using Cezanne as our guide to explore the geometric idea of the square, the circle and the cone. We will focus on line, shape and form. We will work from observation every day and will push the boundaries of what we think a finished drawing is. We will challenge ourselves to follow ideas of looking and reacting to see where they lead.

The first week we will be working on drawings in the morning, exploring how to establish the horizon line and building upon it. We will look for the axis that moves through space and use the classroom as a universe. Each day of the first week, we will make drawings from the set up. After in the afternoon we will do small paintings thinking about the horizon line and focusing on shapes. We will explore how we can draw and use color to make form and space. We will explore angles and use a plumb line.

During the second week, we will work on larger scale drawings. We will make one large drawing a day and experience what it is like to work on one drawing for an entire day, focusing on the horizon line and relationships. The purpose of this Marathon is not to create 'finished' works, but to experience what happens when we narrow our focus to establishing the horizon line and all that it bears.

Courses Outline

In this Marathon, we will be challenged to let the the drawing and painting grow from the idea that everything grows from the horizon line. We will work from the setup and get lost in how the world is coming together. We will investigate how many vanishing points we can have in one drawing once we establish where the horizon line is. We will explore the idea of relationships weaving through the world. Each day we will focus on the rectangle and really making feel compact. We will look at Cézanne and see how he applied this idea and how it affected the way that he looked at the world. We will look at other artists who also used this idea of the horizon line in a very meaningful way. We will understand that something complicated can be made from something that feels simple.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will learn, through working with the horizon line and drawing from nature, the importance of geometry and color. Participants will understand how to use the square, the cone, and the circle to make something that has a very dynamic symmetry. Participants will gain an understanding of how drawing can help one to understand structure and geometry. After students have taken this class, they will have a better understanding why it is important to establish a horizon line. We will better understand how shapes and planes in space begin to emerge. We will understand that a painting does not have to always equal something but can be born out of looking and responding to the lines and shapes inside of the rectangle. Students will learn that the more you focus on the rectangle what' ever idea that you have will be that much stronger just because of the elements inside of the rectangle.

Assessable Tasks

Students will be required to push themselves each day. Ready to work for an entire day seeing how a drawing can grow and transform over time Just from there idea of finding the horizon line. We will look at the Renaissance where the idea of the horizon line was born. We will look at painters like De Kooning who even through just mark making having a strong horizon line can be powerful. Having an established horizon line can be in important element in painting always. In the critiques

students will be challenged to speak up and talk about each other's work and helping each other explore this idea of building from the Horizon line.

Evaluation and Grading

For NYSS MFA candidates, grading is on a High Pass, Pass, Low Performance, Fail basis. To achieve a passing grade, each student should attend every class and be actively engaged with making work; including all activities, discussions, critiques and demonstrations.

Materials and Supplies

Drawing Materials:

- Arches oil paper roll, 51 x 10 yard or 400 series Mixed Media, roll size 42" x 8' yard x 2
- Sketch Books recommended Strathmore Series 400 sketch Books- 11x14
- Pink Pearl Eraser x 2

We will draw primarily in graphite:

- Lyra Graphite Crayon Class Room Package of 24 Assorted.
- Alternatively, General Wide compressed Graphite Sticks 2B, 4B, 6B.
- In addition, if preferred, you can use just regular pencils with a range of 2B-9B.

During the second week of this Marathon, we will use paint.

Black and white acrylic paint – along with the primaries of red, yellow, and blue – can be substituted, with additional paper, in lieu of the full palette and painting supplies listed below.

Painting Materials Recommended:

Five Canvases:

- 3-48" x 48"
- 2-30" x 30"

If stretching canvases yourself, I recommend buying canvas 86 in x 5 yards unprimed cotton duck canvas.

1 gallon of gesso and medium-duty stretcher bars in the sizes mentioned above.

Recommended Palette for oil paint:

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| • Cad yellow | • Raw sienna | • Viridian Green |
| • Cad yellow deep | • Burnt Umber | • Sap Green |
| • Cad red | • Raw umber | • Olive Green |
| • Cad red Deep | • Prussian Blue | • Lamp Black |
| • Cad orange | • Cobalt blue | • Titanium White |
| • Yellow ochre | • Cerulean Blue | • Zinc white |
| • Burnt Siena | • Alizarin Crimson | |

- Brushes: a variety of Brushes round- sizes 1 to 4
- Odorless Turpenoid
- Galkyd, stand and linseed oil.
- Palette Knife Style 33
- Plastic Gloves
- Paper Towels
- Matte Medium
- Glass or Plexiglass palette recommended at least 30x30. / You can look for this at your local

- hardware store does not have to be 30x30 but you should try to get as close to that as you can. If bought from Blick I recommend Richeson Clear Acrylic Palette-24x17
- Staple gun-T-50 with staples. I also recommend some pliers or some tool you can use to remove staples from the wall.
- Glass Jar containers. For cleaning brushes.
- Plastic Wrap

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 – **inclusive of any current Covid-19 protocols** – laid out in the Student Handbook and School website, as well as any specific instructions given by the Instructor.